

THE CASE FOR IPLC ROLES AND RIGHTS



Avaaz's Listening Document
for the Geneva meetings of the
Convention on Biological Diversity
(SBSTTA-24, SBI-3, and OEWG-3)
13-29 March 2022

L A S T C A L L S G E N E V A

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A LETTER FROM AVAAZ NOTHING ABOUT IPLCS WITHOUT IPLCS

 6' READ

Your Excellencies,

Since the establishment of this Convention, it has become exceedingly clear that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are very often the best partners on biodiversity conservation. In fact, a growing evidence base recognizes IPLCs as critical to sustaining the diversity of life on Earth through their traditional knowledge, practices and cultures and worldviews. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude (at the very least) for the vital role they've played in rolling us back from dangerous ecological tipping points.

And yet not a day goes by without IPLCs across the globe experiencing attacks on their livelihoods, or even their lives¹, and fearing for the integrity of the lands and the resources they use and protect. Despite their vital role in protecting Earth's biodiversity, IPLCs are regularly sidelined and often persecuted by public and private interests and forced to navigate tremendous social, economic and political challenges. In addition to their persistent marginalization, negligence, and social ostracism, they suffer from a gross, everlasting lack of adequate support and financial resources, on top of the growing threats from harmful industries to their lands, and the everyday violence aimed toward their communities.

THE EXCLUSION OF IPLCS - AS YOU GATHER IN GENEVA IN THE COMING WEEKS YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECTIFY THIS DREADFUL REALITY

The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) has continued to recognize the connection of IPLCs to biodiversity since first confirming it in 1992. This connection has also been acknowledged by the Ministers and other heads of delegations on the occasion of Part 1 of COP15 last October². But acknowledgement is simply not enough. **There is great and**

ongoing risk that IPLCs become tokenized during the last stretch of negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF). Much progress is yet to be made for IPLCs to be fully included in the ongoing negotiations, and in the decisions that will be made in Geneva as well as in their follow up.

Avaaz believes that the First Draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework could provide a more comprehensive rights-based approach by aligning previous pledges and commitments made by States with real transformative policies that secure an ecological future for us all. This starts by ensuring that conservation policies adopted in these negotiations are not allowed to hamper cultural diversity or lead to the exclusion of traditional communities.

In practice, what this means is that Parties must urgently move beyond blanket recognition of the rights of IPLCs, and align the goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF with the principle of self-determination of peoples. Parties must also assure, and secure culturally appropriate tenure rights regimes (including the recognition of collective governance models) and the full and effective participation of IPLCs and their right to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). By taking those steps ahead of making any decisions towards conservation instruments to be adopted by Parties, they could ensure a much stronger and mutually beneficial framework.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted by more than 140 States and Parties of the CBD in 2007, emphasized the urgent need "*to respect and promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples*" and considers that "*treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements, and the relationship they represent, are the basis for a strengthened partnership between Indigenous Peoples and*

¹ Global Witness (2021). Global Witness reports 227 land and environmental activists murdered in a single year, the worst figure on record. Available at: www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/global-witness-reports-227-land-and-environmental-activists-murdered-single-year-worst-figure-record/

² Kunming Declaration (2021) Available at: www.cbd.int/doc/c/df35/4b94/5e86e1ee09bc8c7d4b35aaf0/kunmingdeclaration-en.pdf

States". The current negotiations of the post-2020 GBF are clearly a major opportunity for Parties to strengthen their partnerships with IPLCs.

IPLCs have historically been excluded from important discussions and decisions about the lands they inhabit and the natural resources found there. This results in the development of conservation policies that lead to land grabs, in pollution, in inequitable allocation of financial resources, and in other pressing social problems. This lack of inclusion has also exacerbated conflicts between IPLCs and the sovereignty of States, as if they were necessarily opposites, when, time after time, we've seen that partnering with IPLCs was fundamental for States that are willing to ensure the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity. When States fail to properly work with these communities, our common environment suffers the consequences.

At Avaaz, we believe that a flourishing planet and a thriving society are only possible if we truly engage everyone meaningfully. Nowhere is this more evident than with IPLCs, whose history and experience make them both ideal role models and vital partners as we urgently seek to establish a healthier and more harmonious relationship with the rest of the living world / biodiversity. Therefore, we strongly urge Parties to take into consideration the following suggestions for making this framework successful. We are committed to working together with our 70-million members to ensure that the Geneva meetings are a turning point in how the world decides to protect our precious and unique biodiversity. Working together we can ensure that this endeavor is successful.

With hope and determination,

The Avaaz team



UNDISCLOSED AREA, northern Tanzania. – The Maasai of Ngorongoro District in Northern Tanzania hold banners showing international solidarity with their struggle for their land. Any day now tens of thousands of the Maasai community could be forced off their ancestral lands to make way for elite tourism and trophy hunting. More than 2 million Avaaz members (and counting) rallied behind their call (see [petition](#) - Note: The image used is not connected to the Maasai elders petition, in the interests of their security and safety).

OUR CASE DECOLONIZE CONSERVATION, EMBRACE A RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH



12' READ

During negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, several Parties and non-State stakeholders, including Avaaz, have been calling on all governments to ensure that the roles and rights of IPLCs are properly incorporated in all further discussions and agreements regarding the conservation of biodiversity. In particular, Avaaz is calling for the full recognition of IPLCs' lands, waters, and territories by 2025 (and no later than 2030) in the goals and targets of the post 2020 GBF, in line with recommendations from the IPBES *Global Assessment Report* (2019) and other scientific and policy references that emphasize the role of IPLCs in biodiversity conservation.

This goal is supported by over 800,000 signers of an Avaaz petition, from around the world, who call on world leaders "to correct the harm and injustices committed against the people who are putting their lives on the line to protect the planet." As a people-powered movement striving to create a better world for all of us, Avaaz understands that beyond the moral duty that this issue represents, there is also a global environmental imperative. Given that IPLCs across the world have the overarching right to self-determination, and have been subjected to injustices and oppression for centuries and have nonetheless managed to successfully steward the majority of our planet's biodiversity conservation, the strategic value of finally treating these communities as equal allies must by now be painfully evident: doing so is imperative for our long-term environmental security.

Parties must amend the current First Draft of the post-2020 GBF so as to enable the full and effective participation of IPLCs in the planning, implementation, and review of the framework, and to include the recognition of their lands, roles, and rights. Beyond proposing several language suggestions across the First Draft of the post-2020 global biodiversi-

ty framework, **Avaaz is of the opinion that Parties must include a new goal (Goal E), that ensures the 2050 vision includes IPLCs, and a new target that safeguards IPLCs rights over their lands and waters by 2025 (and/or no longer than 2030!),** as a key measure towards reaching the broader objective of living in harmony with nature. Further details on the language suggestions can be seen in the annex.

IPLCs ARE ALREADY SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTING TO PRACTICALLY ALL PROPOSED TARGETS OF THE POST-2020 GBD

IPLCs are indispensable actors who have nonetheless purposely been excluded from key processes, policy discussions, negotiations and conservation efforts, despite the fact that **they are already significantly contributing to practically all proposed targets of the post-2020 GBF.** Indeed, IPLCs own, manage, use or occupy from a quarter to half of the planet's land area³. In other words, they currently occupy and care for 80% of the Earth's known biodiversity, and 37% of all land designated as particularly important for biodiversity and carbon storage.⁴

By working towards a more robust framework with a rights-based approach, that moves beyond blanketed recommendations over tenure rights, and truly respects cultural diversity and the overarching right of self-determination and collective governance of IPLCs⁵, we can ensure that the needed transformative changes over the next decade are made to fulfill common goals, including the vital 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By doing so, Parties could also regain trust and rebuild meaningful and respectful relationships with communities at the frontlines of environmental protection, before further **ecological tipping points are crossed.**⁶

3 Rights and Resources Initiative (2020). Community Land Rights in Liberia: A Summary of 2020 Analyses. Available at: rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/Summary-of-2020-RRI-analyses-Liberia-Final-3.pdf

4 Dinerstein, E. et al. (2020). A "Global Safety Net" to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize Earth's climate. Available at: www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abb2824

5 Dutta et al. (2020). Re-thinking the Global Safety Net: Local leadership in global conservation: <https://biosec.group.shef.ac.uk/2021/05/14/whats-wrong-with-the-global-safety-net-approach-to-conservation/>

6 Whyte, Kyle (2019). Too late for indigenous climate justice: Ecological and relational tipping points. Available at: wires.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wcc.603

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For many IPLCs, trust towards States was already broken centuries ago. More recently, conservation policies removed them from their traditional lands, and custodianship was denied to them in misguided (sometimes nefarious) “conservation” efforts. The critical work of halting the triple crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change, and desertification must begin by restoring relationships with IPLCs, who have been sidelined in biodiversity policy circles despite their undeniable and extremely valuable historic contributions to biodiversity conservation. It would be a profound mistake if the post-2020 GBF limited the participation of IPLCs to its implementation phase only, as is still predominating in the negotiations⁷.

In addition to the commitments that must be established towards all IPLCs, special attention must be paid to **Indigenous women** who still face double discrimination and marginalization due to their gender and to being a member of an IPLC group. Indigenous women are excluded from decision-making, are shoved to the sideline of negotiations (if included at all), and denied basic fundamental rights. If we aspire to establish “transformative change” (which Avaaz believes we must do), then we need empowered Indigenous women across the framework.

The positive impact of IPLC stewardship of biodiversity on their traditional lands and territories was acknowledged by the Ministers and other heads of delegations on the occasion of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference last October. Their pivotal role in protecting our ecosystems (effectively delaying dangerous ecological tipping points) was first mentioned by the CBD in 1992 but has yet to be recognized by Parties at the level of policy required for transformative change. The time has come to move beyond mentioning, acknowledging, and pledging, and to make concrete policy

changes. The role of IPLCs should be taken into account across all phases of the framework: from planning to implementation and reviewing, and the sharing of benefits from biodiversity conservation.

IN GENEVA WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE LEADERSHIP OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN PROTECTING OUR PLANET

It’s crucial to reiterate that when the CBD convenes in Geneva, Parties will already have several commitments and pledges they must honor (both at the CBD and in other fora), that either directly or indirectly dictate the starting point of the negotiation on this issue. **For example, Parties will have to take into account that Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination, a principle enshrined in Articles 1 and 55 of the United Nations Charter⁸, as well as UNDRIP Article 3.** As previously mentioned, UNDRIP calls upon states “to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples” and considers that “treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and the relationship they represent, are the basis for a strengthened partnership between indigenous peoples and States”. Extensive literature provides enough support for self-determination of peoples as non-conflictive in principle with the sovereignty of States⁹. Alongside these instruments, we also underline the role of the 1989 International Labour Organization’s Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, and the World Parks Congress Durban Accord. These instruments could profoundly assist Parties in broadening the scope of IPLCs participation across the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In fact, as you are likely aware, the **overarching decision 1/CP.26¹⁰ at the UNFCCC COP26** emphasized “*the important role of indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ culture and*

7 CBD (2021). Reflections by the co-chairs following the First Session of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Available at: www.cbd.int/doc/c/2f74/dda0/270258bf5deab47fbc43da4/wg2020-03-06-en.pdf

8 United Nations (1945). United Nations Charter (full text). Available at: www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text

9 Kilian, Petr (2019). Self-Determination of Peoples in the Charter of the United Nations. Available at: <http://www.revistas.unisinos.br/index.php/RECHTD/article/view/rechtd.2019.113.03>

10 UNFCCC (2021). Draft COP decision proposed by the President: 1/CP.26. Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Overarching_decision_1-CP-26_0.pdf

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knowledge in effective action on climate change, and urges Parties to actively involve Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in designing and implementing climate action". The latest assessment from the IPCC Working Group II, released February 28, 2022, includes findings that highlight the tremendous value of IPLCs knowledge including the impact in adapting ecosystems to climate change. The report also stresses the need to recognize IPLCs' rights, which are "integral to successful forest adaptation in many areas".¹¹ In the same vein, the IUCN's recently published position for the OEWG, SBI and SBSTTA meetings in Geneva¹² has declared essential "*that Parties support the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities*". With this in mind, we urge Parties to seize this unique opportunity to elevate the issue of IPLCs throughout the global biodiversity framework, and to thoroughly reflect their rights in the framework's goals and targets.

Failing to secure the human rights and the collective rights of IPLCs has already resulted in serious consequences for biodiversity conservation. According to the 2019 IPBES *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, "nature is generally declining less rapidly in indigenous peoples' land than in other lands". It also highlights that even on Indigenous lands biodiversity is declining, "as is the knowledge of how to manage it." This is due to external pressures and mediocre support from authorities, resulting in severe consequences for the livelihoods of IPLCs and reducing "the ability of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to conserve and sustainably manage wild and domesticated biodiversity that are also relevant to broader society".

Already, governments are trying to put in practice the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent, whether by their own initiative of respecting agreements or because they have been forced to do so by courts¹³. But in some countries, governments are going in the wrong direction¹⁴ - that is precisely why we need Parties to fail-proof the goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF ahead of implementation, to better ensure IPLCs are also part of the livable future we are aiming to create. In that sense, **Parties should urgently include in their legislative instruments a clear restriction to declaring protected areas, or any area-based protection scheme, in territories contested by IPLCs.**

We need systemic change. And we need it now. But change will only happen when our governments recognize the sophisticated cultures, political structures and ways of life that have enabled IPLCs to sustainably coexist with biodiversity for centuries or millennia, despite external pressure, violence and disenfranchisement. Once we do that, enabling them to continue their livelihoods and learning with them about their relationship with the environment, will we be on the right path to living in harmony with nature.

11 Pörtner, H.-O, Roberts, D. C., et al. (2022). Climate Change 2022. Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Summary for Policymakers of Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 27th February 2022. Available https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf.

12 IUCN (2022). IUCN's Position. Available at: www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/iucn_position_paper_resumed_cbd_sbstta24-sbi3-oweg3_.pdf

13 The New York Times (February 2022). Ecuador Court Gives Indigenous Groups a Boost in Mining and Drilling Disputes. See: www.nytimes.com/2022/02/04/climate/ecuador-indigenous-constitutional-court.html

14 Mongabay (February 2022). Tanzania, siding with UAE firm, plans to evict Maasai from ancestral lands. See: <https://news.mongabay.com/2022/02/tanzania-siding-with-uae-firm-plans-to-evict-maasai-from-ancestral-lands/>

MARSEILLE, France.– Amazonian Indigenous leader, posing for a photo-shoot with international media at the 2020 IUCN Congress, featuring the “first conservationists”: Indigenous people are the world’s biggest players in biodiversity conservation, but they rarely get credit for it.



CONCLUSION

A TRULY MULTICULTURAL GBF WILL BE OUR ONLY PATH TO THRIVE

 2' READ

Lands governed and managed by IPLCs are richer in biodiversity thanks to the traditional cultures and livelihoods that enable their coexistence with other species, and because they have resisted and survived in these areas despite the oppression, occupation, and even genocide committed against them over the years. Every year hundreds of IPLC leaders are murdered at the hands of criminals, corporations and even governments that seek to profit off of their lands and natural resources, while continuing to deny them their rights.

Their territories are rich in biodiversity because of their livelihoods and traditional practices, but also because they resisted centuries of oppression and external pressure on their lands. Sadly, we're yet to value all of the benefits of the knowledge that IPLCs have acquired for millenia. The cost of failure is too high, both for the people and the planet. We will continue to pay the price of inaction as long as inertia dictates the pace of the negotiations, currently in gridlock and with lack of ambition. We cannot allow this to happen.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework must recognize and address the roles and rights of IPLCs as stewards of their lands, resources and knowledge, as well as their livelihoods and their fundamental contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. IPLCs should be meaningfully included and consulted on how, with their free, prior, and informed consent, their traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices could be fully integrated in the planning and implementation of the framework. Should they so desire, IPLCs must be involved in relevant decisions that will guide government plans in the decades to come.

To take steps towards this direction, Parties and non-State stakeholders at the CBD and other relevant conventions must engage in more meaningful ways to create a livable future for all, including by addressing the urgency of biodiversity loss, climate change and desertification, with concrete efforts to meet the urgency to secure the rights of those on the ground and in the frontlines.

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK,
GET INVOLVED!**

WRITE TO US: BIODIVERSITY@AVAAZ.ORG

- How do you consider providing support so that the IPLC lands become a vital part of spatial planning and for the conservation of ecosystems?
- Do you consider IPLCs' traditional protection, conservation and/or use of ecosystems and natural resources a valuable approach to be considered in goals and targets aimed at protecting and conserving biodiversity? Why?
- How do you believe the post-2020 GBF could align its goals and targets with previous commitments by Parties, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People?



OTTAWA, Canada.– First Nations leaders holding banners showing the messages of support and solidarity from Canadian members of Avaaz, calling on the government to agree on a mechanism that gives Canada's First Nations the power to block any laws altering their rights, land, water access, use and quality without their free, prior and informed consent.

ANNEX

LANGUAGE PROPOSALS

The purpose of this document is to inform negotiators, stakeholders, CBD National Focal Points, of the recommendations of Avaaz for the development of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

New language proposed by Avaaz is in **green and bold** and deletions are in ~~red and strikethrough~~

CBD/WG2020/3/3 LANGUAGE PROPOSALS FOR THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (OEWG-3)

A-D. BACKGROUND, THE PURPOSE, RELATIONSHIP WITH 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THEORY OF CHANGE

ORIGINAL TEXT CBD/WG2020/3/3	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
NOTE BY THE CO-CHAIRS		
ANNEX		
D. THEORY OF CHANGE		
<p>Para 7</p> <p>The theory of change for the framework acknowledges the need for appropriate recognition of gender equality, women’s empowerment, youth, gender-responsive approaches and the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the implementation of this framework. Further, it is built upon the recognition that its implementation will be done in partnership among organizations at the global, national and local levels to leverage ways to build a momentum for success. It will be implemented taking a rights-based approach and recognizing the principle of intergenerational equity.</p>	<p>Para 7</p> <p>The theory of change for the framework acknowledges the need for appropriate recognition of gender equality, women’s empowerment, youth, gender-responsive approaches and the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including indigenous women, in the planning, implementation and review of this framework, as well as the recognition and protection of their rights over lands, territories, and resources, and the respect for their free, prior and informed consent. Further, it is built upon the recognition that its implementation will be done in partnership among organizations at the global, national and local levels to leverage ways to build a momentum for success. It will be implemented taking a rights-based approach and recognizing the principle of intergenerational equity.</p>	<p>A major challenge for all IPLCs -and in particular Indigenous women- is the lack of recognition and protection of their rights.</p> <p>If the Theory of Change is to be understood as a rigorous yet participatory process whereby groups and project stakeholders identify the conditions they believe are necessary to meet their long-term goals, the full and effective participation of key stakeholders, including IPLCs -especially Indigenous women - should not be limited to the implementation of the post-2020 GBF.</p> <p>IPLCs - especially Indigenous women -must be involved in the planning, implementation and review of the post-2020 GBF. This is in addition to the recognition of their right to self-determination, and protection of their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as respect for their free, prior and informed consent.</p>

F. 2050 GOALS AND 2030 MILESTONES

The framework has four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. Each 2050 goal has a number of corresponding milestones to assess, in 2030, progress towards the 2050 goals.

ORIGINAL TEXT CBD/WG2020/3/3	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p>Goal D</p> <p>The gap between available financial and other means of implementation, and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed.</p> <p>Milestone D.1</p> <p>Adequate financial resources to implement the framework are available and deployed, progressively closing the financing gap up to at least US \$700 billion per year by 2030.</p> <p>Milestone D.2</p> <p>Adequate other means, including capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer to implement the framework to 2030 are available and deployed.</p>	<p>Goal D</p> <p>The gap between available financial and other means of implementation, and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed; and available financial and other means of implementation equitably distributed.</p> <p>Milestone D.1</p> <p>Adequate and gender-responsive financial resources to implement the framework are available and deployed, progressively closing the financing gap up to at least US \$700 US\$967 billion per year by 2030.</p> <p>Milestone D.2</p> <p>Adequate other means, including capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to implement the framework to 2030 are available, equitably accessible and deployed, especially for developing countries and in particular for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.</p>	<p>Regarding Goal D and its milestones, Avaaz welcomes the reference to financial resources available and deployed (by 2030), and planned or committed for the next decade (2030-2040).</p> <p>Yet US \$700 billion per year by 2030 is still not enough. According to Deutz et al. (2020), as of 2019, current spending on biodiversity conservation is between \$124 and \$143 billion per year, against a total estimated biodiversity protection need of at least \$967 billion per year.</p> <p>Furthermore, the vision of the framework emphasizes that it has to have a gender-responsive and rights-oriented approach, including for IPLCs.</p> <p>Lastly, Avaaz agrees with recommendations for the CBD's Women Caucus, strongly advocating for a human rights approach through a gender lens in order to ensure the encompassing implementation of SDG 5.</p>

NEW TEXT: AVAAZ SUGGEST ADDING A NEW GOAL**GOAL E**

Ensure equitable, full, and effective participation in planning, implementation, review and decision-making related to biodiversity protection, conservation and sustainable use, of all stakeholders, in particular Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women and girls, particularly that of Indigenous women, as well as the youth, while ensuring transparency and accountability in all processes and at all levels.

E. 1. By 2025, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, subject to their free, prior and informed consent.

E.2. By 2025, responsibility and transparency mechanisms are fully developed and used to monitor and review the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Avaaz suggests an additional goal. As in previous submissions, Avaaz points out that these rights and obligations are key to achieving all goals and targets included in the Framework Draft. This would also promote synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Avaaz welcomes recognition of the importance of equitable participation by IPLCs and other vulnerable groups in decision-making related to biodiversity, and that it is no longer mentioned among the very last targets. Avaaz also welcomes and recognizes the importance of having IPLC rights reflected in the Kunming Declaration.

Avaaz considers that the specific mention of Indigenous women will revamp this new approach and foster their inclusion in concrete actions for Parties to take, so as not to leave these relevant actors out of the post-2020 GBF.

The participation of all relevant stakeholders - especially IPLCs as First Responders in the field - in the planning and implementation of the GBF is essential to achieve the desired change. And once again, Avaaz points out that safeguarding and ensuring respect for human rights, including IPLCs rights (the rights-based approach mentioned in the draft text) are achieved by extending their participation to designing, planning, negotiating, and agreeing on the GBF as stated in target 16.7 of the 2030 Agenda, which addresses the need for responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making when calling for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

GOAL E

Ensure equitable, full, and effective participation in planning, implementation, review and decision-making related to biodiversity protection, conservation...

Today, Avaaz respectfully reminds Parties that these rights include the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making processes and access to justice in environmental matters, which are essential for sustainable development (again referring to the rights-based approach upon which the framework will be implemented).

[In a listening document from February 2021](#), Avaaz proposed a model of transparency and participation that can be implemented immediately if the Parties agree. Such a model would allow a bottom-up process in which participation can be achieved at the local and national level, potentially enriching the global conversation of the GBF.

Furthermore, Avaaz considers that gender equality within the post-2020 GBF, its goals and targets, should be revamped to include concrete actions for Parties to take. The participation of women, which is critical for the successful conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, must be more than a random phrase or mere mention of their “full and effective participation”.

G. 2030 ACTION TARGETS

The framework has 21 action-oriented targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. The actions set out in each target need to be initiated immediately and completed by 2030. Together, the results will enable achievement of the 2030 milestones and of the outcome-oriented goals for 2050. Actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions. Countries will establish national targets/indicators aligned with this framework and progress towards the national and global targets will be periodically reviewed. A monitoring framework (see [CBD/SBSTTA/24/3](#) and [Add.1](#)) provides further information on indicators of progress towards the targets.

ORIGINAL TEXT CBD/WG2020/3/3	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
1. REDUCING THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY		
<p>Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas.</p>	<p>Target 1. Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning that takes biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into account, developed under rights-based and equitable governance principles, addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas, and recognizing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including indigenous women, over lands, territories, waters and resources.</p>	<p>Avaaz welcomes emphasis of the need for better spatial planning across the entire planet, but believes some precision should be added as to how biodiversity is incorporated, that spatial planning be rooted in rights-based and equitable governance principles, and that plans developed through self-determined IPLC processes should be supported and respected.</p>
<p>Target 2. Ensure that at least 20 percent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.</p>	<p>Target 2. Ensure that at least 20 percent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems, including managed and converted ecosystems, and by prioritising ecosystems providing benefits to the most vulnerable people, including Indigenous women.</p>	<p>Avaaz welcomes the explicit mention of restoration, especially if managed and converted ecosystems are included in such priority ecosystems.</p>

Target 3. Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative, and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 3. Ensure that at least ~~30~~ **50** per cent of land areas and of sea areas **globally**, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed **and governed**, ecologically representative, and well-connected systems of protected areas, **ICCAs** and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes, **subject to the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who own, manage or occupy any of the aforementioned areas.**

While an international negotiation is a political compromise per se, we must avoid compromises that don't bring us to at least 50% of the Earth's lands and waters conserved by 2030 through different schemes. Earth will not compromise, nor should people willing to believe in the relevance of CBD negotiations.

Avaaz also puts forth the inclusion of "Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories" (ICCAs) as an opportunity to align this target with scientific evidence reporting the need to conserve and protect half the planet. Over the past few decades, ICCAs have become known and recognized as essential features for the conservation of nature, sustainable livelihoods, the realization of collective rights and responsibilities, and the wellness of living beings on our planet. They include cases of continuation, revival, or modification of traditional practices, some of which are of ancient origin, and also include new initiatives, such as the restoration of ecosystems and innovative uses of resources employed by IPLCs in the face of threats and opportunities.

ICCAs help conserve critical ecosystems and threatened species, maintain essential ecosystem functions, and provide corridors and linkages for animal and plant circulation, including between protected areas. Among many other local, regional, and global benefits, ICCAs play a crucial role in securing the rights of Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities to their lands and natural resources through local governance - de jure and de facto.

The global coverage of ICCAs has been conservatively estimated at 13% of the terrestrial surface of the planet. Globally, 400-800 million hectares of forest are owned/administered by communities, and land and resources in other ecosystems are also under community control.

NEW TEXT: AVAAZ SUGGEST ADDING A NEW STANDALONE TARGET

By 2025, and no later than 2030, 100 per cent of the lands and waters traditionally managed, owned, governed by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are recognized and secured and Parties have a mechanism in place to solve land tenure disputes in protected areas and/or where traditional and customary practices have been negatively impacted, taking into account culturally appropriate land tenure processes and respecting their free, prior and informed consent.

Almost 800,000 Avaaz members (and the number continues to grow) are calling for the full and effective recognition of IPLC land rights, urging governments “to ensure the community land rights of IPLCs are 100% recognised by 2025 in multilateral agreements as well as in your national legislations and land tenure processes. Recognising the community land rights of IPLCs and respecting their rights is key- not only to ensure their survival, but also as one of the most effective ways to address the massive loss of biodiversity we are facing and the climate disasters associated with it. It is time to correct the harm and injustices committed against the people who regularly put their lives on the line to protect the planet.”

As reflected in a [joint submission at the Thematic Workshop on Area-Based Conservation Measures](#), signed by Avaaz, CBD Alliance, Forests Peoples Programme, Friends of the Earth International, Global Youth Biodiversity Network and ICCA Consortium in December 2019: “*The post-2020 area based targets under CBD must not support land grabs. If government parties claim IPLC land as part of their contribution to the CBD, without the free, prior and informed consent, and self-determined management of those areas, such lands should not be accepted under the convention.*”

ORIGINAL TEXT [CBD/WG2020/3/3](#)

SUGGESTED EDITS

RATIONALE

Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through ex situ conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through **in situ conservation and through ex situ conservation when free, prior, and informed consent has been ensured to access species and genetic resources.**, ~~and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.~~

As previously commented and suggested by Avaaz, *in situ* conservation practices, especially regarding agriculture and traditional agricultural practices, should be considered when biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and utilization is mentioned throughout this document. Excluding *in situ* conservation seriously limits IPLCs role in biodiversity conservation, including in the conservation of natural and genetic resources important for food and agriculture. The GBF must reflect the imperative strategic role played by IPLCs in *in situ* protection, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity which have real implications for our global food, health, and ecological security. This collaboration should be guaranteed and integrated across the entire Post-2020 Framework.

Furthermore, “*ex situ*” conservation practices, when referring to genetic resources, should ensure that access is linked to binding benefit sharing.

Regarding this second part of Target 4 (“... and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict”), Avaaz suggests moving it to Target 5. See next suggestion.

Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health.

Target 5. Ensure that the harvesting, trade and use of wild species is sustainable, legal, and safe for human health, **and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict, while respecting rights to customary sustainable use.**

To achieve as proposed a rights-oriented outcome, and for clarity purposes, Avaaz suggests the edited text for Target 5.

Although it is worth noting that this last idea is also present in Target 9: “Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.”

ORIGINAL TEXT [CBD/WG2020/3/3](#)

SUGGESTED EDITS

RATIONALE

Target 7. Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste.

Target 7. Reduce pollution from all sources to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and human health, including by reducing nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, and pesticides by at least two thirds and eliminating the discharge of plastic waste, **and prioritizing pollutants that have an impact on vulnerable groups, such as women, including Indigenous women, children, youth and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.**

Avaaz welcomes the wording in Target 7, but considers that a prioritization of actions to reduce pollution that is impacting the most vulnerable groups is needed.

Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO₂e per year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.

Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO₂e per year to global mitigation efforts **through protection, sustainable use and restoration practices, particularly of key areas relevant to biodiversity and climate change mitigation, considering cultural diversity and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**, and ensuring that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, **especially in areas of particular importance for the provision of ecosystem services, including carbon storage, water provisioning, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.**

Avaaz proposes new text to focus efforts to combat climate change while protecting biodiversity under ecosystem-based and culturally appropriate approaches, and promoting synergies with other MEAs, in particular the UNFCCC and UNCCD.

Avaaz recalls [paragraph 66 of the most recent decision 1/CP.26 at the UNFCCC COP 26](#), which says: "66. *Emphasizes the important role of indigenous peoples' and local communities' culture and knowledge in effective action on climate change, and urges Parties to actively involve Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in designing and implementing climate action and to engage with the second three-year workplan for implementing the functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, for 2022-2024;*"

2. MEETING PEOPLE'S NEEDS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE USE AND BENEFIT-SHARING

ORIGINAL TEXT CBD/WG2020/3/3	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p>Target 9. Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.</p>	<p>Target 9. Ensure equitable benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and their rights over lands, waters, territories and resources, with special attention to Indigenous women.</p>	<p>Avaaz suggests making it more explicit that protecting customary sustainable land use by IPLCs requires protecting their rights in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and respecting their right to self-determination.</p> <p>Avaaz emphasizes that Indigenous Peoples are key stakeholders in SDGs, and in order to ensure a successful framework, Parties should ensure this target is aligned with the vision of "leaving no-one behind", therefore making explicit that IPLCs land rights are taken into account.</p>
<p>Target 10. Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.</p>	<p>Target 10. Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, protecting and promoting traditional practices, and with the free, prior and informed consent if the aforementioned activities take place in areas managed, governed or owned by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, towards increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.</p>	<p>The new text Avaaz is suggesting, is in line with FAO's recognition of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems" (GIAHS).</p>
<p>Target 13. Implement measures at global level and in all countries to facilitate access to genetic resources and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, and as relevant, of associated traditional knowledge, including through mutually agreed terms and prior and informed consent.</p>	<p>Target 13. Implement measures at global level and in all countries to ensure that facilitate access to genetic resources is attained through mutually agreed terms and and to ensure also ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use utilization of genetic resources, and as relevant, of associated traditional knowledge, including through mutually agreed terms and free, prior, and informed consent.</p>	<p>In line with the spirit of the Nagoya Protocol, and with the intention of respecting and safeguarding IPLC interests and rights over their natural resources, Avaaz proposes this new text. It is in line with the access and benefit sharing specifications previously agreed to by CBD Parties, where the reference to "facilitation" is addressed in the context of Parties facilitating the involvement of IPLCs and other relevant stakeholders in capacity building, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector.</p> <p>The proposed rewording also stresses the importance of prior and informed consent.</p>

3. TOOLS AND SOLUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINSTREAMING

ORIGINAL TEXT CBD/WG2020/3/3	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p>Target 14. Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values.</p>	<p>Target 14. Fully integrate biodiversity values and goals into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction and gender equality strategies, accounts, and assessments of cultural, environmental, social and human rights impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values and goals and commitments, and the principle of free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.</p>	<p>This goal should be SMART, and should also include a specific mention to FPIC to ensure that biodiversity mainstreaming takes into account the rights and values of IPLCs.</p> <p>This goal should also be reflected in the goal of a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach of the GBF.</p>
<p>Target 16. Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make responsible choices and have access to relevant information and alternatives, taking into account cultural preferences, to reduce by at least half the waste and, where relevant the overconsumption, of food and other materials.</p>	<p>Target 16. Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make responsible choices, taking into account cultural preferences, and have access to relevant information and alternatives to reduce by at least by half the loss and waste of food and, where relevant, the overconsumption, overproduction and overconsumption of food and other materials.</p>	<p>Avaaz proposes a different arrangement of the ideas presented in Target 16, as well as edits to refer to terms as used in the SDGs and other global initiatives. See also Avaaz’s review on linkages between the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>
<p>Target 20. Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision-making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.</p>	<p>Target 20. Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, particularly of indigenous women, with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision-making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.</p>	<p>The role of Indigenous women as vital actors in all schemes regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use has been commented on before.</p>

ORIGINAL TEXT CBD/WG2020/3/3**SUGGESTED EDITS****RATIONALE**

Target 21. Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories, and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.

Target 21. Ensure equitable, **full**, and effective **and gender-sensitive** participation ~~by all~~ in decision-making related to biodiversity **and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and especially** by:

(a) Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, **with special attention to Indigenous women, and** respecting their rights over lands, territories, and resources, as well **as the principle of free, prior and informed consent;**

(b) ~~as well as by~~ women and girls, **in particular regarding access to justice and information; and**

(c) youth **and children, ensuring their empowerment and promoting intergenerational equity.**

Avaaz warmly welcomes the spirit of Target 21, and believes it should be more inclusive, and also more specific, about the concerns of the social groups it mentions. It is also important to emphasize the principle of free, prior and informed consent as laid-out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

NEW TEXT: AVAAZ SUGGEST ADDING A NEW STANDALONE TARGET**Target 22.**

Ensure women's and girls's equitable access and benefits from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their informed and effective participation at all level of policy and decision making related to biodiversity.

Avaaz is supporting the language suggestion presented by the Women Caucus. **UN Women and UNEP-WCMC** identified available (already developed) SDG indicators that could be used to monitor progress towards this target. The indicators identified focus on secure tenure rights of land as secure tenure rights are linked to access to resources and related benefits. Lastly, SDG indicator 5.5.1 (b) is a high level indicator with a focus on women representation in local government.

K. OUTREACH, AWARENESS AND UPTAKE

ORIGINAL TEXT CBD/WG2020/3/3	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p>21. Outreach, awareness and uptake of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by all stakeholders is essential to effective implementation, including by:</p> <p>Increasing understanding, awareness and appreciation of the values of biodiversity, including the associated knowledge, values and approaches used by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;</p> <p>Raising awareness of all actors of the existence of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and progress made towards their achievement;</p> <p>Promoting or developing platforms and partnerships, including with media and civil society, to share information on successes, lessons learned and experiences in acting for biodiversity.</p>	<p>21. Outreach, awareness and uptake of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by all stakeholders is essential to effective implementation, including by:</p> <p>Increasing understanding, awareness and appreciation of the values of biodiversity, including the associated knowledge, values and approaches used by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;</p> <p>Raising awareness of all actors of the existence of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and progress made towards their achievement;</p> <p>Promoting or developing platforms and partnerships, including with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, media and civil society, to share information on successes, lessons learned and experiences in acting for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Given their prominent role in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, active outreach towards IPLCs should be undertaken.</p>

ON THE OBLIGATIONS OF STATES TO RESPECT IPLCS RIGHTS

As biodiversity regeneration has survived better in areas inhabited by IPLCs than in other areas, states can fulfill their CBD obligations on in-situ conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity only so far as they respect rights recognised for these communities to such their life and their local biodiversity regeneration adapted ways of knowing, using and treating plants, animals etc., which sustained biodiversity regeneration which fulfills human rights so that:

01. Each state shall ensure it will under its laws “respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application” with such communities’ approval and involvement (CBD article 8(j)).

02. To duly respect and maintain such knowledge and practices of these communities, states must respect the rights recognised to these communities correspondingly to their local biodiversity regeneration adapted ways of knowing, using and treating plants, animals and other life, their rights in respect to “indigenous and community conserved areas and territories, community-based management, customary sustainable use and community governance of biodiversity [...] taking into account international instruments and law related to human rights”, like CBD states parties have already committed to do. (UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XII/5, Biodiversity for poverty eradication and sustainable development, paragraph 11).

03. Each state shall “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements” - as indicated by their traditional occupations and their customary land use and tenure - and “support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced”. (CBD articles 10 c-d).

04. “Recognizing the close and traditional dependence of many indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles on biological resources” (preamble) insofar as these are “lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use”, states have to “respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices” of such communities (8 j) and “protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements” (CBD article 10 c).

05. Also ecosystem approach requires in “management of land, water and living resources”, that “rights (...) should be recognized” for “communities living on the land” compliant to how “the closer management is to the ecosystem, the greater the responsibility, ownership, accountability, participation, and use of local knowledge”. (CBD Ecosystem Principles 1-2) And sustainable use needs “promoting alternative non-consumptive uses of these resources” in terms of “non-monetary values”. (CBD Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable use of Biodiversity, principle 12 & operational guidelines).

06. As such communities thus “depend directly on biodiversity and its customary sustainable use and management for their livelihoods, resilience and cultures and are therefore well placed [...] to efficiently and economically manage ecosystems” States are obliged to respect and protect such cultures of economy by which communities can “efficiently and economically manage ecosystems”. (CBD Customary Sustainable Use Plan of Action UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XII/12, B, Annex, paragraph 6 b).

07. States are obliged to “adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use” (CBD article 11) and to learn thus from the abilities to “efficiently and economically manage ecosystems” from those biodiversity-dependent communities and to “promote their wider application” with such communities’ approval and involvement (CBD article 8(j)) on how

such economical use and treatment of ecosystems needs to be managed building international "cooperation for the development and use of (...) indigenous and traditional technologies". (article 18.4)

08. States have to retain their "sovereign right" (CBD article 3) to use and access their natural wealth , prioritizing their obligations under the UN Charter based international law "based on the principle of the sovereign equality" of states whose common legal sovereign status and action are further "based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples" (UN Charter articles 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 55-56 and 103) under which "all peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources" with permanent sovereignty over them and so that "in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence" (article 1.2 of the main UN human rights treaties, ICCPR and ICESCR).

09. As peoples' right to live self-determined life in terms of their development and subsistence and to use for these the natural wealth by the regeneration of which they live , requires that the diversity of such natural wealth by which they live has to be sustained, this basis of international law requires biodiversity to be saved also as basis of the realization of our inalienable human rights. Thus rights to activities which destroy world's biodiversity cannot comply with the totality of international law: All rights and obligations have to be respected by CBD implementation as it "shall not affect the rights and obligations (...) deriving from any existing international agreement, except where the exercise of those rights and obligations would cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity". (CBD article 22).

10. As the CBD has to respect the totality of rights recognised under international law, it cannot respect rights which would violate the totality of rights by allowing rights to activities which "would cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity" (CBD article 22). As accelerating global biodiversity loss is in many ways driven or boosted by cer-

tain commercial types of rights over the use of biodiverse lands, forests and waters , such commercial rights in many ways "cause a serious damage or threat to biological diversity" and the states parties of the CBD are thus under article 22 of the Convention -and articles 3,4, 8 (c) & (l) and 18.4- obliged to correct those rights or their implementation in ways which prevent such damage and threat.

PREVIOUS AVAAZ CBD POSITION DOCUMENTS AND SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO IPLC RIGHTS

Our comments on the Zero Draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD (February 2020) [on IPLCs see page 4-5 and then pages 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 31 and 32]

Our review comments on the SBSTTA-24 document: Updated plan of action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity (March 2020) [on IPLCs see pages 4, 5 and 6]

Our comments on the draft monitoring framework (August 2020) [on IPLCs see pages 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 14, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 47-48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 59, 61, 72, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85 and 86]

Our review on linkages between the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (August 2020) [on IPLCs see pages 3, 5, 9 and 11]

Our statement at SBSTTA-24 regarding the Zero Draft of the GBF (February 2021).

Our statement at SBI-3 on transparency and participation (March 2021).

Proposal to revamp resource mobilization and financial mechanism response to implement a strong and inclusive global biodiversity framework (May 2021) [on IPLCs see pages 3, 6, 7, 13 and 14]

Our statement at OEWG-3 and our comments and suggestions on the First Draft of the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD (September 2021) [On IPLCs see pages 7, 8, 13, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, 25, 29, 30 and 32]

Avaaz has also been very active in the wider space of civil society, and has shared positions with other organizations over Indigenous rights and land rights. Below are some examples:

Joint statement on the 23rd Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in which Avaaz is a co-signatory.

Joint statement on ABCMs workshop, in which Avaaz is a co-signatory.

Joint statement over the High-Level Summit on Biodiversity, in which Avaaz is co-signatory.

Joint position statement over the Global Biodiversity Framework, in which Avaaz is a co-signatory.



ABOUT US

Avaaz – meaning "voice" in several European, Middle Eastern and Asian languages– launched in 2007 with a simple democratic mission: organize citizens of all nations to close the gap between the world we have and the world most people everywhere want. Currently, Avaaz has a membership of almost 70 million people from all countries and territories.

Avaaz empowers millions of people from all walks of life to take action on pressing global, regional and national issues, from corruption and poverty to conflict and the environment. Our model of internet organising allows thousands of individual efforts, however small, to be rapidly combined into a collective force.

Each year, Avaaz sets overall priorities through all-member polls. For the 2021-2022 period, our membership have chosen the following top five priorities: climate change (54.94%), defending human rights (33.43%), protecting biodiversity and ending the extinction crisis (31.14%), fighting polarisation, extremism and defending democracy (27.82%), and tackling poverty (25.56%).

In other words, the Avaaz staff doesn't set an agenda in advance to try and convince members to go along with. It's quite the opposite: Avaaz staff create actions that are in line with priorities chosen by members. Because Avaaz is wholly member-funded, democratic accountability is in our DNA: we don't accept funds from governments, corporations, political parties, or foundations, and have policies in place to limit disproportionate influence of high net worth individuals: we thus only receive small individual donations, and the highest amount we can accept is US\$ 5,000.

Our community runs campaigns in 17 languages, served by a core team on 6 continents and thousands of volunteers. We take action –delivering petitions, researching, emailing, lobbying governments, organizing "offline" protests and events, and funding grassroots campaigns, litigation, or direct actions on the ground– to ensure that the views and values of the world's people inform the decisions that affect us all.

Avaaz is mobilized on all three Rio conventions through engaging with civil society at the national and global level, and with officials from Parties and international organizations to connect each sector of society in the common goal towards a sustainable future.

At the Convention of Biological Diversity, among many other contributions, Avaaz has provided suggestions and comments for the following documents:

- [Zero Draft of the global biodiversity framework](#)
- [SBSTTA-24 documents on the updated plan of action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity](#)
- [SBSTTA-24 Draft monitoring framework](#)
- [SBSTTA-24 Review on linkages between the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [SBI-3 contribution on transparency and participation](#)
- [SBI-3 contribution with a proposal to revamp resource mobilization and financial mechanism response to implement a strong and inclusive global biodiversity framework](#)

- [OEWG-3 comments and suggestions on the First Draft of the global biodiversity framework](#)
- [COP 15 \(Part 1\) and comments on the First Draft of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework \(Avaaz's Listening Document\)](#)

Avaaz has also been active in the civil society space of the CBD, and has shared positions with other progressive movements. Some examples:

- [Joint statement on the 23rd Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in which Avaaz is a co-signatory.](#)
- [Joint statement on ABCMs workshop, in which Avaaz is a co-signatory.](#)
- [Joint statement over the High-Level Summit on Biodiversity, in which Avaaz is co-signatory.](#)
- [Joint position statement over the Global Biodiversity Framework, in which Avaaz is a co-signatory.](#)
- [Joint statement on the outcomes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, in reference to the CBD COP15, in which Avaaz is co-signatory.](#)
- [Open letter from civil society to world leaders ahead of the COP-15 \(part 1\): Put human rights at the centre of environmental policy, in which Avaaz is co-signatory](#)

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