



TARGET 3 BEYOND 30X30: FROM RECOGNITION TO EFFECTIVENESS

08 recommendations and key messages from the “**Facilitating Group for Intercultural Dialogue on Target 3**”, made up of various civil society organizations in Colombia, to achieve Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) through the effective implementation of the recognition of Indigenous and traditional territories, with a rights-based approach

Facilitating Group for Intercultural Dialogue on Target 3

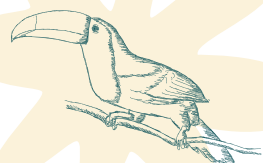


1. TERRITORIES ARE NOT JUST AREAS: THEY ARE SYSTEMS OF BIOCULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS.

The 30x30 Target goes beyond the sum of areas. For peoples and communities, territory is a web of material, spiritual, cultural and political relationships among people, nature and territory, which is managed holistically through governance and their own knowledge systems. Therefore, it is recommended that achievement of the 30x30 target be measured not only by area, but also by coverage, representativeness, connectivity, effectiveness and equitable governance, with a rights-based and biocultural approach.

Connectivity is strengthened through Indigenous and traditional territories with rights guarantees and coordination mechanisms that are also linked to protected areas and OECMs. Representativeness is not only ecological; connectivity is also cultural and related to governance structures. Effectiveness is also assessed through the Indigenous and traditional territories own management and knowledge systems. And equitable governance is only possible if the rights of Indigenous Peoples and communities over their lands, territories and resources are guaranteed.

**80% OF TOTAL
BIODIVERSITY**



**NEARLY 36% OF THE
WORLD'S ECOLOGICALLY
INTACT LANDSCAPES**



INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES ALREADY HAVE CONSERVATION OUTCOMES THAT MUST BE RECOGNIZED.

2.

Indigenous Peoples protect at least one quarter of the planet's land surface, and their territories are home to approximately 80% of total biodiversity (FAO, International Land Coalition and CIRAD, 2026). These lands overlap with nearly 36% of the world's ecologically intact landscapes¹. Where territorial rights are recognized, deforestation is lower. Local communities also contribute to biodiversity and forest conservation through their territorial management practices, knowledge and forms of community organization. Underpinning these outcomes are their own systems of governance, knowledge and care.

1. Fa, J. E., Watson, J. E. M., Leiper, I., Potapov, P., Evans, T. D., Burgess, N. D., Molnár, Z., Fernández-Llamazares, Á., Duncan, T., Wang, S., Austin, B. J., Jonas, H., Robinson, C. J., Malmer, P., Zander, K. K., Jackson, M. V., Ellis, E., Brondizio, E. S., & Garnett, S. T. (2020). Importance of Indigenous Peoples' lands for the conservation of Intact Forest Landscapes. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 18(3), 135–140. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fee.2148>



3. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PROGRESS BE MADE TOWARD THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AS A SPECIFIC PATHWAY FOR CONSERVATION UNDER TARGET 3.

Recognize and account for the contributions of Indigenous and traditional territories to conservation through a legal and policy framework that guarantees their protection, and indicators that measure not only area but also governance, management, connectivity, conservation outcomes and legal certainty of tenure, together with recognition, reporting and financing mechanisms, always within a framework that respects self-determination, their own governance and systems, through coordination mechanisms that guarantee the rights to prior consultation and free, prior and informed consent, where applicable.

4. STRENGTHEN THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON ARTICLE 8(J)

Guarantee and strengthen the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Communities and local communities, in accordance with Decisions 16/4 and 16/6, and enable the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) (SB8J) to make recommendations directly to SBSTTA and SBI, in accordance with its mandate. At COP17, the guidelines under tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the Programme of Work, relating to strengthening legal frameworks for Targets 2 and 3, security of tenure, territorial governance, and the incorporation of traditional territories into spatial planning and environmental impact assessments, should be adopted with a rights-based approach and explicit recognition of Indigenous and traditional territories. The SB8J must have the mandate and mechanisms to support Parties in the national implementation of the guidelines, respecting free, prior and informed consent and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

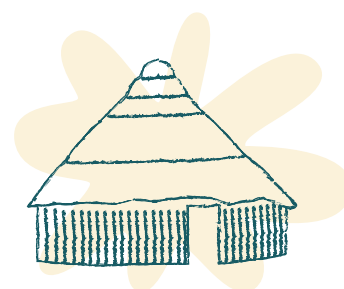


5. DIRECT FINANCING FOR TERRITORIES

Between 2011 and 2020, support for Indigenous and community tenure and forest management accounted for less than 1% of international climate aid, and only 17% went to projects that named Indigenous or community organizations (RFN, 2021). According to the Forest Tenure Funders Group, this funding increased from 2.9% reported in 2021 to 7.2% in 2025. Although some cooperation organizations have been providing direct funding and ensuring broader access to resources for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, direct access to resources needs to continue increasing. Therefore, it is recommended that more organizations expand direct, flexible, predictable and long-term financing for Indigenous Peoples as rights-holders and territorial authorities, as well as for local communities. Progress must continue toward guaranteeing direct access to financing by creating mechanisms for this purpose and proposing direct-access windows in existing mechanisms such as the Cali Fund and the GBFF, while supporting capacity-building for the proper management and reporting of resources. Indigenous and territorial funds should also be strengthened, as a complement to, and not a substitute for, direct access.



**SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS AND
COMMUNITY TENURE AND
FOREST MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNTED FOR LESS THAN 1%**



**ONLY 17% WENT TO PROJECTS
THAT NAMED INDIGENOUS OR
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**

6. INTEGRATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE AGENDAS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE TERRITORY.

From the perspective of the territory, the same territorial unit contributes simultaneously to conservation objectives and the fight against climate change. Therefore, climate action and biodiversity conservation can no longer continue to be agreed upon as separate agendas when their causes, territories and solutions overlap.

It is recommended that indicators, reporting systems, territorial planning and financing mechanisms be aligned, preventing conservation and climate action efforts from coming into conflict. Territories and their communities should serve as the bridge between the agendas.

The same territorial unit should be able to contribute simultaneously to the goals and purposes of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement, without this implying double counting.



7. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN ISOLATION AND INITIAL CONTACT (PIACI) ARE SILENT GUARDIANS OF LIVING TERRITORIES.

Indigenous Peoples in Isolation (PIA) have decided not to have contact, and that decision is the fullest expression of their right to self-determination. They are silent guardians, and their territories are among the most intact and connected on the planet. Indigenous Peoples in Initial Contact (PICI) require differentiated protection measures that respect their self-determination and particular vulnerability.

Protecting these territories means protecting a way of life of their own, with languages, knowledge and relationships with nature that exist nowhere else. If this system is lost, no measure will be able to restore it, and the consequences for the ecosystems they protect today will be devastating.

To this end, it is necessary to guarantee the inviolability of their territories through their recognition and effective protection, respect for the principle of no contact, and the prevention of activities that threaten their integrity.

8. NAMING IN ORDER TO EXIST. INCLUSION CANNOT MEAN INVISIBILITY.



**NOMBRAR EXPLÍCITAMENTE A
ESTOS GRUPOS EN TODO TEXTO
SOBRE DERECHOS,
PARTICIPACIÓN, CONOCIMIENTO
Y FINANCIAMIENTO**

The Kunming-Montreal Framework recognizes Indigenous Peoples, communities, women and youth in a differentiated manner. However, in the negotiations leading up to COP17, the category “actors other than national governments” (AOTNG, for its acronym in English), used in Decisions 15/6 and 16/32 for communicating voluntary commitments. Using it generically erases the distinction between rights-holders and duty-bearers, and sets a precedent that dilutes the recognition of those who sustain biodiversity and life on the planet.

It is recommended that COP17 retain the term in its original form, explicitly name these groups in all text concerning rights, participation, knowledge and financing, and recognize, in the case of Indigenous Peoples, their rights, their own governing institutions and authority. What is not named is not protected, financed or counted.

For this reason, the CBD is invited to maintain the progress achieved in making Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Communities (Decision 16/6), women, young people and local communities visible and recognized; in Colombia's case, local communities include peasants, recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP, 2018).

Achieving Target 3 requires recognizing and linking the different conservation strategies, respecting their specific characteristics and guaranteeing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The challenge is to move toward effective, coordinated and rights-based conservation.

TARGET 3 BEYOND 30X30: FROM RECOGNITION TO EFFECTIVENESS

Facilitating Group for Intercultural Dialogue on Target 3

