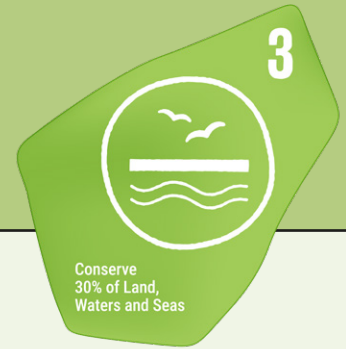


Target 03:

Conserve 30% of Land, Water and Seas



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Target 3's 30% conservation goal risks repeating past harms to Indigenous Peoples through top-down protected areas, but also offers a major opportunity to recognise and support Indigenous and Traditional Territories and rights-respecting conservation models.

Many Indigenous Peoples protect and sustainably use nature within their territories, whether they describe this as “conservation” or not. However, formal approaches to conservation by governments and international organisations have often not recognised how Indigenous Peoples contribute to the conservation of nature.



A Dusun youth trying to catch fish using rambat in their territory, Buayan Village, Irene Tani, Malaysia. Credit: PACOS Trust

In the past, top-down models of conservation have often actively harmed Indigenous Peoples, for example by taking their lands for protected areas, or by restricting their activities in the name of conservation without free, prior and informed consent. Many such protected areas and conservation laws continue to violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Given this history, Target 3, which proposes to expand the coverage of protected or conserved areas to 30% of lands, waters and seas (an increase from a target of 17% in the previous framework) could have potential risks for Indigenous Peoples. If conservation actors rush to create more protected and conserved areas based on previous models, this could increase harms to Indigenous Peoples.



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INDICATOR

Target 3 integrates some elements of the land tenure indicator in its monitoring. In reporting, countries can disaggregate their reporting on protected areas and OECMs to show the percentage that are Indigenous and Traditional Territories.

On the other hand, Target 3 includes an important new opportunity to advance Indigenous Peoples' own traditional models for conserving nature – Indigenous and Traditional Territories. This new conservation pathway – one of three pathways in the target, alongside protected areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) - recognises that Indigenous Peoples' territories can contribute to this conservation target *even if their territories are not recognised as a protected area or OECM*.

Guidance on the definition of Indigenous and Traditional Territories is being developed by the **Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j)**. Once a working definition exists, this third pathway will encourage governments to recognise and respect the conservation contributions made by Indigenous territories within their state borders.

There are also increased opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in relation to the other two pathways – protected areas and OECMs. Target 3 explicitly requires that all three pathways must be implemented in ways that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples. This should encourage governments to stop injustices and rights violations in existing protected areas, as well as reform laws and policies for the creation of new protected areas and OECMs. Some countries already have models of protected areas and OECMs that are more respectful of rights. These can provide a model for Indigenous Peoples to show how this target can be reached without violating human rights.

Target 3 explicitly requires that all three pathways must be implemented in ways that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

[GO BACK TO MENU](#)



OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.