

Target 14:

Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level

14



Integrate Biodiversity in all Decision-Making

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to ensure that decision-making about biodiversity includes Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and is integrated across all sectors in governments, so that laws, policies and investments better protect nature.

Many countries have laws and policies that seek to protect biodiversity. Yet these laws and policies do not always protect nature in the way intended. This could be for example because processes that support protection of biodiversity may be siloed (for example only in one government ministry), so that biodiversity is not considered in all relevant decisions. In some cases, biodiversity laws and policies may not be implemented in practice, may be too weak, or may be contradicted by other laws and policies. Protection of biodiversity may also be overridden in decision-making processes, for example, where a national decision overrides local decision-making, or because business priorities systematically take precedence over biodiversity protection in decision-making.



Indigenous panel at COP-16, Cali, Colombia, 2024. Credit: Frances Jenner, FPP

Even where biodiversity is included in decision-making, often only a very narrow, scientific understanding of biodiversity is considered. For Indigenous Peoples, however, biodiversity has many values that can be seen in knowledge systems and sustainable use practices that have been developed over generations. These diverse values have been recognised by Indigenous Peoples for millennia, and these must be more widely recognised and adopted to better balance human relationships with nature.

The perspectives, values and world views of Indigenous Peoples can positively influence biodiversity-related decision-making at all levels.

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This target seeks to ensure that the multiple values of biodiversity appropriately and adequately inform decisions and policies across government, economic sectors, and society more broadly. This means more than simply considering or listening to Indigenous Peoples' perspectives on the different values of nature - these values must be genuinely integrated in final decisions. If this happens, over time, public and private activities and financial flows will increasingly align with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

This target therefore provides an opportunity to better integrate nature, including the knowledges, values and worldviews of Indigenous Peoples related to nature, in decision-making, in order to improve decision-making at all levels.

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SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



To what extent are Indigenous Peoples participating in and genuinely able to influence decision-making related to biodiversity?

Are both Indigenous men and Indigenous women participating in this decision-making?



OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.