ITEMS 10A, 10B AND 10C. ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS

Key Recommendations

WWF encourages Parties to adopt the recommendations and draft decisions adopted by the ad hoc open-ended intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its eleventh meeting, and take the following actions:

- Implement the voluntary guidelines and decisions, the action plan on Customary Sustainable Use, and designate focal points for Article 8(j) and to promote better implementation of the programme of work.
- Strengthen the role and full and equitable participation of indigenous and local women in the programme of work, including the specialized knowledge of women related to biodiversity, its conservation, restoration and sustainable use. This will help develop important synergies with the Gender Plan of Action.
- Build coherence and integration with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) and develop activities in support of two articles of the Convention, 8j and 10c that are critically important for the effective implementation of in situ conservation.
- Support the recommendations for institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and elements of the new programme of work for sustainable use, conservation and restoration, sharing of benefits from genetic resources, knowledge and culture with particular focus on transmission of knowledge and the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge systems in the SBI.
- Accept the invitation of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from the seventeenth and eighteenth meetings to the Secretariat of the Convention to undertake ‘actions and commitments in relation to conservation and human rights, and a comparative legal study on rights of indigenous peoples and local communities’.
- Focus attention on the relations between land and resource governance systems and biodiversity conservation, including women’ land and resources rights.

Background

WWF believes that it is vital for the achievement of the post-2020 GBF to fully capture, recognize and support the collective contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, including by respecting and valuing their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices as powerful local solutions, and by promoting their wider application, with the free and prior consent of the holders of this knowledge. Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities have been among the best guarantors for the conservation and sustainable use of
biological diversity and are clearly recognized in the text of the Convention (Article 8. In-situ Conservation).

WWF acknowledges that indigenous peoples and local communities make substantial and unique contributions towards all three objectives of the Convention, through their traditional knowledge, customary sustainable use and collective actions. Indigenous peoples and local communities in many countries are central actors in sustainable agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry and custodians of habitats. Building bridges between cultures and knowledge systems is central to reaching the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature. In many parts of the world, the collective lands, territories and waters of indigenous peoples and local communities are better governed and resilient islands of high conservation value, biological and cultural diversity. They represent the existential base for the continued survival of biodiversity and its custodians, and a huge opportunity and contribution for area-based and in situ conservation and successful post-2020 GBF at all levels.

The recommendations adopted by the Working Group on Article 8j, including the next in-depth dialogue on the role of languages in the transmission of traditional knowledge, the elaboration of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements for indigenous peoples and local communities, and on biological and cultural diversity, can help support an overall shift in approach to a rights-based governance system that values the mutual relationship between culture and nature, and can have global benefits for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

For more information
Dr Lin Li
Director, Global Policy and Advocacy
linli@wwfint.org