

Statement by members of the CBD Alliance on Target 3

We welcome the re-insertion of qualifiers in target 3, most importantly the notion of equity. However, we find numerous fundamental problems with the target as it currently worded, including:

The scientific basis for the 30% target is not convincing. We note that, whilst the previous decade has been possibly the worst ever for biodiversity loss, the Aichi target to achieve 17% of land under protected areas was the only one that was almost achieved – suggesting that the governance of protected areas in and by themselves have not been effective. We need to better understand why this is the case and what can be done to remediate this.

- We also note that there has been no broad assessment of the effectiveness of protected areas nor, and especially, the often negative impacts they have had on indigenous people and local communities. Neither has there been any rigorous assessment of whether other alternatives – such as recognition of indigenous and local community lands – could be more effective and cost-effective.
- Despite the Mention of OECMs, the target does not adequately reflect that the most biodiverse areas remaining on Earth are those managed by indigenous people and local communities. The Target should thus explicitly seek to promote legal recognition and protection of IPLC rights and the lands under their traditional control.

That is why we urge Parties to focus this target on ensuring **equitable governance in area-based measures**. Community-based conservation institutions and local governance regimes have proven to be effective in preventing habitat and biodiversity loss. At least a quarter of the global land area is traditionally owned, managed, used or occupied by indigenous peoples. In addition, a diverse array of local communities conserve and sustainably use significant areas on land and in the sea, often under collective access and tenure regimes and do so in sustainable ways with positive impact for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Innovative, inclusive and equitable governance approaches to conservation are needed, which include the recognition of the fundamental role of IPLCs and women in conserving biodiversity for the future and their Indigenous lands, waters and territories and community conserved areas.

Securing tenure and governance rights, including gender responsive measures, are crucial elements to achieving any area-based measures to conserve and restore biodiversity, including Targets 1, 2 and 3. The respect of these rights needs to be included in goals, targets and their implementation closely monitored through related indicators.

FINAL TEXT

Target 3: By 2030, ensure that all area-based biodiversity conservation measures is enacted through effective, equitable and gender responsive governance that strengthens the rights and cultures of indigenous and local communities living there, including through FPIC, contributing to addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and maintaining ecosystems to remain within the planetary boundaries, through ecologically representative and well connected systems of a) territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities b) other effective area-based conservation measures, and c) Protected Areas