

# Target 12:

## Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to improve biodiversity and human wellbeing in urban areas while encouraging collaboration with Indigenous Peoples - especially those living in cities - to restore nature, as well as to recognise and address past harms where urban land is in Indigenous territories.

This target focuses on improving biodiversity in urban areas, through the increase in green spaces (like parks) and blue spaces (water environments), and better urban planning. As urban areas become ever more significant, this is both for maintaining and restoring the health of nature in urban areas, as well as for supporting the health and wellbeing of people living in urban areas.



*The Ibaloy Heritage Garden - A lifeline for Indigenous Culture and Values in Baguio City, Philippines. Credit: PIKP*

While many Indigenous Peoples live in rural areas, there are also a significant number of Indigenous Peoples living in urban areas. There are multiple reasons for this – in some cases, Indigenous Peoples have been forced into urban areas through dispossession or other forms of displacement; in some cases, urban areas have spread into or even completely absorbed traditional territories; and of course, Indigenous Peoples have also in other cases voluntarily relocated to urban areas.

Yet even when they live in urban areas, many Indigenous Peoples retain their cultural values as well as links with nature and with their territories. There are many examples of Indigenous Peoples leading initiatives to enhance nature and culture in urban areas. Some examples are through creating sustainable urban food systems, preserving or restoring areas of natural and cultural importance within urban zones, and using ecological knowledge to support or restore native biodiversity in cities.

Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledges, cultures and values therefore have much to contribute to maintaining and restoring biodiversity within urban zones, including through enhancing connections between urban dwellers and nature and creating models for more sustainable patterns for living in urban areas.

Where Indigenous Peoples continue to have ties to ancestral territories where urban areas are now located, states also have an obligation to recognise their territories, and to facilitate restitution and continued access to culturally important areas, and/or provide compensation. There may be opportunities for states to collaborate with affected Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of this target to support redress of past harms while also advancing the aims of the target.

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## SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

To what extent are Indigenous Peoples able to participate fully and effectively in urban planning initiatives?

Are the needs of Indigenous men and women different in urban spaces? How?

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## OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.