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Issue: Convention on Biological Diversity - views and information on biodiversity and climate change (SCBD/SSSF/JL/SS/TT/92042)

Title: Views on options for enhanced policy coherence, including a potential joint work programme of the Rio Conventions.

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Mandate: decision 16/22

This submission was prepared by the **Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB)**, the national representative body of the Brazilian indigenous movement and affiliated indigenous organizations, **CIPÓ Platform**, a Brazil-based NGO, and **World-Transforming Technologies (WTT)**, a non-profit organization consolidated in 2015 within the Avina Foundation ecosystem, whose mission is to promote political and socio-environmental transformations through collaborative ST&I.

This submission is made in response to the call SCBD/SSSF/JL/SS/TT/92042 in light of Decision 16/22 of COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on synergy opportunities between the three Rio-92 conventions — CBD, UNFCCC e UNCCD.

Inspired by previous decisions in the CBD process, which recognize the **inseparable relationships between climate and biodiversity** (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Target 8); the need to expand the **integration of the topic of biodiversity between sectors** (CBD/COP/DEC/16/13), the importance of **fair and equitable participation and contribution** between the knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities of different cultures, gender and ages in fulfilling the objectives of the CBD (Article 8J of the CBD; Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Targets 22 and 23; Nagoya Protocol and Prior Informed Consent and Fair Benefit Sharing; Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Target 21); the **recognition of people of African descent** in the implementation of CBD (CBD/COP/DEC/16/6); recognition of the role of **mother languages** in the conservation of knowledge systems and biodiversity (CBD/COP/DEC/16/7); and the creation of **new institutional arrangements** to deepen participation and contributions to the CBD of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in a Subsidiary Body (CBD/COP/DEC/16/5), this submission defends the need for further coordination of the work of the three Rio-92 Conventions, and recommends that the presence, effective participation and integration of traditional and local knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) be considered an opportunity for joint and coordinated implementation of mandates, in light of the common and specific objectives of the three Conventions.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities as links and paths to integration



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This submission acknowledges that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), through their ways of life and knowledge systems deeply rooted in their relationships with nature, constitute an essential link of synergy between the Conventions. Therefore, there are no fair transitional paths for climate, inclusive climate adaptation policies, effective initiatives for biodiversity conservation, and legitimate solutions to combat land degradation and desertification without a normative framework for **integration of the participation of indigenous people and local communities and of scientific, traditional and local knowledge systems** in the work of the three Conventions.

Although the conventions bring, each with its own mandate and specificity, the importance of collaborative approaches and institutional mechanisms of social participation, there are still gaps in articulated strategies and normative instruments - legal and operational - that address the effective and fair integration of different knowledge production systems. The recommendations presented here will seek to address these gaps through the following three axes:

1. Integration of traditional and local knowledge systems;
2. Dignified and effective participation of IPLC;
3. Transparent and connected financing and monitoring mechanisms.

These three paths assume that indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) must be understood based on their specificities, and not in comparison with so-called scientific knowledge. The integration of ILK into knowledge production processes within the scope of Conventions is only possible with the guarantee of effective participation of leaders, representatives and IPLC knowledge holders. In this sense, recognizing the plurality of traditional knowledge regimes — associated with the diversity of peoples and communities existing in the world — requires the active presence of these subjects and a break with approaches based exclusively on conventional methods of systematizing knowledge and linear processes of technological development.

1. Integration of traditional and local knowledge systems

Institutional arrangements are urgently needed for IPLC formal legal recognition as **holders and producers of knowledge and innovative solutions** in the three conventions. CBD has demonstrated significant advances in this field, especially through its *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES), its *task force on Indigenous and local knowledge systems*, from your *Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions*, and the recently created Article 8J Subsidiary Body. In contrast, the UNFCCC still



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operates mainly under ST&I paradigms that hinder the permeability of and dialogue with other knowledge systems.

It is extremely necessary to strengthen coordination between scientific and technical bodies of the Conventions, not only due to the synergistic nature between the challenges of each one, but also for the potential to advance cross-cutting themes and the incorporation of ILK into their work. To achieve this, it is essential that IPBES, IPCC and SPI advance in an aligned manner and are anchored in a common epistemological base, which recognizes and incorporates ILK into their modes of knowledge production and communication. This alignment may represent an opportunity to leverage changes in the Parties' ST&I regulatory frameworks, for the recognition of other knowledge systems associated with IPLC.

2. Dignified and effective participation

Dignified and effective participation in COPs and in the intersessional spaces of the three conventions is an indispensable condition for the effective circulation of knowledge traditionally based on orality. The physical absence of these subjects and their representations results in invisibility and epistemic violence. On the other hand, simply guaranteeing presence, through the provision of accreditations, is insufficient. Effective participation requires adequate conditions, such as quality accommodation at affordable prices, the provision of culturally diverse and accessible food, as well as interpretation services in languages that go beyond those recognized by the UN system, especially in negotiation spaces.

With regard to effective participation, the creation of a permanent body for the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) within the scope of the CBD represents a historic advance. The Brazilian presidency of the UNFCCC COP30 has also opened important paths to expand this participation, with the announcement of a thousand credentials destined for Indigenous Peoples and the creation of the International Indigenous Commission for COP30. However, the advances planned for Belém are not automatically assured in subsequent COP cycles. It is essential to establish a coordinated process of institutional strengthening of the participation of IPLCs, in accordance with the cultural realities of each Party, in the COPs and in the intersessional spaces of the Conventions, guided by the principle of non-regression.

3. Transparent and transparent financing and monitoring mechanisms dialogued



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We recognize the importance of new financing and monitoring mechanisms that are transparent, coordinated and that encourage synergies between the Conventions. We emphasize the urgency of **aligned financing, monitoring and transparency systems** of the three conventions, with applications of unified reporting methodologies and compatibility between monitoring systems.

We understand that the financing discrepancy between Conventions represents a bottleneck for significant advances and we believe that the establishment of new synergy criteria for financing are fundamental to promoting complementarity between multilateral funds and strengthening financing instruments that prioritize synergistic actions. Recognizing the role of IPLCs as representative links of synergies between the objectives of the Conventions, direct financing lines for IPLCs must be incorporated into the financial architectures of the Conventions as a priority synergistic action.

Greater coordination of financing between Conventions must not come at the expense of transparency, and financing monitoring mechanisms with transversal and convergent indicators must be implemented to avoid risks of double counting and ensure financial flows that guarantee the health of Conventions.

Guiding questions

1. How can the three Rio-92 conventions **move forward together** in valuing and incorporating traditional and local knowledge?
2. What actions are necessary to ensure the **dignified and effective participation** of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities at COPs and in the intersessional spaces of the three conventions?
 - a. How to ensure that the **trading cycles** of the three conventions – which have their areas of excellence in the Conferences of the Parties – are more integrated and part of a continuous process?
3. How can systems **climate and environmental finance be** reformulated to reflect the interdependence between climate, biodiversity and land use, incorporating safeguards against double counting and ensuring protagonism and direct access to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities?



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- a. How can we develop and implement **cross-cutting indicators** — built in collaboration between scientific knowledge and ILK — to monitor joint progress in the three conventions with social control?
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Specific recommendations

1. Strengthening the coordination of Scientific and Technical Bodies, and integration of traditional and local knowledge systems

1.1. Strengthen coordination and synergies between key science-policy bodies, including the IPCC, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the CBD, and the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) under the UNCCD: Promote cross-sectoral ST&I approaches that integrate environmental governance with broader social and economic imperatives when developing just transitions solutions. This includes avoiding siloed technological solutions and ensuring alignment with other international governance instruments and conventions. In this regard, it is essential that adaptation policy design—particularly within the context of just transitions—be closely aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Another key example of necessary integration is the interface with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its definitions, especially regarding the recognition of traditional knowledge as legitimate and valuable. This includes critical issues such as Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS); the protection of Indigenous rights under the Nagoya Protocol (CBD 2010, Articles 5–6); and the Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD 2022, Target 22).

2. Dignified and Effective Participation in COPs

2.1. Creation of an integrated and dignified social participation mechanism for IPLCs in the three conventions: We recommend the construction of a permanent and coordinated instrument between CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD to guarantee the continuous and dignified presence of indigenous representatives in all COPs and intersessional forums. This mechanism must provide: Reception infrastructure (food, transport, accommodation and adequate living spaces); Coordinated accreditation policy for IPLC that guarantee access to the three conventions, without regressive distribution between COP cycles; Specific and unbureaucratic financing lines to enable this presence; Articulated strategy to protect the lives of leaders and defenders on their journeys and participations;



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Design and implementation of learning paths to strengthen the capabilities of IPLCs and Non-IPLCs in working together.

2.2 Creation of a monitoring system for IPLC participation in Conventions: It is essential to monitor in an articulated way the degree of participation and influence of indigenous peoples and local communities in each of the Conventions, as well as advances (or setbacks) in the topics that concern them. We recommend the creation of a joint observatory of social participation in the three Rio-92 conventions, with methodologies co-constructed with the IPLCs themselves.

2.3 Establishment of a continuous cycle of negotiations between the 3 Rio Conventions: To ensure continuous and effective participation, it is essential to establish a coordinated agenda and logistics structure that enables the presence and systematic monitoring of these discussions. The year 2024, by concentrating three COPs, enabled a more constant participation of various IPLC leaders and representations, strengthening the feeling of belonging and engagement with the Conventions. We recommend that the COP cycles of the Rio Conventions be organized in a coordinated manner, with transversal agenda items such as the review of global goals and national commitments, implementation, financing mechanisms and global assessment processes, occurring in an integrated manner within the same joint cycle of the 3 Conventions.

3. Participatory financing and monitoring mechanisms.

3.1. Alignment of convention financing and monitoring systems: International climate and environmental funds must create integrated financial instruments that recognize the interdependent nature of the climate, biodiversity and desertification crises. The funding streams of the three conventions must ensure that resources reach communities and community funds directly.

3.2. Creation of new criteria for synergistic financing with a priority line of direct financing for IPLCs: Recognizing the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities as links representing synergies between the objectives of the Conventions, direct financing lines to IPLCs, with an emphasis on financing directed to self-managed funds (e.g. Jaguatá, [Archipelago](#), [They served](#), [Firm](#)), must be incorporated into the financial architectures of the Conventions as a priority action for synergy between Conventions.