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Indigenous and Local Knowledge(s) and Science(s)

Complementary knowledge systems for Sustainable Development

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Multiple meetings held in Montreal this week highlighted forward-looking actions to lift implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and shift post-2020 arrangements towards more effective joined up action, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Workshop on Community-based Monitoring and Information Systems (CBMIS)

The meeting was hosted by the Mohawk people of Kahnawake, welcoming 40 indigenous and local community representatives and allies from around the world into their community. Participants shared experiences of community based mapping and action research, tools and technologies, such as maps, websites, and apps including demonstration of these tools/toolkits; shared lessons about the use of community generated data for local governance and for monitoring outcomes of various global processes like the CBD, SDGs, IPBES and to explore collaborative opportunities for the use of community-generated data and information towards 2020 and beyond. This included production of collective reports such as the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks* (LBO) as complementary to CBD's *Global Biodiversity Outlook*.

IPBES Global Assessment Dialogue with IPLCs

A team from the IPBES Global Assessment (GA) held a dialogue with IPLCs to advance the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge(s) (ILK) as integral to the wholeness of the global report. Working in small discussion groups, IPBES authors and IPLC participants explored specific questions being addressed by the global assessment based on an understanding that ILK is locally-based, regionally manifested and globally relevant. Also discussed were the IPBES conceptual framework and approach for working with ILK including the participatory mechanism for the inclusion of ILK at all stages of assessment processes.

IPBES emerged from the CBD processes and will be contributing much to its future work, such as the IPBES global assessment's contribution to Global Biodiversity Outlook 5. However, as an independent process and knowledge platform, IPBES has also been able to harness lessons from the growing body of knowledge, research and action which has advanced

considerably since the establishment of the CBD, including in the understanding of traditional knowledge.

The dialogue conducted between the IPBES GA and IPLCs in Montreal, and other dialogues which took place during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April 2017) and in Mt. Elgon in Kenya on Conservation and Human Rights (November 2017) are a good milestones in the ongoing collaboration between science and indigenous and local knowledge.

Indigenous and local knowledge(s) and science(s) for sustainable development

Policy Brief by the Scientific Advisory Board of the UN Secretary General¹

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) under former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon also published an important policy brief on this theme as a contribution towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Acclaiming cultural diversity as a creative source and enabler for sustainable development, it underlines that the cultures and values of peoples, and the knowledge and innovations of indigenous peoples and local communities, are fundamental cultural resources, vital for contemporary problem-solving.

The Executive Summary of SAB policy brief states:

In order to cope and adapt to change, people are relying on essential elements of traditional knowledge, cultural values and customary institutions for relief and support. These are critical building blocks of integrated solutions needed at this time of local-global change.

Diversification and popularization of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda are essential towards closing persistent knowledge and technology gaps and engendering robust knowledge-policy-society interfaces needed to achieve inclusive and just sustainable development at multiple scales.

Recognition, protection and promotion of indigenous and local knowledge strengthens economic, environmental, social and cultural resilience within societies and forms the knowledge base for addressing critical sustainability problems of the 21st century.

¹ <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002461/246104E.pdf>