

Target 13:

Increase the Sharing of Benefits from Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to ensure Indigenous Peoples and biodiversity-rich countries receive fair benefits when their genetic resources and traditional knowledge are used.

The sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge is one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. **Genetic resources, Digital Sequence Information (DSI)** and traditional knowledge can often generate large amounts of money and other benefits.

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For example, pharmaceutical companies often develop drugs based on traditional medicines which they then sell, often for large profits. Many other types of products, such as natural pesticides, foods or new varieties of agricultural crops, have also been developed from the genetic resources and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.

The aim of this target is to improve the sharing of benefits from situations like the examples given above. In this way, countries providing biodiversity (frequently global majority countries) also receive fair benefits from the resources, information and traditional knowledge that are used and exploited (frequently by countries from the global north). Not only is this fairer, this benefit-sharing can also attract funding for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Several international instruments, including the Nagoya Protocol to the CBD, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and others, establish rules that require benefit sharing with Indigenous Peoples in return for the use of their genetic resources, traditional knowledge and other know-how and practices. At COP 15, Parties also agreed to develop ways to improve the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information (that is, mapping the exact genetic components) of genetic resources. Despite these developments, increased benefits to Indigenous Peoples have not always materialised in practice.

This target seeks to address the continued gaps in benefit sharing in relation to biodiversity and biodiversity-related traditional knowledge. It has two main components.

- The first involves putting in place **legal, policy and administrative measures to ensure equitable access and benefit sharing**. This requires ensuring Indigenous Peoples' authorities and relevant governments agree on terms and give prior informed consent for the use of genetic resources, digital sequence information and associated traditional knowledge.
- The second component requires **building skills and understanding that will support increased (fair and equitable) access and benefit sharing**. Appropriate and targeted capacity building measures can support Indigenous Peoples to increase the share of benefits they receive through these mechanisms. For example, support could be provided for:
 - developing of community protocols,
 - establishing mechanisms for fair and equitable sharing,
 - monitoring of monetary and non-monetary benefits which can support Indigenous Peoples to increase the share of benefits they receive through these mechanisms.

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SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Is there an increase in benefits from genetic resources and traditional knowledge reaching Indigenous Peoples?

Are any benefits shared equitably between Indigenous men and Indigenous women?



OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030 facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.