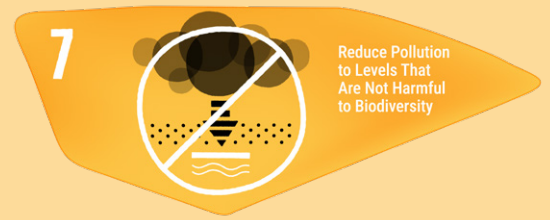


Target 07:

Reduce Pollution to Levels that are Not Harmful to Biodiversity



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target requires reducing polluting activities, especially pesticides, chemicals and plastics, and offers an opportunity to reduce pollution affecting Indigenous Peoples by protecting their land rights and learning from their sustainable food systems.

Pollution is a strong cause of biodiversity loss. It can take many forms, but globally, pollution from fertilisers, pesticides, hazardous chemicals and plastics are particularly harmful for biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as for people.



Sugarcane impacts, Rio Pailia, Northern Cauca, Colombia. Credit: Vicki Brown, FPP

Pollution that occurs in Indigenous Peoples' territories – often in the form of contaminated water sources, air pollution, or plastic pollution – not only affects biodiversity, but also Indigenous Peoples' rights. In addition to impacting Indigenous Peoples' health, pollution can harm their livelihoods and food security, impact their culture as well as endanger many other rights. Some of these impacts are also gendered, that is, they may have different impacts on men and women.

Pollution on Indigenous territories is often linked to the activities of external actors that negatively affect their lands and waters, and have taken place without free, prior and informed consent. Because pollution can spread from its source, sometimes these activities can occur far from Indigenous Peoples' lands. The protection of Indigenous Peoples' territorial rights – including respect for their right to free, prior and informed consent for any activity that may affect them (even if it is not located on their territory) – can therefore help protect both human rights and biodiversity.

Indigenous Peoples can also contribute in other ways to this target. Agriculture (and particularly modern industrial agriculture) is a significant source of global pollution, as it uses synthetic fertilisers and pesticides (often containing hazardous chemicals). However, Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems and agricultural methods rarely cause significant pollution and in fact often have positive impacts on biodiversity by offering improved food quality and a similar or greater yield. There is increasing global interest in returning to more sustainable, traditional methods of agriculture, and Indigenous Peoples have a great deal to teach others in this regard.

Pollution that occurs in Indigenous Peoples' territories – often in the form of contaminated water sources, air pollution, or plastic pollution – not only affects biodiversity, but also Indigenous Peoples' rights.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.