

## Research needs expressed in the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Cross-Cutting Issue: Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices

There is today a growing appreciation of the value of traditional knowledge. This knowledge is valuable not only to those who depend on it in their daily lives, but to modern industry and agriculture as well. Many widely used products, such as plant-based medicines, health products and cosmetics, are derived from traditional knowledge (<http://www.cbd.int/traditional/intro.shtml>).

Cited Decisions that express research needs are V/16, VI/10, VII/16, VIII/5, X/41 and X/43, also checked were Decisions III/14, IV/9, IX/13, XII/12 and XIII/18.

### Direct research needs

Decision	Paragraph	Chapeau / Heading	Text	Source <a href="http://www.cbd.int/decisions/">http://www.cbd.int/decisions/</a>
VII/16	Annex I Para C 11	Elements of a plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and	<b>Examples of codes of ethics and conduct governing research as used by such bodies as research institutions, business and indigenous and local communities, should be gathered</b> with a view to assisting in future possible development of codes of ethics or conduct, and to guide further research on the retention and use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	<a href="http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753">cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753</a>
VII/16	Annex I Para D 13	local communities embodying	<b>Research should be undertaken on existing and new threats to the retention and use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.</b>	
VII/16	Annex I Para D 14	traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	<b>Mechanisms to promote cooperation</b> in order to address the cause of decline <b>should be identified</b> in cooperation with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of the United Nations and other relevant initiatives and organizations.	
VIII/5	Para 6	The Conference	<i>Notes with concern</i> the specific vulnerabilities of indigenous and local	<a href="http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop-08.shtml?m=COP-08&amp;id=7753">cop-08.shtml?m=COP-</a>

		of the Parties	communities, <i>inter alia</i> , of the Arctic, small island States and high altitudes, concerning the impacts of climate change and accelerated threats, such as pollution, drought and desertification, to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, <b>and requests further research be conducted</b> , subject to the availability of resources, <b>into highly vulnerable indigenous and local communities, with a focus on causes and solutions</b> , with the outcomes of the research to be made available to the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions for attention at its fifth meeting;	<a href="#">08&amp;id=11017</a>
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#### Indirect research needs

Decision	Paragraph	Chapeau / Heading	Text	Source
V/16	Para 12 f	The Conference of the Parties Urges Parties and Governments and, as appropriate, international organizations, and organizations representing indigenous and local communities, to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the	<b>Provide case-studies on methods and approaches that contribute to the preservation of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices</b> , including through their recording where appropriate, and that support control and decision-making by indigenous and local communities over the sharing of such knowledge, innovation and practices.	<a href="http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop-05.shtml?m=COP-05&amp;id=7158">http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop-05.shtml?m=COP-05&amp;id=7158</a>

		implementation of the Convention and, to this end:		
V/16	Para 17	The Conference of the Parties	Requests Parties to support the <b>development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices</b> of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity through participatory programmes and consultations with indigenous and local communities, taking into account strengthening legislation, customary practices and traditional systems of resource management, such as the protection of traditional knowledge against unauthorized use.	<a href="http://cop-05.shtml?m=COP-05&amp;id=7158">cop-05.shtml?m=COP-05&amp;id=7158</a>
V/16	Annex I Element 5 Task 16	Programme of work on the implementation of Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the CBD.	The Executive Secretary <b>to identify, compile and analyse</b> , with the participation of indigenous and local communities, existing and customary <b>codes of ethical conduct</b> to guide the development of models for codes of ethical conduct for research, access to, use, exchange and management of information concerning traditional knowledge, innovations and practices for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	<a href="http://cop-05.shtml?m=COP-05&amp;id=7158">cop-05.shtml?m=COP-05&amp;id=7158</a>
VI/8	Annex I Part II Planned Activity 16	Support in implementation of Article 8(j).	<b>Traditional knowledge systems include taxonomic information</b> , which if used in combination with Linnaean taxonomies could support the GTI. <b>Comparison of indigenous taxonomies and Linnaean taxonomies</b> in different regions could be made to provide general principles to assist in the conservation and sustainable use of elements of biodiversity in different ecosystems.	<a href="http://cop-06.shtml?m=COP-06&amp;id=7182">cop-06.shtml?m=COP-06&amp;id=7182</a>
VI/10	Para 2	The Conference of the Parties emphasizes to Parties the need for further action on:	With regard to forest biological diversity, <b>the development of methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management</b> , promotion of activities to assemble management experiences and scientific, indigenous and local information at the national and local levels, and dissemination of research results and syntheses of reports on relevant scientific and traditional knowledge on key forest biological issues;	<a href="http://cop-06.shtml?m=COP-06&amp;id=7184">cop-06.shtml?m=COP-06&amp;id=7184</a>
VI/10	Para 34	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Requests</i> the the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity to address the issue of sui generis systems for the protection	<a href="http://cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753">cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753</a>

			of traditional knowledge, focusing in particular on the following issues: <b>Compiling and assessing existing indigenous, local, national and regional sui generis systems;</b> <b>Studying existing systems for handling and managing innovations</b> at the local level and their relation to existing national and international systems of intellectual property rights, with a view to ensure their complementarity;	
VI/10	Para 40		Also encourages Parties and Governments, with the assistance of international development agencies and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, and with the participation, involvement and consent of the concerned indigenous and local communities, to <b>undertake pilot projects in order to evaluate the effectiveness of existing intellectual property rights regimes, contractual methods and new systems being developed as a means of protection of traditional knowledge;</b>	
VII/16	Annex I Para B 8	Elements of a plan of action	<b>Indicators on the state of retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be established</b> with the active involvement of indigenous and local communities, in consultation with relevant organizations, in connection with the ongoing work on indicators under the Convention.	<a href="http://cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753">cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753</a>
VII/16	Annex I Para B 9	.....	<b>Indicators to assess the success or failure of measures to promote or preserve traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be established</b> , with the active involvement of indigenous and local communities, in connection with the ongoing work on indicators under the Convention.	
VII/16	Annex II Para 36	Akwé:Kon voluntary guidelines.	The <b>direct impacts</b> of the development proposal on local biodiversity at the ecosystem, species and genetic levels <b>should be assessed</b> , and particularly in terms of those components of biological diversity that the affected indigenous or local community and its members rely upon for their livelihood, well-being, and other needs. <b>Indirect impacts should be carefully assessed and monitored</b> over the long term. <b>The development proposal should be rigorously assessed</b> with respect to the introduction of invasive species.	<a href="http://cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753">cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753</a>
VII/16	Annex II Para 37	Baseline studies should	<b>Species inventories</b> (including identification of particular species important to the affected indigenous or local community as food,	<a href="http://cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753">cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753</a>

		collect information with respect to:	<p>medicine, fuel, fodder, construction, artefact production, clothing, and for religious and ceremonial purposes, etc);</p> <p><b>Identification of endangered species, species at risk</b>, etc (possibly referenced to the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red Data Book, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and national inventories);</p> <p><b>Identification of particularly significant habitat</b> (as breeding/spawning grounds, remnant native vegetation, wild-life refuge areas including buffer zones and corridors, habitats and routes for migratory species) and crucial breeding seasons for endangered and critical species;</p> <p><b>Identification of areas of particular economic significance</b> (as hunting areas and trapping sites, fishing grounds, gathering areas, grazing lands, timber harvesting sites and other harvesting areas);</p> <p><b>Identification of particularly significant physical features and other natural factors which provide for biodiversity and ecosystems</b> (e.g. watercourses, springs, lakes, mines/quarries that supply local needs); and <b>Identification of sites of religious, spiritual, ceremonial and sacred significance</b> (such as sacred groves and totemic sites).</p>	
VII/16	Annex II Para 44	In the conduct of baseline studies, the following areas should, <i>inter alia</i> , be addressed:	<p><b>Demographic factors</b> (number and age structure of population, ethnic grouping, population distribution and movement - including seasonal movements);</p> <p><b>Housing and human settlements</b>, including involuntary resettlement, expulsion of indigenous peoples from lands and involuntary sedentarization of mobile peoples;</p> <p><b>Health status of the community</b> (particular health problems/issues - availability of clean water - infectious and endemic diseases, nutritional deficiencies, life expectancy, use of traditional medicine, etc);</p> <p><b>Levels of employment, areas of employment, skills</b> (particularly traditional skills), <b>education levels</b> (including levels attained through informal and formal education processes), <b>training, capacity-building requirements</b>;</p> <p><b>Level of infrastructure and services</b> (medical services, transport, waste disposal, water supply, social amenities (or lack of) for recreation, etc);</p>	<p><a href="#">cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753</a></p>

			<p><b>Level and distribution of income</b> (including traditional systems of distribution of goods and services based on reciprocity, barter and exchange);</p> <p><b>Asset distribution</b> (e.g. land tenure arrangements, natural resource rights, ownership of other assets in terms of who has rights to income and other benefits);</p> <p><b>Traditional systems of production</b> (food, medicine, artefacts), including gender roles in such systems; and <b>Views of indigenous and local communities regarding their future</b> and ways to bring about future aspirations</p>	
VII/16	Annex II Para 45	In particular, in relation to subsistence-based indigenous and local communities, the following additional social factors should also be taken into consideration, including impacts thereon:	<p><b>Traditional non-monetary systems</b> of exchange such as hunting, barter and other forms of trade, including labour exchange;</p> <p><b>Related economic and social relations;</b></p> <p><b>Importance of gender roles and relations;</b></p> <p><b>Traditional responsibilities and concepts of equity and equality</b> in society; and <b>Traditional systems of sharing natural resources</b>, including resources that have been hunted, collected or harvested.</p>	<a href="http://cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753">cop-07.shtml?m=COP-07&amp;id=7753</a>
X/41	Para 7	The Conference of the Parties	<i>Invites</i> Parties, indigenous and local communities and other relevant organizations to <b>provide views through case-studies on how statutory laws and customary laws interact with regard to the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices;</b>	<a href="http://cop/?id=12307">cop/?id=12307</a>
X/43	Para 14	The Conference of the Parties	<p><i>Adopts</i> the following proposed <b>indicators</b>:</p> <p>(a) <b>Status and trends in land-use change and land tenure</b> in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities;</p>	<a href="http://cop/?id=12309">cop/?id=12309</a>

			<p>(b) <b>Status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations;</b> to complement the already adopted indicator on the <b>status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages</b> in order to assess progress towards the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;</p>	
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