

Key Messages

from the

IPBES Global Assessment

of particular relevance to

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities





Background to IPBES

The **Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)** is an independent intergovernmental body, established by Member States in 2012. It now has 137 member countries.

The overall **objective** of IPBES is to strengthen the science-policy interface for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

The new IPBES work programme (from 2019 to 2030) has **5 main objectives**:

- Assessing knowledge
- Building capacity
- Strengthening knowledge foundations (including enhancing work with indigenous and local knowledge)
- Supporting policy
- Communicating and engaging



Background to the Global Assessment

The [IPBES Global Assessment](#) critically assessed the state of knowledge on past, present and possible future trends of the natural world, the social implications of these trends, their direct and indirect causes, and, importantly, the actions that can still be taken to ensure a better future for all. The assessment started in 2016 and was completed in 2019.

It was carried out by about 150 experts selected from all regions of the world, assisted by 350 contributing authors.

More than 15,000 scientific publications were analyzed as well as a substantive body of indigenous and local knowledge.



Background to the Global Assessment (continued)

The Global Assessment consists of:

- A **Summary for Policymakers (SPM)**, approved by member states at the IPBES Plenary at its 7th session in May 2019 (IPBES-7), available in 6 UN languages;
- A set of **six chapters**, accepted by the IPBES Plenary at IPBES-7, available in English; and
- **Supplementary materials**, available in English.

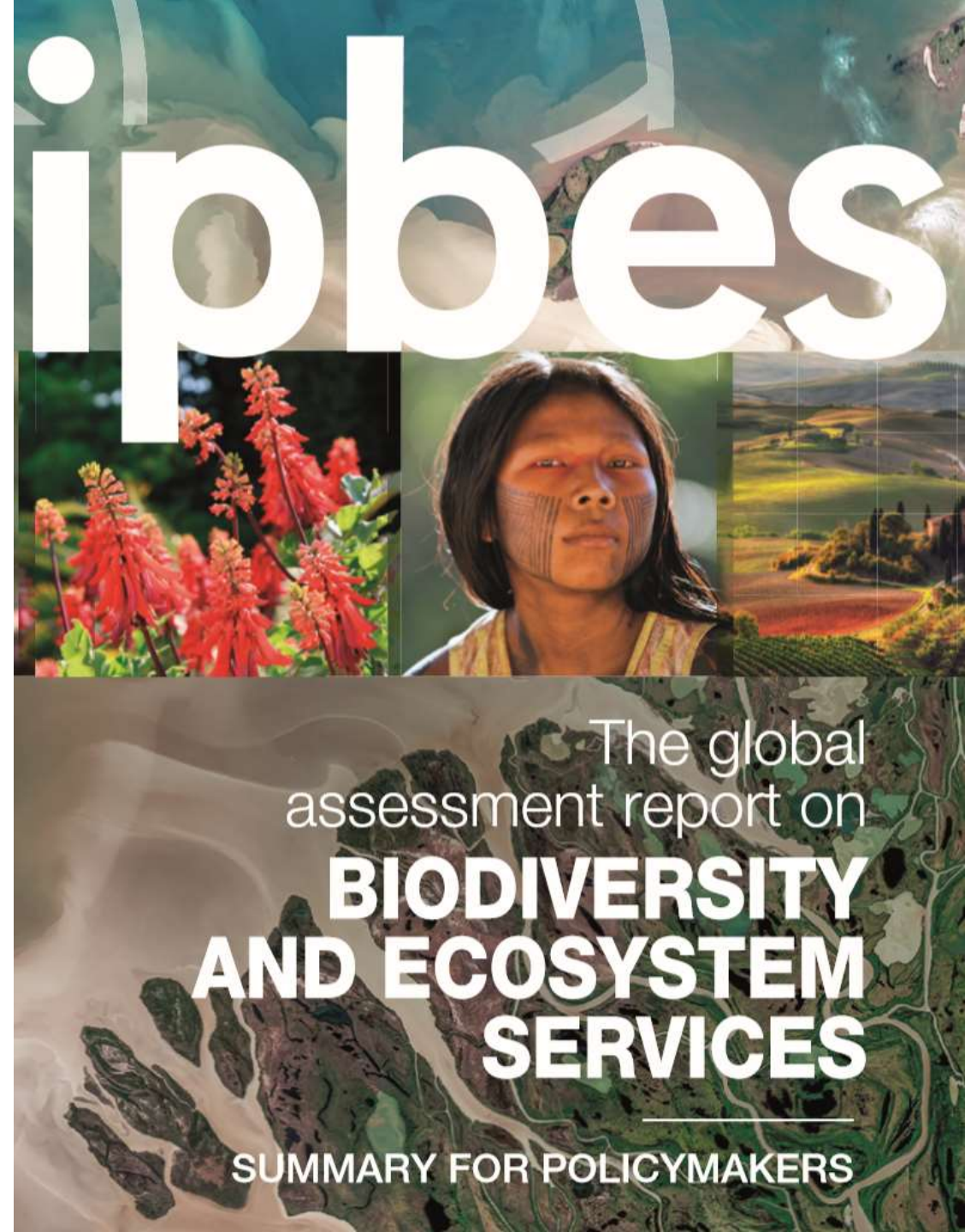
These documents are all available on the IPBES website [here](#).

The Summary for Policymakers

The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) summarises the key findings from the full Global Assessment. You can find the SPM in all 6 UN languages [here](#).

The SPM gives key messages, and background information that supports these messages. These are divided into 4 sections:

- A. Nature and its vital contributions to people
- B. Direct and indirect drivers of change
- C. Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability
- D. Nature can be conserved, restored and used sustainably





Key messages and background information

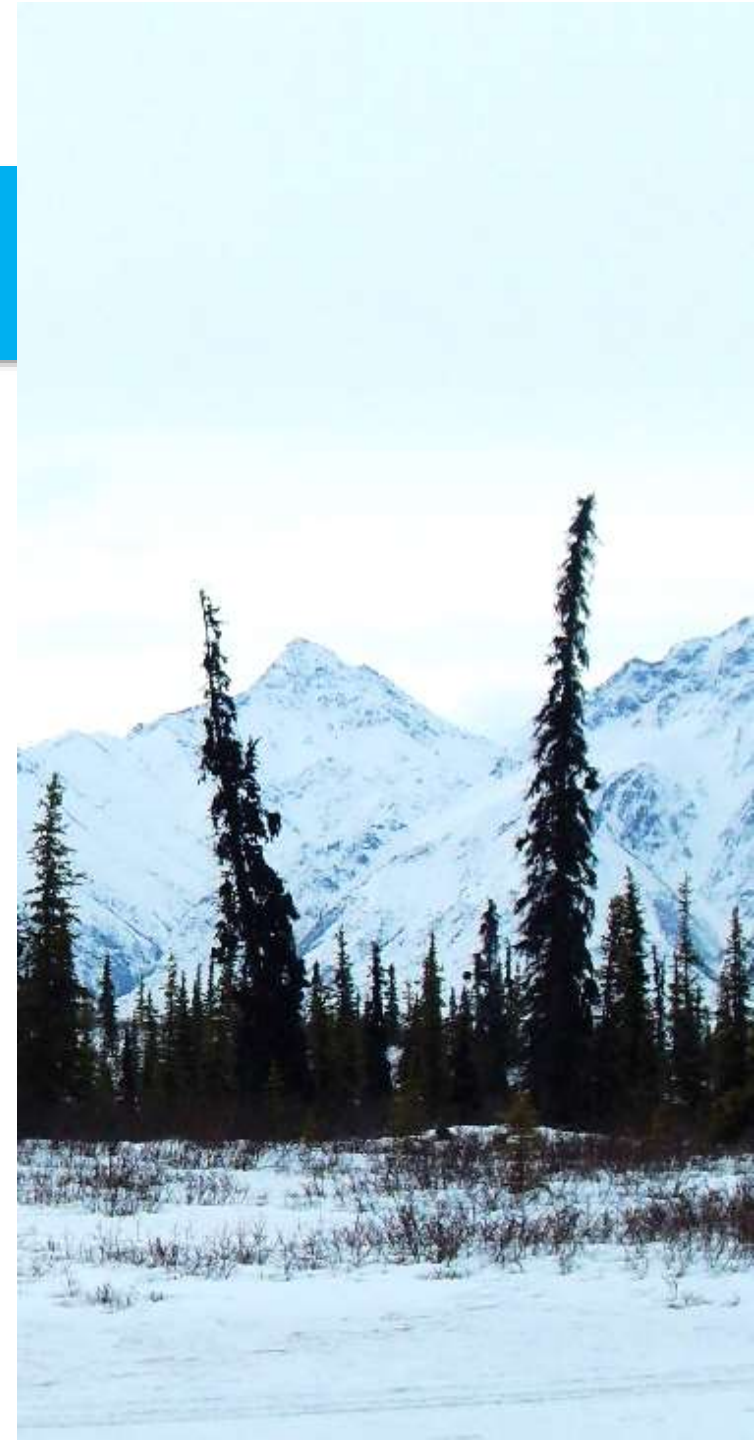
Key messages and background information in the SPM demonstrate the importance of indigenous and local knowledge and the crucial role of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Challenges and ways forward are also addressed.

Following requests from IPLCs, these messages and related background information are presented in the following slides, which aim to make this information more accessible.

The text in the following slides has been taken directly from the SPM, and has not been edited, so it reflects the text that was agreed on by the IPBES member states at the seventh IPBES plenary meeting in May 2019.

Key message A

Nature and its vital contributions to people, which together embody biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are deteriorating worldwide.





Key message A continued

Nature embodies different concepts for different people, including biodiversity, ecosystems, Mother Earth, systems of life and other analogous concepts. Nature's contributions to people embody different concepts, such as ecosystem goods and services and nature's gifts. Both nature and nature's contributions to people are vital for human existence and good quality of life (human well-being, living in harmony with nature, living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth, and other analogous concepts).

Key message A6

Globally, local varieties and breeds of domesticated plants and animals are disappearing. This loss of diversity, including genetic diversity, poses a serious risk to global food security by undermining the resilience of many agricultural systems to threats such as pests, pathogens and climate change.

Fewer and fewer varieties and breeds of plants and animals are being cultivated, raised, traded and maintained around the world, despite many local efforts, which include those by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Background:

The lands of IPLCs, including farmers, pastoralists and herders, are often important areas for *in situ* conservation of the remaining varieties and breeds (*well established*).

DOMESTICATION



a

Domesticating and maintaining crops...



b

...and animal breeds

Figure SPM 5 Contributions of IPLCs to the enhancement and maintenance of wild and domesticated biodiversity and landscapes: domestication and maintenance of locally adapted crop and fruit varieties (potatoes, Peru) and animal breeds (rider and sheep, Kyrgyzstan) {2.2.4.4}

Key message B

Direct and indirect drivers of change have accelerated during the past 50 years.



Key message B6

Nature managed by IPLCs is under increasing pressure. Nature is generally declining less rapidly in indigenous peoples' land than in other lands, but is nevertheless declining, as is the knowledge of how to manage it.





Key message B6 continued

At least a quarter of the global land area is traditionally owned, managed, used or occupied by indigenous peoples. These areas include approximately 35 per cent of the area that is formally protected, and approximately 35 per cent of all remaining terrestrial areas with very low human intervention. In addition, a diverse array of local communities, including farmers, fishers, herders, hunters, ranchers and forest users, manage significant areas under various property and access regimes.

Key message B6 background

Figure SPM 5: Contributions of IPLCs to the enhancement and maintenance of wild and domesticated biodiversity and landscapes. Indigenous and local knowledge systems are locally based, but regionally manifested and thus globally relevant.

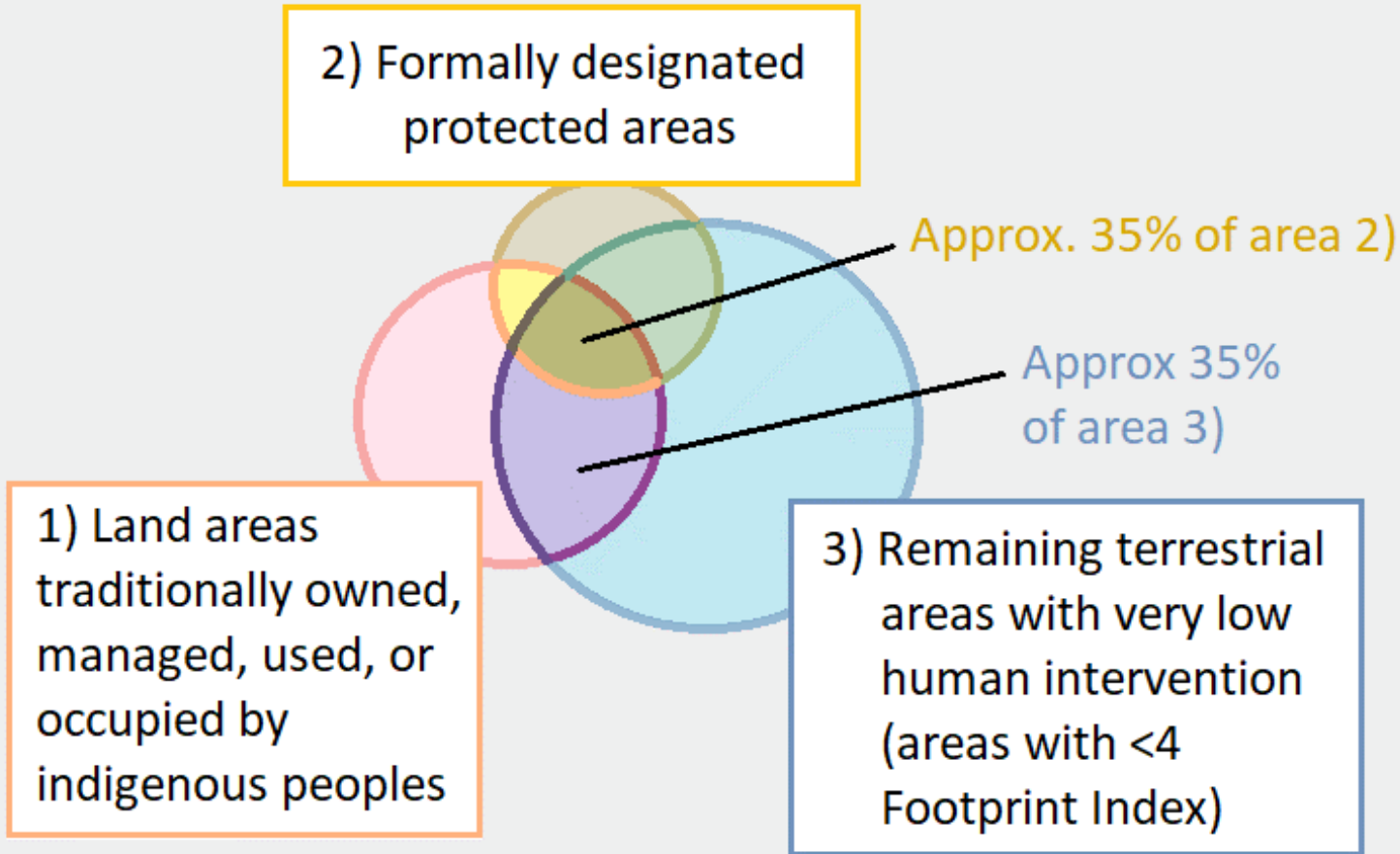


Figure SPM 5: the global overlap between 1) land areas traditionally owned, managed, used, or occupied by indigenous peoples; 2) formally designated protected areas; and 3) remaining terrestrial areas with very low human intervention (areas that score <4 on the Human Footprint Index). Circles and overlapping sections are proportional in area. Land areas traditionally owned, managed, used, or occupied by indigenous peoples overlap with approximately 35 per cent of the area that is formally protected, and approximately 35 per cent of all remaining terrestrial areas with very low human intervention.

Key message B6 background

Despite a long history of resource use, conservation conflicts related to colonial expansion and land appropriation for parks and other uses {3.2} (*well established*), indigenous peoples and local communities have often managed their landscapes and seascapes in ways that were adjusted to local conditions over generations. These management methods often remain compatible with, or actively support, biodiversity conservation by “accompanying” natural processes with anthropogenic assets (*established but incomplete*) {2.2.4, 2.2.5.3.1} (Figure SPM 5).

Photos: (c) ©Daniel Babai / (d) G. Michon et al.
<https://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol12/iss2/art1/>

CREATING NEW ECOSYSTEMS



c Creating cultural landscapes with enhanced habitat heterogeneity



d Developing production systems with a multitude of domestic and wild species

Figure SPM 5 Contributions of IPLCs to the enhancement and maintenance of wild and domesticated biodiversity and landscapes: creation of species-rich habitats and high ecosystem diversity in cultural landscapes (hay meadows, Central Europe) {2.2.4.1-2}; identification of useful plants and their cultivation in high-diversity ecosystems (multi-species forest garden, Indonesia) {2.2.4.3}

Key message B6 background

Indigenous peoples often manage land and coastal areas based on culturally specific world views, applying principles and indicators such as the health of the land, caring for the country and reciprocal responsibility.

SUSTAINABLE USE, MANAGEMENT, AND MONITORING



e Habitat management



f Wild species management



g Restoration

Figure SPM 5 Contributions of IPLCs to the enhancement and maintenance of wild and domesticated biodiversity and landscapes: e) and f) management and monitoring of wild species, habitats and landscapes for wildlife and for increased resilience (- Australia, - Alaska) {2.2.4.5- 6}; g) restoration of degraded lands (Niger) {3.2.4}

Key message B6 background

Community-based conservation institutions and local governance regimes have often been effective, at times even more effective than formally established protected areas, in preventing habitat loss (*established but incomplete*).

Several studies have highlighted contributions by indigenous peoples and local communities in limiting deforestation, as well as initiatives showing synergies between these different mechanisms (*well established*) {6.3.2, 2.2.5.3}.

In many regions, however, the lands of indigenous peoples are becoming islands of biological and cultural diversity surrounded by areas in which nature has further deteriorated (*established but incomplete*) {2.2.5.3}.

PROTECTION



Preventing forest loss

Figure SPM 5: Contributions of IPLCs to the enhancement and maintenance of wild and domesticated biodiversity and landscapes:

Prevention of deforestation in recognized indigenous territories (Amazon basin, Brazil) {2.2.4.7}

Key message B6 continued

Among the local indicators developed and used by indigenous peoples and local communities, 72 per cent show negative trends in nature that underpin local livelihoods and well-being.

The areas managed (under various types of tenure and access regimes) by IPLCs are facing growing resource extraction, commodity production, mining and transport and energy infrastructure, with various consequences for local livelihoods and health.

Some climate change mitigation programmes have had negative impacts on IPLCs.



Key message B6 background

Major trends include declining availability of resources – due in part to legal and illegal territory reductions, despite expanding indigenous populations – as well as declining health and populations of culturally important species; new pests and invasive alien species as climate changes; losses in both natural forest habitats and grazing lands; and declining productivity in remnant ecosystems.

A more detailed global synthesis of trends in nature observed by indigenous peoples and local communities is hindered by the lack of institutions that gather data for these locations and then synthesize them within regional and global summaries {2.2.2}.



Key message B6 continued

The negative impacts of all these pressures include continued loss of subsistence and traditional livelihoods resulting from ongoing deforestation, loss of wetlands, mining, the spread of unsustainable agriculture, forestry and fishing practices and impacts on health and well-being from pollution and water insecurity.

These impacts also challenge traditional management, the transmission of ILK, the potential for sharing of benefits arising from the use of, and the ability of IPLCs to conserve and sustainably manage, wild and domesticated biodiversity that are also relevant to broader society.

CONCEPTS




 Alternative values and worldviews

Figure SPM 5 Contributions of IPLCs to the enhancement and maintenance of wild and domesticated biodiversity and landscapes: offering alternative concepts of relations between humanity and nature (Northern Australia).

Key message C

Goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors.



Photo: Peter Bates

Key message C3

Areas of the world projected to experience significant negative effects from global changes in climate, biodiversity, ecosystem functions and nature's contributions to people are also home to large concentrations of indigenous peoples and many of the world's poorest communities. Because of their strong dependency on nature and its contributions for subsistence, livelihoods and health, those communities will be disproportionately hard-hit by those negative changes. Those negative effects also influence the ability of indigenous peoples and local communities to manage and conserve wild and domesticated biodiversity and nature's contributions to people.

Key message C3 continued

Indigenous peoples and local communities have been proactively confronting such challenges in partnership with each other and with an array of other stakeholders, through co-management systems and local and regional monitoring networks and by revitalizing and adapting local management systems.

Regional and global scenarios lack an explicit consideration of the views, perspectives and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, their knowledge and understanding of large regions and ecosystems, and their desired future development pathways.



Key message D

Nature can be conserved, restored and used sustainably while other global societal goals are simultaneously met through urgent and concerted efforts fostering transformative change.

By its very nature, transformative change can expect opposition from those with interests vested in the status quo, but such opposition can be overcome for the broader public good.

Key message D5

Recognizing the knowledge, innovations, practices, institutions and values of IPLCs, and ensuring their inclusion and participation in environmental governance, often enhances their quality of life and the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of nature, which is relevant to broader society.

Governance, including customary institutions and management systems and co-management regimes that involve IPLCs, can be an effective way to safeguard nature and its contributions to people by incorporating locally attuned management systems and indigenous and local knowledge.





Key message D5 continued

The positive contributions of IPLCs to sustainability can be facilitated through national recognition of land tenure, access and resource rights in accordance with national legislation, the application of free, prior and informed consent, and improved collaboration, fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use, and co-management arrangements with local communities.

Key message D background

Transformative change is facilitated by innovative governance approaches that incorporate existing approaches, such as integrative, inclusive, informed and adaptive governance. ... Inclusive approaches help to reflect a plurality of values and ensure equity (*established but incomplete*), including through equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use and rights-based approaches (*established but incomplete*).

In many areas, conservation depends on building capacity and enhancing stakeholder collaboration, involving non-profit groups as well as IPLCs to establish and manage marine protected areas and marine protected area networks, and proactively using instruments such as landscape-scale and seascape-scale participatory scenarios and spatial planning, including transboundary conservation planning (*well established*) {5.3.2.3, 6.3.2.3, 6.3.3.3}.



Key message D background

Table SPM 1: Approaches for sustainability and possible actions and pathways for achieving them (selected messages)

Promoting inclusive governance approaches through stakeholder engagement and the inclusion of indigenous peoples and local communities to ensure equity and participation

- Enabling the inclusion and participation of IPLCs, and women and girls in environmental governance and recognizing and respecting the knowledge, innovations, and practices, institutions and values of IPLCs, in accordance with national legislation {6.2, 6.2.4.4} {D5}.
- Facilitating national recognition for land tenure, access and resource rights in accordance with national legislation, and the application of free, prior and informed consent and fair and equitable benefit-sharing arising from their use {D5}.
- Improving collaboration and participation among IPLCs, other relevant stakeholders, policymakers and scientists to generate novel ways of conceptualizing and achieving transformative change towards sustainability {D5}.

Key message D background

Table SPM 1: Approaches for sustainability and possible actions and pathways for achieving them (selected messages)

Practicing informed governance for nature and nature's contributions to people

- Advancing knowledge co-production and including and recognizing different types of knowledge, including indigenous and local knowledge and education, that enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of environmental policies {B6, D3}.





Key message D background

Table SPM 1: Approaches for sustainability and possible actions and pathways for achieving them (selected messages)

Producing and consuming food sustainably

- Promoting the use of biodiversity-friendly management practices in crop and livestock production, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, including, where relevant, the use of traditional management practices associated with indigenous peoples and local communities {6.3.2.1} {D6}.

Key message D background

Table SPM 1: Approaches for sustainability and possible actions and pathways for achieving them (selected messages)

Integrating multiple uses for sustainable forests

- Promoting and strengthening community-based management and governance, including customary institutions and management systems, and co-management regimes involving indigenous peoples and local communities {6.3.2.2} {D5}.





Key message D background

Table SPM 1: Approaches for sustainability and possible actions and pathways for achieving them (selected messages)

Conserving, effectively managing and sustainably using terrestrial landscapes

- Developing robust and inclusive decision-making processes that facilitate the positive contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to sustainability by incorporating locally-attuned management systems and indigenous and local knowledge {B6, D5}.

Promoting sustainable energy and infrastructure projects and production

- Supporting community-based management and decentralized sustainable energy production {6.3.6.4, 6.3.6.5} {D9}.

Appendix 4: knowledge gaps

In the course of conducting this assessment key information needs were identified.

Sector	Knowledge gaps (in data, indicators, inventories, scenarios)
Links between nature, nature's contributions to people and drivers with respect to targets and goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need for indicators for some Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Biodiversity Targets (e.g., ... Target 18 on integration of traditional knowledge and effective participation of indigenous and local communities)• Indicators that reflect the heterogeneity of IPLCs
Integrated scenarios and modelling studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional and global socioeconomic scenarios explicitly considering the knowledge, views and perspectives of IPLCs• Regional and global socioeconomic scenarios developed for, by and in collaboration with IPLCs and their associated institutions

Disclaimer: This table of knowledge gaps was prepared by the experts of the Global Assessment and presented to and considered by a working group established by the Plenary at its seventh session. The Plenary did not approve this table as part of the summary for policymakers. It is therefore included in draft form, which does not imply working group or Plenary approval.

Appendix 4: knowledge gaps continued

Sector	Knowledge gaps (in data, indicators, inventories, scenarios)
Potential policy approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data on the extent of the participation of IPLCs in environmental governance
Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agreed-upon methods to enable systematic processes of knowledge generation, collection and synthesis regarding indigenous and local knowledge (for assessments and elsewhere) and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in this process• Syntheses of indigenous and local knowledge about the status and trends in nature• Data to assess how progress in achieving goals and targets affects IPLCs, either in positive or in negative ways• Trends in relation to the socioeconomic status of IPLCs (e.g., noting the lack of data differentiation in aggregate statistics)

Disclaimer: This table of knowledge gaps was prepared by the experts of the Global Assessment and presented to and considered by a working group established by the Plenary at its seventh session. The Plenary did not approve this table as part of the summary for policymakers. It is therefore included in draft form, which does not imply working group or Plenary approval.

Degrees of confidence and traceable references

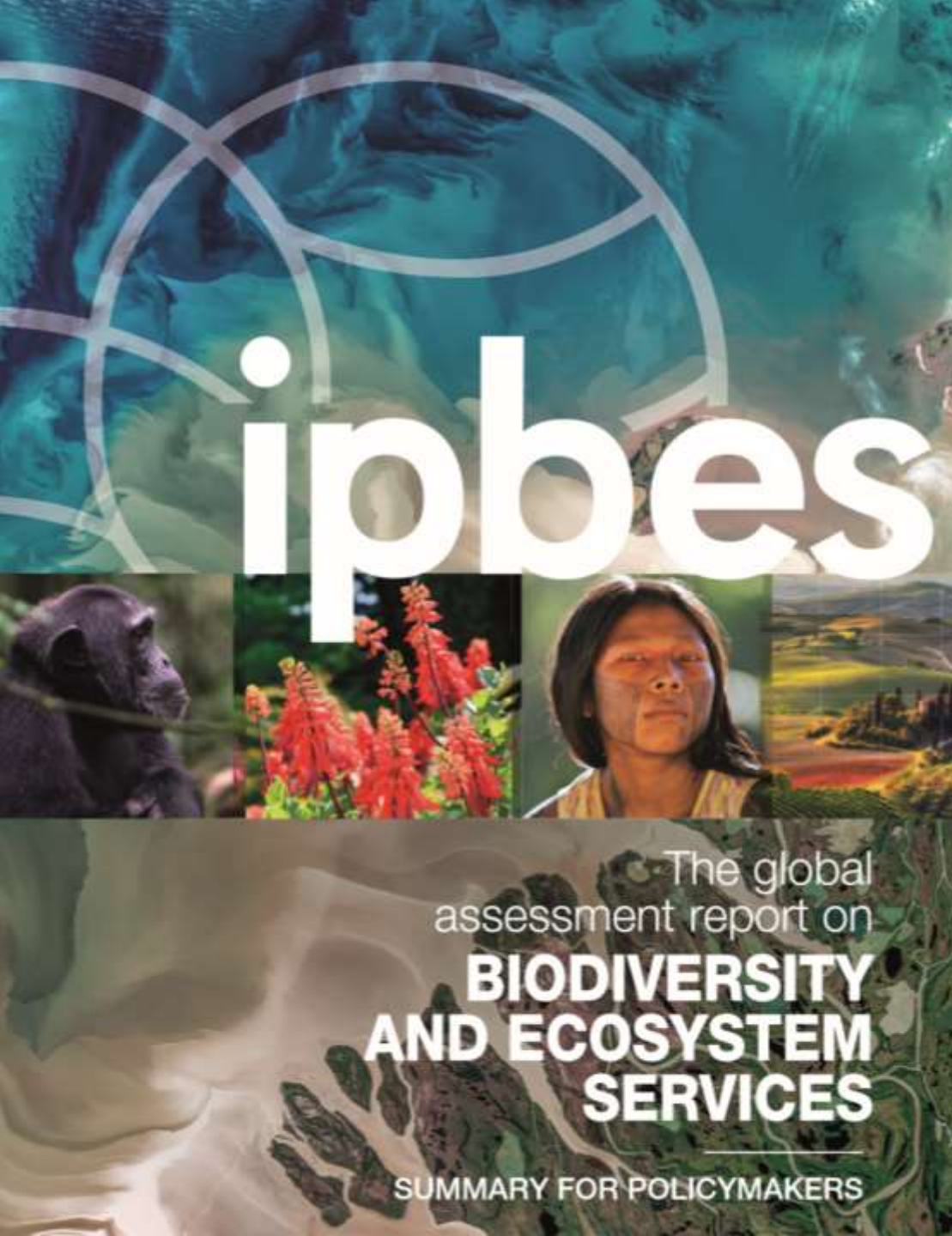
In the background messages, the degree of confidence is given for each main finding. This is based on the quantity and quality of evidence and the level of agreement regarding that evidence. The evidence includes data, theory, models and expert judgement.

The summary terms to describe the evidence are:

- Well established: comprehensive meta-analysis or other synthesis or multiple independent studies that agree.
- Established but incomplete: general agreement although only a limited number of studies exist; no comprehensive synthesis and/or the studies that exist address the question imprecisely.
- Unresolved: multiple independent studies exist but conclusions do not agree.
- Inconclusive: limited evidence, recognizing major knowledge gaps.



The chapter references enclosed in curly brackets (e.g. {2.3.1, 2.3.1.2, 2.3.1.3}) refer to sections of the chapters of the IPBES Global Assessment.



Further information
on the
IPBES Global Assessment
of particular relevance to
Indigenous Peoples and
Local Communities



IPBES and Indigenous and local knowledge

From its inception, IPBES has recognised the importance of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) to the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, and IPBES enshrined work with ILK in its deliverables and objectives.

The IPBES [conceptual framework](#) explicitly considers multiple knowledge systems and types of values.

IPBES has a dedicated task force on ILK and a technical support unit on ILK based at UNESCO.

IPBES has produced the first global-scale environmental assessments that seek to explicitly and systematically work with ILK.

IPBES has developed an “[approach to recognizing and working with ILK in IPBES](#)”, which was approved by the IPBES member states at the fifth IPBES plenary meeting in 2017. IPBES has also developed a methodological guidance to enhance implementation of this approach.

You can read more about IPBES work with ILK [here](#) and participation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) [here](#).



Methods for working with ILK

The Global Assessment used a series of approaches and methods for working with ILK.

Methods were developed with the IPBES task force on ILK, and were based on the IPBES [approach to recognizing and working with ILK](#).

The methods were endorsed by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2017.

The work was supported by the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

The work was also supported by IPLCs who followed the process and participated in workshops, consultations and discussions.



Methods for working with ILK

Approaches and methods included:

- 28 Lead Authors working as an “ILK liaison group”, tasked with ensuring that ILK was included in individual chapters and in narratives throughout the assessment.
- 32 Contributing Authors (who write portions of specific text) added to the expertise on ILK.
- Key guiding questions for ILK were developed: three broad questions, and 27 chapter-specific questions.
- More than 3000 references were reviewed for available evidence on ILK.



Photo: Peter Bates

Methods for working with ILK

Approaches and methods continued:

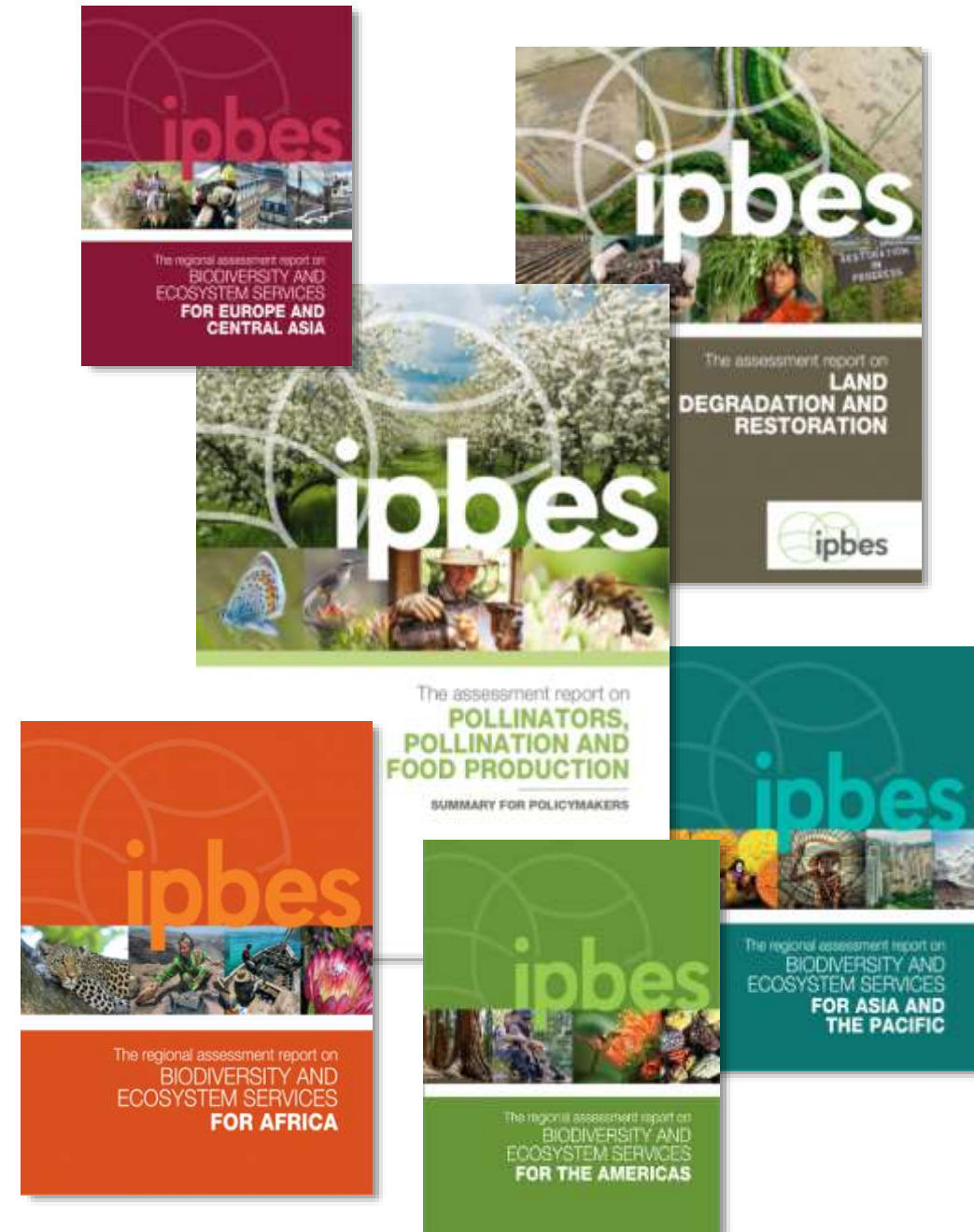
- 8 dialogue workshops were carried out with IPLCs from around the world, reaching over 250 people, to receive guidance from participants and to fill gaps in knowledge.
- An online call for contributions gathered 363 submissions on ILK from over 40 countries, giving more than 1000 references.
- The first and second drafts of the assessment were available for external review by IPLCs.
- Gaps in available information were highlighted to catalyze new research.



IPBES assessments

Assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services are some of the main deliverables from IPBES. Completed, ongoing and upcoming assessments are as follows:

- [Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production](#) (delivered 2016)
- [4 Regional Assessments](#): the Americas, Europe and Central Asia, Africa, and Asia-Pacific (delivered 2018)
- [Land Degradation and Restoration](#) (delivered 2018)
- [Global Assessment](#) (delivered 2019)
- [Diverse Conceptualization of Multiple Values of Nature](#) (2018-2022)
- [Sustainable Use of Wild Species](#) (2018-2022)
- [Invasive Alien Species](#) (2019-2023)
- [Nexus of Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health](#) (starts 2021)
- [Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity](#) (starts 2021)
- [Business and Biodiversity](#) (starts 2022)



Citations

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To cite the global assessment:

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Photocreo / C. Mittermeier_SeaLegacy: Kayapo Beauty – Kubenkrajke, Brazil, 2010 –
A young Kayapó girl bathing in the warm waters of the Xingú River in the Brazilian
Amazon. The Kayapó people are tied to the river for their entire lives through
ceremony and necessity and with this, comes in-depth knowledge on how to live in
balance with nature / Shutterstock_M. Bednarek



www.ipbes.net/indigenous-local-knowledge