

Target 16:

Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices to Reduce Waste and Overconsumption



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Stopping biodiversity loss requires a global shift to more sustainable consumption. Some ways this can be done are by supporting and sharing Indigenous Peoples' sustainable food practices, as well as governments helping consumers to make more sustainable choices.

Globally, unsustainable consumption is a major cause of biodiversity loss. Stopping and reversing biodiversity loss will require a global shift towards more sustainable ways of consuming.

However, different countries have different levels of consumption and waste production. Citizens in poorer countries generally consume less and more sustainably than those in richer countries. Indigenous Peoples in any country often consume a lot less, and more sustainably, than others.

Culturally, many Indigenous Peoples do not prioritise consumerism or wealth. Instead they focus on living well through values like community and living in harmony with Mother Earth. These ideas are gaining wider support globally, which means Indigenous Peoples can help drive global change by sharing their diverse knowledges and values (such as sustainable use) with other groups and movements. This supports the wider global mindset shift needed to achieve this target.

Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems also have a significant contribution to make in reducing food waste. Indigenous Peoples' food systems are often focussed on organic and regenerative principles, making use of by-products and sourcing their food locally. Increased support for and protection of Indigenous Peoples' food systems, as well as sharing of their practices, can help reduce global food waste.

Indigenous Peoples can of course also participate in unsustainable consumption and waste production, in the same way as everyone else. Governments can help everyone by discouraging unsustainable products and packaging, and by making it easier for people to understand how sustainable the products they buy are. Supporting Indigenous cultures and passing traditional knowledge from one generation to the next can also strengthen the positive contributions Indigenous Peoples already make.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.