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## Aide memoire

<i>Session</i>	Session 6: Achieving change – building on good practice
<i>Title of presentation</i>	Perspectives and insights from indigenous peoples
<i>Name of presenter</i>	Ms. Anne Nuorgam, Chair of the UN PFII

### *Abstract*

Indigenous peoples have been safeguarding the environment since time immemorial, thereby contributing significantly to the conservation of biological diversity. Their traditional lands hold most of the world's biodiversity and their knowledge and practices provide powerful resources for conservation measures. However, indigenous peoples' rights are frequently violated, and their knowledge and practices are in danger of disappearing. Urgent action is needed to safeguard indigenous peoples' rights and knowledge in order for them to continue protecting the world's biodiversity. Several states have already implemented laws and policies that include indigenous peoples in conservation measures and recognize their rights to their lands, territories and resources. In many parts of the world however, such recognition and protection are still lacking.

### *Key considerations*

- Highlight the important roles of indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation.
- Increase the visibility of indigenous peoples and their contribution to biodiversity conservation at all levels.
- Address the human rights violations, extrajudicial killings, destruction of livelihoods, criminalization, persecution, and forced displacement indigenous peoples are suffering.
- Facilitate the inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples in States' conservation programmes and policies.
- Recognize indigenous peoples' rights to their lands, territories and resources as well as their traditional knowledge including intellectual property rights.

### *Key discussion points and conclusions*

- Increasing the visibility of indigenous peoples and their conservation efforts in the international community.
- Ensuring indigenous peoples' participation throughout the negotiations of international frameworks affecting their living conditions.
- Facilitating implementation of international agreements recognizing indigenous peoples' rights and contribution to biodiversity conservation.
- Sharing of best practices concerning the inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples in conservation measures.
  
- An increasing number of international organizations, forums, and agreements now recognize indigenous peoples' rights and their contribution to conservation.
- Numerous states support such international agreements, but implementation is lacking.