

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MAJOR GROUP

Session 11 on SDG 15 (Life on land) ; 11 July 2022

(as read)

Indigenous peoples have been giving out a clear message from the very start - that nature, people and culture are inextricably linked.

The facts are clear: The lands, waters and territories of Indigenous Peoples are not a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions, but significant reserves of oil, gas, minerals, carbon, and wild life resources, among others. They also overlap, significantly with areas of particular importance to biodiversity and carbon sequestration. Moreover, related indigenous knowledge contributes to the sustainable use and conservation of resources as well as in climate change adaptation and mitigation actions (see Local Biodiversity Outlooks 2). However, only 10% of governments, globally, recognize the legal ownership of Indigenous Peoples over their lands and hardly 1% of the funds that are available for climate and the environment goes to IPs despite growing evidence that direct support to IPs is one of the most cost-effective measures for conservation.

For indigenous peoples, our well-being and vitality as well as our knowledge are intimately linked with the health of the environment and of other living beings around us. Nature and indigenous peoples' relationship with nature is fundamental to knowledge, from which stems our lifestyles and practices in relation to health, learning, governance, and, to development and more.

It is, therefore, necessary that implementation of SDG 15 ensure that local collective actions of Indigenous Peoples are recognized and given support, and that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected in conservation and development. This means legal infrastructure that recognizes Indigenous Peoples rights and priorities, including, budget allocation for actions and initiatives by Indigenous Peoples.

We therefore urge that the implementation of SDG 15 should also be harmonized with the eventual implementation of the new global biodiversity framework, the Paris agreement, as well as in line with other relevant international conventions and processes, such as UNESCO on cultural heritage and relevant human rights laws and processes such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and commitments to gender equality.

As we finalize the new Post-2020 global biodiversity framework, we call for everyone to put at the heart of this process the importance of human rights, as well as our responsibilities to nature, as part of nature, as Indigenous peoples have been doing for many centuries. We owe this to the next generation!