

Target 4: Threatened species and the genetic diversity

Elements to be replaced

- “Active” management should be “effective” management

Effective means “that which works, produces results”, while active is not defined.

Elements that should be part of the target

- In situ

Conservation in the areas where species naturally live is the most natural and safe way of conservation. Many species need their ecosystems, surroundings and nurturing to function well. This is also important for IPLCs, women and smallholder farmers who develop and conserve agricultural biodiversity and hold in situ community seed banks.

- Community-based customary sustainable use (CSU), law, management, and monitoring CSU is Convention text (article 10c) and has its Plan of Action.

Elements that should NOT be part of the target

- Restoration of genetically depleted populations - Genetic restoration (de-extinction)

Genetic restoration refers to genetic engineering technologies, e.g., gene drives, to “restore” populations of animals under threat of extinction. Gene drives are generally designed to eliminate species. However, gene drives are also being proposed to change the genetic expression in species for the purported goal of reversing an extinction trend. The genetic engineering of animals, gene drive technologies and their unintended and permanent consequences for wild species and ecosystems raise extensive scientific concerns. The Convention’s aim should be to protect biodiversity, including at the genomic level.