

**Statement on the IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services at the 17th
United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), April 19 2018**

On behalf of the co-chairs, authors, and technical support teams of the Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), we appreciate the opportunity to provide an update on progress on the inclusion of Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) in the Global Assessment. We were honored with the resolution by the Forum during its 16th session in 2017 to welcome the efforts of the Global Assessment to include ILK and attention to questions relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC). As requested, we are here to report on progress to date in advancing these goals. In addition to this statement, a side-event dedicated to the topic is planned for tomorrow (Friday, April 20, 1:15 pm, room CR-6).

Established in 2012, IPBES' mission is *to provide policy relevant knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services to inform decision making at various levels*. Composed of 129 member-countries, IPBES is supported by a collaborative partnership agreement with FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO.

The Global Assessment is a flagship assessment of IPBES' first work program (2014-2018), which already included assessments of pollination, assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services in 4 regions: the Americas, Europe and Central Asia, Africa, and Asia-Pacific; and an assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration, all of which included attention to ILK and IPLC. The Global Assessment follows the conceptual framework approved by IPBES, which considers multiple knowledge systems and types of values underlying the relationship between nature, nature's contribution to people, and good quality of life.

Started in mid-2016 and scheduled to be considered by governments in Paris at the 7th IPBES Plenary in May 2019, and widely released at that time, the Global Assessment is critically assessing the state of knowledge on past, present and possible future trends in multi-scale interactions between people and nature, taking into consideration different world views and knowledge systems. It includes coverage of land, inland waters, coastal zones and oceans. Including 150 authors from over 50 countries from all regions of the world, the global assessment is timed to contribute to the 5th edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to assess advances towards the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,) and contribute to the elaboration of the next Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2021-2030 and provide input to the SDGs.

At the onset of the Global Assessment, a strategy for the inclusion of ILK and issues relevant to IPLC was developed with the intent to systematically include such attention in each of the six chapters of the assessment. The strategy includes three overarching questions and 27 chapter-specific questions supported by extensive reviews of the literature, reports, and cases, a dedicated ILK liaison authors' group, the use of maps and geospatial data, and multiple forms of online consultations and dialogues with IPLC representatives and ILK experts. The three overarching questions that guided this work are:

- 1. What have been the contributions of Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) to the sustainable use, management and conservation of nature and Nature's Contributions to People (NCP) at regional and global scales?*
- 2. What are the most important features, pressures and factors related to and/or enabling these contributions, as well as impacting present and future NCP and quality of life of IPLCs?*
- 3. What policy responses, measures, and processes can contribute to strengthen and improve the institutions and governance of nature and NCP with regard to ILK/IPLCs?*

Since the 16th session of the Forum, we are pleased to report the following:

-The Second Order Draft chapters of the Global Assessment are scheduled to be delivered by the end of April 2018. It includes contributions from 60 authors (in different roles) dedicated to assessing and discussing ILK and questions relevant to IPLC as related to the theme of the chapter.

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-As part of this process, so far authors across chapters have examined around 3000 bibliographic references including articles, books, and reports relevant to ILK and IPLC issues.

-An Online *Call-for-Contributions* dedicated to ILK and IPLC issues has mobilized 363 submissions, from over 60 countries and contributing over 1000 bibliographic sources.

-We have carried out face to face discussions, consultation, and dialogues with IPLC representatives and ILK experts from around the world at international meetings in Canada, Kenya, and United States, with additional meetings planned for Canada, Finland and Brazil.

-As part of this work, we have carried out detailed analysis of the contributions to and implications of the 20 targets of the Global Biodiversity Strategy (2011-2020), the Aichi Targets, and Sustainable Development Goals as they relate to IPLCs.

-Authors have assessed contributions of IPLC to, among other issues, conservation of biodiversity, management of ecosystems, agrobiodiversity and domesticated animals, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the importance of IPLC worldviews revealing diverse types of relationships to nature.

-Authors have also consider the limited, but important literature on the implications of future scenarios of environmental change to IPLC, and the contributions of IPLC to possible pathways to sustainable futures;

-Authors have assessed the implications of policy instruments and incentive mechanisms for conservation that directly and indirectly affect IPLCs, including options for advancing these instruments by learning from the past.

-Furthermore, the Global Assessment has informed the development of the strategy for working with ILK in future IPBES assessments. The strategy includes four phases: scoping, data mobilization, engagement, and giving back. The UNPFII community can contribute to advance this strategy in coming years.

In conclusion, we have an important request to make to the members of the Forum. Starting on May 1, 2018, the second-order chapter drafts of the Global Assessment will be made available for open review. Upon registration, one will be able to access this material and provide comments and suggestions on each chapter. Your comments and feedback will help authors to identify gaps, new sources, and consider the way the material has been interpreted and written up so far. This draft will undergo another comprehensive round of revision before its final delivery. Authors will respond to each comment provided during the review process. Your contributions will help the Global Assessment and IPBES more broadly to advance the inclusion and assessing the contribution of ILK and IPLC to the sustainable use, management and conservation of nature and Nature's Contributions to People at regional and global scales.

If you wish to learn more about any of the issues mentioned in this statement, you are warmly invited to our **side event tomorrow at 1:15pm, room CR-6**.

We look forward to the opportunity to return to the 18th Session of the UNPFII in 2019 to report and to discuss the final draft of the IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the Forum community.

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