

# Local and indigenous knowledge

## A timeline

**1992 >**

**Agenda 21, the main document of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro:** indigenous peoples have a vital role to play in environmental management and development because of their traditional knowledge and practices.

**1993 >**

**The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) enters into force.** Article 8j refers to the respect, preservation, and maintenance of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local peoples.

**1999 >**

**World Conference of Science:** 'traditional and local knowledge systems ... make and historically have made a valuable contribution to science and technology... there is a need to preserve, protect, research and promote this cultural heritage and empirical knowledge'.

**2000 >**

**The World Intellectual Property Organization establishes** the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore to work towards an international instrument that would ensure effective protection of traditional knowledge.

**2002 >**

**UNESCO** launches the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme (LINKS).

**2007 >**

**UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (article 31):** indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their traditional knowledge.

**2012 >**

**The Future We Want outcome document:** traditional knowledge makes an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Indigenous peoples and local communities are often directly dependent on biodiversity and ecosystems and thus are the most immediately affected by their loss and degradation.

**2012 >**

**The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is established.** Operational principles include: 'recognise and respect the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems'.

**2014 >**

**The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change:** 'indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge systems and practices... are a major resource for adapting to climate change... Integrating this knowledge with existing practices increases the effectiveness of adaptation'.

**2015 >**

**Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development:** traditional knowledge supports social well-being and sustainable livelihoods. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge.

**2015 >**

**Article 7.5 of the Paris Agreement acknowledges that** adaptation action should 'be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems'.

**2016**

**The Scientific Advisory Board of the UN Secretary General** releases a policy brief on the links between indigenous and local knowledge and sustainable development.



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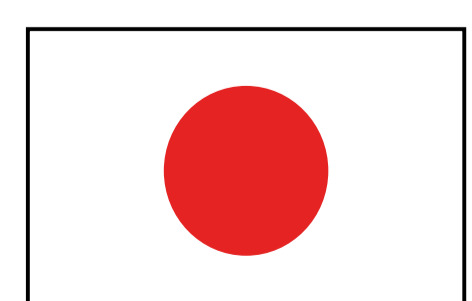
**LINKS**

Local and Indigenous  
Knowledge Systems

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