

# Policy Recommendations for CBD COP14



This brief provides a summary of the 2018 global report of the Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI) and sets out overarching recommendations for select draft decisions of the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14). The recommendations are drawn from the CCRI assessments and the second Fostering Community Conservation Conference.<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction to the CCRI

The Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI) is a global initiative that has been documenting and reviewing the findings of bottom-up, participatory assessments by 68 communities in 22 different countries, assessing the

resilience of community conservation initiatives and the support that should be provided to strengthen these initiatives. The aim of the CCRI is to contribute to the implementation of the Convention on Biological

Diversity (CBD)'s 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets by providing policy advice on effective and appropriate forms of support for community conservation.



<sup>1</sup> For more information about the CCRI recommendations, please refer to the global report and case studies (<https://globalforestcoalition.org/ccri-global-report>) as well as the visual report of the second Fostering Community Conservation Conference, held from 4-8 July 2018 in Montreal (<https://globalforestcoalition.org/fccc-ii-visual-report>).

## Summary of the CCRI Global Report

The global summary report of the CCRI<sup>2</sup>, launched in June 2018, found that all of the Indigenous peoples and local communities who conducted assessments of their own conservation resilience coexist with and are highly dependent on the biodiversity in their territories, with some communities located in ecosystems with high biodiversity. Almost all are actively engaged in managing their natural resources in keeping with their cultures, traditions and Indigenous and local knowledge systems. Many are also regenerating damaged habitats. The communities interact with and use biodiversity in many different ways. Women in particular play key roles in conserving biodiversity and holding Indigenous and local

knowledge, including inter-generational transmission of traditional knowledge and collecting sources of energy and traditional food and medicine. Indigenous peoples' and local communities' cultures and traditions are often closely aligned with safeguarding critical ecosystems, including water resources, as well as endemic species. Many restrict what can be hunted, gathered or grown, and when, including through the use of taboos and reverence for sacred sites. They have a range of self-organised community initiatives and other more formal processes and structures that demonstrate how communities and others can facilitate community forest and ecosystem management and regeneration.

However, all of the communities are struggling to different degrees with a wide range of internal and external threats that impact the resilience of their conservation practices and their capacity to protect, manage, conserve and regenerate natural resources and their territories and areas. In general, Indigenous peoples and local communities, including women therein, do not have sufficient or effective recognition of collective ownership and tenure rights over their territories and areas and ways of life. Industrial activities – particularly agriculture, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure and extractive industries – create conflict and violence over land and natural resources, driving deforestation, toxic contamination and land and

<sup>2</sup> The global report and case studies are available at: <https://globalforestcoalition.org/ccri-global-report>.



CCRI in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. PDIP-KIVU/GFC



CCRI in India. Souparna Lahiri/GFC



CCRI in Kenya. Edna Kaptoyo/GFC



CCRI in Tajikistan. Noosfera



CCRI in Chile. Carolina Lagos/GFC

water grabbing, and exacerbating displacement, rapid social, cultural and economic changes and rising threats to the Indigenous peoples and local communities who defend their territories from such activities.

Communities also see how climate change is impacting their territories, including through diminishing freshwater resources, severe droughts and flooding. Communities struggle to contain issues arising from the increased presence of illegal settlers, which in some cases has led to poaching and over-exploitation of natural resources, and the spread of invasive species.

More broadly, conservation efforts by communities are often undermined by the imposition of top-down and exclusionary protected areas without their free, prior and

informed consent as well as licensing regimes that restrict their access to and use of resources. Where community rights are recognised at least to some degree in policies and laws, they are rarely implemented fully or effectively.

All of these external threats hinder communities' capacities to conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and ecosystems. Furthermore, forest destruction and biodiversity loss further exacerbate gender inequalities and disproportionately affect women within communities, for example, by increasing their workload as they struggle to secure food, medicine and livelihoods for their families.

Communities also face a number of internal challenges that affect their capacity to independently conserve,

manage and sustainably use their local ecosystems and related natural resources and to sustain culturally appropriate livelihoods, education and health and wellbeing. These challenges include lack of access to basic services, loss of Indigenous and local knowledge, population growth, high unemployment rates and urban migration. In some communities, women's contributions to community conservation are respected and their leadership on issues is appreciated. However, in other communities, women are excluded from leadership positions, decision-making bodies and control of land and resources and their rights are undermined by patriarchal and discriminatory structures and national policies (such as on land inheritance).



CCRI in India. **Souparna Lahiri/GFC**



CCRI in Colombia. **Jeanne Lieberman and Censat Agua Viva/GFC**



CCRI in Kyrgyzstan. **BIOM/GFC**

# CCRI Recommendations for Draft CBD COP14 Decisions

## Item 8: review of progress in implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan

### On “Updated scientific assessment of progress towards selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets and options to accelerate progress”:

National targets and commitments are lower than the Aichi Targets and the rate of implementation is insufficient to meet the Strategic Plan, and more national concrete targets should be set for implementation of Aichi 18. We urge Parties to accelerate national efforts to achieve the Aichi Targets in close cooperation with Indigenous peoples and local communities, including women.

In addition, global biodiversity assessments are lacking information on the contributions of Indigenous peoples and local communities. Indigenous peoples and local communities contribute significantly to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity. However, these community conservation contributions are not sufficiently represented in biodiversity assessments and reporting, partly because they

are not sufficiently documented in peer-reviewed literature. We urge Parties to include Indigenous peoples and local communities and their knowledge in assessments and reporting on biodiversity. We also encourage Indigenous peoples and communities to share their contributions to biodiversity and the Aichi Targets, including through the sixth national reports.

### On “Gender Plan of Action”:

Parties know that involving women is good for biodiversity conservation, yet most are not yet doing so. We urge Parties to recognise women as rights-holders, institutionalise meaningful participation of women’s organisations and Indigenous women in national biodiversity policy and programs and gender-responsive tools in biodiversity planning and monitoring, undertake suggested actions to accelerate implementation of

the Gender Plan of Action, and work towards a revised Gender

Plan of Action to be adopted in 2020.



CCRI in Colombia. Fundaexpresión and Censat Agua Viva/GFC

## Item 9: resource mobilisation and the financial mechanism

### On “Milestones for the full implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 3”:

The draft COP14 decision recognises the potential contribution of implementing Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 for the mobilisation of financial resources from all sources, notes with concern the limited progress made in implementing Aichi Biodiversity Target 3 (particularly concerning harmful incentives), and encourages Parties and other Governments to intensify their efforts to implement measures for the full implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 3.

Aichi Target 3 is essential to achieving the entire Strategic Plan – yet Parties are far behind in implementation. As long as scarce public funds are spent

on incentives that are harmful for biodiversity (such as unsustainable livestock production<sup>3</sup>, monoculture plantations, bioenergy and infrastructure projects), we will continue to lose biodiversity and the effects of any positive incentives will likely be significantly undermined or even negated. Conversely, redirecting public funds from harmful incentives toward positive incentives would contribute hugely to much-needed resource mobilisation (Aichi Target 20) and also avoid the negative impacts caused by such harmful incentives. In efforts to promote positive incentive measures, Parties can refer to substantial existing

analyses and guidance on how to appropriately recognise and support ICCAs and other community conservation initiatives, including in specific national contexts<sup>4</sup>. When supporting positive incentives for Indigenous peoples and local communities, Parties should focus primarily on non-monetary incentives such as legal recognition and protection of their territories and areas and other community conservation initiatives. All forms of incentives should be co-developed with the Indigenous peoples and communities concerned and subject to their free, prior and informed consent.

### On “Methodological guidance concerning the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities”:

Indigenous peoples and local communities contribute significantly to the Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets through collective action – yet these contributions are generally unrecognised and under-reported by CBD Parties. This methodological guidance is a very useful tool for CBD Parties to better understand, respect and report on the many contributions of Indigenous

peoples and local communities to the Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets. However, the draft COP14 decision only invites Parties, other Governments and relevant stakeholder organisations to (*inter alia*) consider the methodological guidance when reporting through the financial reporting mechanism. In the draft decision, we recommend Parties to include consideration

of the methodological guidance for national reporting and when preparing the Global Biodiversity Outlook and Local Biodiversity Outlooks. It is also critical to incorporate tools such as gender analysis and gender-responsive biodiversity indicators in biodiversity policy planning and monitoring, and in the preparation of the post-2020 framework.

<sup>3</sup> See: Wimberly, C., and I. Alvarez (2018). “Incentivising deforestation for livestock products: How support for the livestock sector in the EU and Mercosur countries is subsidising forest destruction”. Global Forest Coalition. Available online at: <https://globalforestcoalition.org/incentivising-deforestation-for-livestock-products>.

<sup>4</sup> Such guidance includes CBD Technical Series No. 64 on recognising and supporting territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (available online at: <https://www.iccaconsortium.org/index.php/category/publications-en/cbd-ts-64-en/>) and a series of legal reviews (available online at: <https://www.iccaconsortium.org/index.php/category/national-local-en/legal-reviews-en/>).

## Item 17: long-term strategic directions to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity, approaches to living in harmony with nature and preparation for the post-2020 biodiversity framework

### On “Proposals for a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework”:

Indigenous peoples and local communities, including women, must be meaningfully involved in the process to develop the post-2020 framework. As part of this, it is crucial to recognise Indigenous and local knowledge systems as well as gender-responsive indicators as part of the evidence base, but this has been a consistent gap to date in the NBSAPs, national reports and Global Biodiversity Outlooks.

Indigenous peoples and local communities involved in the CCRI also called for the following in the post-2020 framework: a human rights-based approach and awareness-raising of rights, including environmental rights; equitable participation and inclusion; recognition of diverse governance systems, including under customary law; recognition of collective actions, including grassroots approaches to conservation and sustainable use of

biodiversity such as sacred sites and ICCAs—territories of life; stronger mechanisms for implementation and monitoring and reporting; and stronger synergies between the CBD and Sustainable Development Goals and other international instruments, including recognition of the inter-linkages between biological and cultural diversity and the contributions of biodiversity to sustainable development.

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## Item 22: Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors

### On “Mainstreaming of biodiversity in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing plants”:

As found in the CCRI, the energy, mining and infrastructure industries are among the most damaging for Indigenous peoples and local communities. Efforts to mainstream biodiversity within these industries should also mainstream human rights, particularly those of the Indigenous peoples and local communities and women who

are protecting, conserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems through voluntary collective actions.

Much greater emphasis needs to be placed on ensuring Indigenous peoples and local communities who may be affected by such industries are involved in the decision-making processes and have the right to

provide or withhold free, prior and informed consent for any activities that may affect them. Environmental, social and cultural impact assessments are often faulty, both procedurally and substantively, and communities struggle to secure justice and redress when their environmental and human rights are violated.

## Item 24: Spatial planning, protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures

Community conservation initiatives and related access and governance rights, including of women, should be respected, and the establishment and expansion of protected areas and identification of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) must be subject to the free, prior and

informed consent of Indigenous peoples and local communities. The draft COP14 decision contains important guidance about governance and equity in the context of protected and conserved areas as well as guiding principles and criteria for identification of OECMs. We urge Parties to implement this guidance

comprehensively with the full and effective participation and free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly in situations of overlap between their territories and areas and proposed protected areas or OECMs.

CCRI in Kyrgyzstan. BIOM/GFC



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For general information, please visit: Community Conservation Resilience Initiative, <http://globalforestcoalition.org/resources/supporting-community-conservation/>

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