

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
Eighth Session**

June 14 – 24, 2021

International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IIFBES)
Opening Statement

IIFBES appreciates the efforts towards organizing this virtual meeting, while underlining that virtual meetings should ensure full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in IPBES Plenary meetings. Challenges relating to connectivity, time zone differences and language barriers impair our participation, thus requiring specific time allocations for IPLCs to make our contributions under specific Agenda Items.

IIFBES thanks IPBES for the inclusion of Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) in its assessments and the robust results of the Global Assessment which highlighted the importance of ILK and the need to recognize customary land tenure and participatory rights of indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples and local communities where possible, have contributed to IPBES assessment processes, highlighting the close connections between knowledge, values and the strength of the holistic approach of indigenous and local knowledge, linking past, present and plausible futures, and all parts of landscapes and seascapes in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. We are willing to continue contributing to the processes of "knowledge dialogue" and "co-production of knowledge," based on IPBES' continuing good practice of free, prior and informed consent.

In advancing its rolling program of work to 2030, we request IPBES to:

- a) strengthen ILK dialogues and ILK inclusion by broadening its outreach for the full and effective participation of IPLCs including youth and women in the various IPBES functions;
- b) uphold rights-based approaches in its research methodologies through improved data disaggregation around lands, waters, territories and resources of Indigenous peoples and the resource rights of local communities; and
- c) incorporate the impacts of rights regimes in the assessment of biodiversity outcomes.

We also request IPBES member states to:

- a) recognize IPs and LCs as knowledge holders and experts and to include indigenous and local knowledge and values in national policy, and national biodiversity platforms;
- b) create enabling conditions for full and effective participation of IPLCs in local and national biodiversity assessments and in formulating and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);

- c) work on appropriate mechanisms and methodologies to facilitate the involvement of IPLC in national IPBES functions; and
- d) support community-based initiatives in monitoring, assessing, analyzing, crafting and implementing plans to address biodiversity loss and ecosystems degradation, ensuring the participation of women and youth.

On our part, we commit to:

- a) participating in the nexus assessment and in the assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the determinants of transformative change, as well as other IPBES functions;
- b) maximizing the publication of Local Biodiversity Outlooks (LBO) for assessing, monitoring and reporting on state of biodiversity and ecosystems services in territorial lands and waters, and the ocean;
- c) continuing dissemination and popularization of results of IPBES work and using these in advocating for policy reforms at all levels; and
- d) building partnerships towards enforcement of good governance practices for inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and civil society, including women and youth.

For these, we need continuing support from IPBES Parties, Secretariat and Technical Support Units, and all stakeholders.

IIFBES thanks you for your attention.