

Target 21:

Ensure that Knowledge is Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action

21

Ensure That Data and Knowledge are Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action



WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to support better biodiversity decision-making by improving access to knowledge and data, including Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge – ensuring that it is used ethically and with free, prior and informed consent.



Community-based biodiversity monitoring, Kenya. Credit: Chepkitale Indigenous Peoples Development Project (CIPDP)

Having better information about biodiversity helps people make better decisions about it. Target 21 aims to support decision-makers at local, national and global levels by making information about biodiversity better and easier to access. This will lead to more effective biodiversity action across all targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The target brings together several important elements:

- Improving access to relevant biodiversity data, information and knowledge
- Communication, awareness-raising, education
- Knowledge management
- Monitoring
- Research

Indigenous Peoples hold unique traditional knowledge that is important for conserving and sustainably using biodiversity. Their knowledge, practices, innovations, and technologies can greatly enhance information and understanding about biodiversity. This knowledge already guides decision-making within their territories and often contributes beyond them, such as through partnerships with researchers or when Indigenous Peoples choose to share their knowledge with others.

As the value of Indigenous traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies is increasingly recognised, there are more opportunities for their knowledges and values to play a more important role in informing biodiversity action. The contribution made by Indigenous Peoples can also be strengthened, for example through supporting Indigenous-led monitoring or research initiatives.

Target 21 also includes an important safeguard. States and others should only access and use the traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of Indigenous Peoples with their free, prior and informed consent. Applying the [CARE principles for Indigenous data governance \(ownership and control of data\)](#) – Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility and Ethics – could also help ensure that Indigenous traditional knowledge can contribute to the global store of data, information and knowledge in a just and ethical way.

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Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, practices, innovations, and technologies can greatly enhance information and understanding about biodiversity.



TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INDICATOR

Target 21 can be monitored in part by states using the linguistic diversity indicator - one of the four traditional knowledge indicators.



OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, is accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.