



TEXT RECOMMENDATIONS:

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND OTHER PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY RELATED TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

October 2025

Key Message

The modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) must ensure gender-responsive, human-rights, and intergenerational implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, consistent with the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), UNDRIP, and CEDAW.

Participation must be meaningful, inclusive, and culturally appropriate across all decision-making, ensuring that Indigenous women and youth can engage safely, free from discrimination, harassment, or violence.

Conservation, restoration, and spatial planning processes should respect customary values and knowledge systems, acknowledging the central roles of women, elders, and youth in maintaining intergenerational knowledge.

Governance bodies should ensure gender-balanced representation, leadership of Indigenous women, and shared authority and benefits, embedding equity and accountability in restoration and spatial planning.

National frameworks should formally recognize customary tenure systems and protect Indigenous women's rights to land, waters, and resources, ensuring equal protection under statutory and customary law.

Environmental and social impact assessments should systematically assess gender-differentiated impacts and benefits, include women's

participation at all stages, and uphold Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a prerequisite for all actions.

Establish and strengthen financial mechanisms that provide direct funding to Indigenous and local community organizations, particularly women- and youth-led initiatives, ensuring flexible, transparent, and equitable access to biodiversity finance.

Monitoring systems should include community-based, gender-disaggregated, and biocultural indicators, such as headline indicator 22.1 to measure progress on participation, land tenure, and equitable benefit-sharing.

SB8J-1 AGENDA ITEM 3: In-depth dialogue: “Strategies for mobilizing resources to ensure the availability of and access to financial resources and funding, as well as other means of implementation, including capacity-building, development and technical support for indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth, to support the full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”

Documents: [CBD/SB8J/1/2](#)

Recommendation for CBD/SB8J/1/2: In-depth dialogue: “Strategies for mobilising resources to ensure the availability of and access to financial resources and funding, as well as other means of implementation, including capacity-building, development and technical support for indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth, to support the full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”

V. Recommendation

1. The Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting that, at its first meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ (...)²,

Noting also that element 8 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030³ (...),

Noting further that the implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities should follow a human rights-based and **gender-responsive approach**,

1. United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

2. Decision 15/4, annex.

3. Decision 16/4, annex.

SB8J-1 AGENDA ITEM 4: Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Documents: [CBD/SB8J/1/1/Add.1](#)

Recommendation for CBD/SB8J/1/1/Add.1: Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8 (j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

III. Recommendations

Annex^{4*}

Proposed modus operandi of the [permanent Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

I. Functions

1. The [Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity will perform its functions under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity for items referred to it by them[, in a manner consistent with the mandates of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation][, in collaboration with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation]. [The [Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions shall carry out its functions taking into account the roles and functions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with a view to ensuring complementarity with their work and avoiding overlaps.] The functions of the [Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions are:

(b) To provide advice to the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols and other subsidiary bodies, on measures that enhance the implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities. This includes providing advice on the development and implementation of legal and other appropriate forms of measures to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, **particularly women**, embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

II. Operating principles

2. In carrying out its functions, the [Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention shall align the elements of its programme of work with the relevant parts of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular its 2030 targets, **in line with**

4.* The present annex is reproduced exactly as contained in recommendation 12/2 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention. "Free, prior and informed consent" refers to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" and "approval and involvement", as applicable.

the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), ensuring gender-responsive implementation across all stages of decision-making, reporting, and accountability, and prioritize the tasks that need early action.

IV. Bureau and co-chairs

8. The [Subsidiary Body] will have two co-chairs [elected by the Conference of the Parties], one nominated by Parties of the regional group that exercises its turn, in a rotation among United Nations regional groups⁵, and the other nominated by representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities. At least one of the co-chairs will be selected from a developing country, taking into account gender balance **and expertise**. [The co-chairs shall take office from the end of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which they have been elected and remain in office until their successors take office at the end of the following ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.] [The number and length of the meetings and activities of the Subsidiary Body and its organs should be reflected in the budget adopted by the Conference of the Parties or other sources of extrabudgetary funding.]

V. Budgetary matters

11. The [Subsidiary Body] should meet in each intersessional period, back-to-back with meetings of the other subsidiary bodies of the Convention, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties [, with due consideration to the importance of ensuring the full and effective participation of the developing country Parties [and indigenous peoples and local communities]], **as well as women, girls and youth from these communities**.



5. Following the practice of rotation in the chairing of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and with a view to avoiding that, at any one time, a regional group provides the chairs of more than one subsidiary body, the order of the regions from which the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention is elected shall be as follows: African States, Western European and other States, Asia-Pacific States, Latin America and Caribbean States and Eastern European States.

SB8J-1 AGENDA ITEM 5 (a) and (b): Implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030

(a) Guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities (Task 1.1) and

(b) Guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2)

Documents: CBD/SB8J/1/4

Recommendation for CBD/SB8J/1/4: Proposed elements for the guidelines related to Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030

II. Recommendation

Annex

Guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the recognition of the role of indigenous and traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities in spatial planning, restoration and conservation⁶

III. Guiding principles

A. Spiritual and cultural relationships

8. Conservation and restoration measures, as well as spatial planning and effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change and environmental impact assessments, should be designed in a manner that recognizes and respects the spiritual and cultural relationships that indigenous peoples, and local communities, **especially women**, have with biodiversity in their lands, territories and waters.

F. Gender equality and intergenerational equity

13. The critical roles of women and girls, children and youth, knowledge holders and elders from indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation and restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments should be recognised. Gender-responsive approaches should **guarantee equitable access to tenure, resources, and decision-making; ensure women's leadership in governance bodies and co-management arrangements; and provide targeted support, capacity-building and funding for women-led initiatives. They should also** address barriers to the participation and benefit-sharing of indigenous women and girls, and children and youth and should safeguard the transmission of gender-specific knowledge.

6. The present annex contains draft guidelines prepared by participants in the expert workshop on Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions, held from 22 to 24 July 2025. The content of the annex reflects the outputs of the expert workshop and was informed by the views and information submitted in response to notification No. 2025-061. "Free, prior and informed consent" refers to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" and "approval and involvement", as applicable.

V. Contributions to the effective restoration of degraded ecosystems

23. Restoration efforts should be co-designed and co-developed with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant government authorities and reflected in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national restoration plans and national reporting, ensuring that the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities are visible, supported and tracked through the use of appropriate indicators.

Assessments should include gender-differentiated analysis of impacts, ensure the collection of gender-disaggregated data, and explicitly integrate the knowledge and priorities of Indigenous women in restoration planning and monitoring.

VI. Recognition of and respect for indigenous and traditional territories in the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework

24. Legal, administrative and policy measures for the national identification, recognition of and respect for indigenous and traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities should be adopted and implemented. Those measures should recognize, as appropriate, the customary tenure systems, governance institutions, sacred sites, conservation roles, traditional economies and rights over lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples and local communities. **They should explicitly guarantee the land, water, and resource rights of Indigenous women and girls, ensuring their equal protection under customary and statutory systems, consistent with CEDAW and UNDRIP.**

VII. Environmental impact assessments

29. The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines include cultural and social dimensions in environmental impact assessments, including evaluating impacts on spiritual values, cultural practices, customary governance systems, traditional livelihoods and intergenerational knowledge transmission.

29 bis Environmental and social impact assessments should systematically include gender-differentiated analysis of potential harms and benefits, with specific consideration of women's customary roles (e.g., water collection, seed stewardship, medicinal plants, fuelwood). EIAs should also ensure women's participation in all stages of assessment and decision-making, in line with the CBD Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030).

VIII. Institutional and administrative mechanisms

C. Administrative arrangements

38. Co-management bodies should be established or strengthened under national legislation, as appropriate, to guide the planning, implementation and monitoring of conservation and restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments. Co-management bodies should ensure an equitable representation of government and indigenous peoples and local communities and gender-balanced representation, including Indigenous women within these communities.

7. The territories, lands and waters of indigenous peoples and local communities should not be considered as inherently in need of restoration. "Free, prior and informed consent" refers to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" and "approval and involvement", as applicable.

IX. Full and effective participation

44. Indigenous peoples and local communities should be accorded the right to full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation in all decision-making processes that may affect their rights, lands, territories, waters and resources.

45. The participation of indigenous peoples and local communities should be ensured throughout all phases of development, planning, implementation and monitoring of conservation and restoration measures, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments. **This includes guaranteeing safe spaces for Indigenous women and youth to engage without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence.**

X. Enabling conditions

C. Sustainable, inclusive and accessible financial mechanisms

49. Sustainable and accessible financial mechanisms should be established to provide financial support for the design, implementation and monitoring of conservation, restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments led by or involving indigenous peoples and local communities.

50. Direct funding programmes should be developed or established to support restoration and conservation efforts, spatial planning projects and environmental impact assessments led by indigenous peoples and local communities **and indigenous and local community women-led initiatives** within their territories. The programmes should also support their full and effective participation.

D. Monitoring and reporting

51. The development of monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including the use of biocultural community protocols, should be supported.

52. **Gender sensitive and disaggregated** Indicators, including biocultural indicators, and community-based monitoring systems should be operationalized to measure the effectiveness of conservation and restoration efforts led by or involving indigenous peoples and local communities, including for headline indicator 22.1 of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities⁸.

SB8J-1 AGENDA ITEM 6: Provision of advice on traditional knowledge for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Documents: **CBD/SB8J/1/6**

Recommendation for CBD/SB8J/1/6: Provision of advice on traditional knowledge for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

8. See decision 16/31. "Free, prior and informed consent" refers to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" and "approval and involvement", as applicable.

III. Recommendation

1. The Subsidiary Body may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

1. Encourages Parties to enable the full **gender-responsive** and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports and to include in their national reports relevant information on traditional knowledge obtained with the free, prior and informed consent⁹ of its holders, as appropriate;



9. "Free, prior and informed consent" refers to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" and "approval and involvement", as applicable.

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Find more information about this policy paper
and our activities at SB8(J)-01 [here](#).

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