



**Global Youth  
Biodiversity  
Network**

## **GYBN Intervention on Protected areas and other measures for enhanced conservation and management**

*Montreal, July 03 2018*

Thank you Mister Chair.

I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

We recognize Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, particularly women within, as the protectors of more than 80% of the world's biodiversity. They are the ones that have accumulated hundreds of years of knowledge and experience in conserving nature and thriving with it. However today, they are at the frontline of the struggle to preserve what is left of nature to keep supporting the existence of all of us living comfortably in urban areas. Therefore we ought to respect their role as the guardians of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, and safeguard their rights within their territories. **When they thrive, nature thrives and we thrive.**

In this context, natural protected areas with shared governances schemes and governance by indigenous peoples and/or local communities should be strengthened. This governance models, as ICCAs, have proved to be more effective than traditional protected areas. But their role in achieving the full scope of the Aichi biodiversity target has not been considered properly. Parties should pay more attention about this in actions related to their NBSAPs, and when assessing their 6th national reports.

It is estimated that ICCAs equal or **exceed the number and extent of state protected areas**, and that is why we think that appropriately recognising and supporting ICCAs is of crucial importance, and that OECM-related frameworks offer an important opportunity to increase this recognition and much needed support. Therefore it is important that the recognition of OECMs in areas within the territories of IPLCs is on the basis of self-identification with their free, prior and informed consent.

Also it is important that the IUCN and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre upgrade the World Database on Protected Areas by providing a section on OECMs and

to work with Parties, other Governments and other relevant stakeholders, such as IPLCs, women and youth, on the basis of their analysis of OECMs at the national level so that, this upgrade reflects the scope of effective area-based conservation measures that have not been taken into account in the past.

We would like to request the Executive Secretary to develop global or regional assessments on the impacts of the mining sector in national protected areas, as well as best practices for biodiversity conservation. Additionally, we encourage the Executive Secretary to include relevant information on the impacts of the new sectors for biodiversity mainstreaming, especially the mining, energy and infrastructure sector, in the organization of the workshops on protected areas and OECMs at the national and regional level.

Thank you