

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on  
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services  
Eighth Session  
June 14 – 24, 2021**

International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IIFBES)  
**Closing Statement**

Thank you chair for giving IIFBES the opportunity to give some closing words.

We wish to congratulate the secretariat on organizing this virtual plenary session, and thank all of the member states and experts who contributed to the discussions. However, we also wish to note that the online format, and system for registration, did limit participation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

We are pleased that the scoping documents for the nexus and transformative change assessments have been approved, and we welcome the attention to indigenous and local knowledge throughout. Attention to ILK and partnership with IPLCs will indeed be essential for understanding and managing the nexus, and for achieving transformative change. IPLCs stand ready to participate in knowledge co-production in both assessments, and we welcome efforts to further enhance knowledge diversity and values as well as participatory mechanisms.

We are also pleased that the work plans of the task force on ILK, and other task forces, have been approved. We welcome the attention given to working in different languages, and the added focus on building the capacity of national and regional networks of IPLCs. We note that IPBES member states themselves can play a strong role in this.

Finally, we ask IPBES member states to enhance the development and implementation of policy based on IPBES assessments, and to create enabling conditions for full and effective participation of IPLCs in national policy making, biodiversity platforms and assessments. A key resource is the Global Assessment, which highlighted the importance of ILK and the need to recognize customary land tenure and participatory rights of indigenous peoples.

IIFBES thanks you for your attention.