

# Target 18:

## Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Government payments and tax breaks can encourage activities that harm nature and Indigenous Peoples' rights. This target aims to reduce these harmful payments and increase positive ones that encourage biodiversity protection.

Some government payments (**subsidies**) or other **incentives** (such as tax breaks) encourage activities that damage nature. Without these incentives and subsidies, companies might not do these harmful activities, especially if they do not make financial sense.

For example, a government may give money or tax cuts to oil companies to help extract oil that is hard and expensive to reach, to support local development. Without this support, the company might have decided not to extract this oil at all because it would be too expensive. These kinds of payments can make harmful activities more attractive (and more profitable) than nature-friendly alternatives. For example, if there are incentives for oil production, oil extraction may earn more money than other ways of using the same land, such as sustainable farming or ecotourism, which might have been the best economic option if these incentives were not in place.

Many activities that damage biodiversity can also cause harm to Indigenous Peoples. As a result, subsidies and incentives that damage biodiversity can also lead to human rights violations. For example, subsidies that promote the growth of industrial agriculture can lead to land grabbing of Indigenous Peoples' lands. Reducing these harmful incentives and subsidies could be a positive development both for biodiversity and for Indigenous Peoples' rights. It may be helpful for Indigenous Peoples to work with governments on this issue, to ensure that the government focuses on reducing subsidies and incentives that harm both biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples' rights.

The second part of this target involves increasing positive incentives, which encourage activities that protect biodiversity. These could also offer opportunities for Indigenous Peoples. For example, governments could set up programmes that pay Indigenous Peoples for caring for and protecting nature within their territories. There may also be opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to ally with broader movements that are pushing to transform our economic systems and create rights-based, sustainable and/or wellbeing focussed economies. By working together, they can help shape new ideas and support positive changes in government policies and programmes.

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### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.