



## Quick guide to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Traditional knowledge respected

**By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.**

There is a close and traditional dependence of many indigenous and local communities on biological resources. Traditional knowledge can contribute to both the conservation and the sustainable use of biological diversity. This target aims to ensure that traditional knowledge is respected and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, with the effective participation of indigenous and local communities.

### Explanation of the Target

This target addresses several related issues:

- **Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices** of indigenous and local communities describes the body of knowledge built by indigenous and local communities over generations. Developed from experience gained over the millennia and adapted to the local culture and environment, traditional knowledge tends to be collectively owned, transmitted orally from generation to generation and has a diversity of forms ranging from stories and folklore to agricultural and animal husbandry practices. This target specifically relates to knowledge relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- **Customary use of biological resources** refers to indigenous and local systems for the control, use and management of natural resources. Customary use of biological resources includes spiritual, cultural, economic and subsistence functions.
- Given different national circumstances and the diversity of indigenous and local communities and that traditional knowledge is addressed at multiple levels and by a number of international initiatives, actions taken to implement this target should be developed **subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations**.

Specifically this target requires that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices:

- Are **respected** - Respect with regard to traditional knowledge can be understood as the requirement to accord traditional knowledge a status and level of protection comparable to that of other types of knowledge, innovations and practices.
- Are **fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention** – As a cross cutting issue, traditional knowledge touches on many aspects of biological diversity and it can make a significant contribution to the fulfillment of the Strategic Plan and to the attainment of the Convention's three objectives.
- With the **full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities** - A fundamental principle of the programme of work for Article 8(j) has been the participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention. For indigenous and local communities to participate effectively requires mutual respect and understanding as well as resources and technical and legal support.

### Implications for setting national targets

In line with Article 8(j) of the Convention, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be respected, protected, maintained and promoted, and used in local ecosystem management, drawing upon experiences of customary use, and with the prior informed consent of relevant communities. Likewise, in line with Article 10(c), customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation and sustainable use, should be protected and encouraged. The rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and related biological resources, along with their rights to practice and pass on such knowledge, innovations and practices should be respected and accessed only with prior informed consent. Indigenous knowledge, innovations and practices is most often highly specific to the locality in which each



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community lives and thus Parties will need to develop approaches which take into account the diversity of indigenous and local communities as well as their specific national circumstances. This would also contribute to the development of sui generis systems for the protection of such knowledge.

### Guiding questions for setting national targets

**Who are the indigenous, local or traditional communities in the country?** How are their traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and customary use of biological resources being respected? What processes or mechanisms are in place to promote this respect? How effective have they been? How could their effectiveness be improved? What other national legislation and international obligations need to be considered?

**How has traditional knowledge been integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention?** What mechanisms are in place to promote this? How effective have they been? How could their effectiveness be improved? Has a national focal point for article 8(j) and related provisions been appointed? Has a national action plan to protect, preserve and promote the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities and encourage sustainable use of biodiversity been developed? Do community action plans exist?

**Has there been full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, with regards to the integration of their knowledge in the implementation of the Convention?** If not, what have been the obstacles to this occurring? If so, how effective has it been? How could its effectiveness be enhanced? Have action plans for the protection, preservation and promotion of indigenous and local community knowledge, innovations and practices been developed? Are systems in place for granting prior informed consent from indigenous and local communities regarding their knowledge, innovations and practices? Are measures in place at the national level which recognise the rights to customary sustainable use of biodiversity?

**Who are the stakeholders that may be affected by efforts to respect traditional knowledge and integrate it into the implementation of the Convention?** How can they be involved and their needs addressed? What are the trade-offs to consider? How are stakeholders informed of their rights and obligations related to such knowledge? Are there processes in place at local and/or national level for prior informed consent or for the development and adoption of mutually agreed terms?

**What additional resources (financial, human and technical) will be required to reach the national target that is set?** How can additional funds be raised? What are possible funding sources?

Note that, given the particular national circumstances, national targets may be more specific and more precise than the global target. Further national targets should be ambitious but realistic and be supportive of the Strategic Plan by moving beyond business as usual.

### Actions and milestones

Given the cross cutting nature of this target, actions taken to fulfill it will contribute to several of the other Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the Nagoya Protocol. The guidance developed as part of the Convention's cross-cutting issue on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (Articles 8(j) and 10(c) and related provisions) provides advice on how this target may be implemented. Capacity building and programmes for the recognition and mainstreaming of Articles 8(j) and 10(c) and related provisions will also likely need to be strengthened and implemented.

### Possible indicators

- Trends in degree to which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through: full integration, participation and safeguards in national implementation of the Strategic Plan
- Trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages
- Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities
- Trends in the practice of traditional occupations

### Resources

- Akwé:Kon Voluntary Guidelines - [www.cbd.int/doc/publications/akwe-brochure-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/akwe-brochure-en.pdf)
- The Tkarihwaí:ri Code of Ethical Conduct - [www.cbd.int/traditional/code.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/traditional/code.shtml)
- The Revised Programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provision of the CBD - [www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12309](http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12309)
- Plan of Action for the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices - [www.cbd.int/traditional/plan.shtml](http://www.cbd.int/traditional/plan.shtml)
- Article 8(j) and related provisions - [www.cbd.int/traditional](http://www.cbd.int/traditional)
- Traditional Knowledge Information Portal - [www.cbd.int/tk](http://www.cbd.int/tk)

