

ILC - International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) 28

Chair,

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), a network of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, is encouraged by the support given by Parties and other participants in the recently concluded meeting of the Working Group on Article 8j for initiatives to develop community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS). The IIFB Working Group on Indicators has identified next steps to take this work forward – including international and regional capacity-building workshops, strengthening of information-sharing and communications, harnessing technical expertise within the network on monitoring tools and methodologies, and working with Parties and other collaborators to extend the coverage into more communities. We look forward to contributing to national reports and the mid-term assessment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020).

The IIFB would like to call your attention to document UNEP/CBD/WG8J/8/9 on Indicators Relevant for Traditional Knowledge and Customary Sustainable Use and we highlight a few key messages relating to CBMIS-

- Indigenous Peoples and local communities have developed their own ways of monitoring ecosystems and community health and well-being. These are based on traditional knowledge and a holistic view of people and environment, but use and adapt new technologies.
- At a local level, CBMIS brings the community together and provides a basis
- for local self-determined development planning and decision making. At a national level, the contributions of CBMIS to national information systems can make indigenous peoples and local communities and their issues more visible to policymakers. In the current economic climate, United Nations agencies have insufficient resources to produce global statistics, but community-based monitoring can provide reliable snapshots of trends on the ground (and these should be supported)

Thank you Mr. Chair