

Memorandum 2/11/2018

Plenary Keynote: Indigenous peoples, biodiversity, and their interrelated nature

This memo provides a summary of reports submitted on the plenary keynote of Dalee Samboe Dorrough, ICC Chair at the Arctic Biodiversity Congress in Rovaniemi, Finland, October 9-12.

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGG-HPJ6tuk>

Attendance: 500

Arctic Biodiversity Assessment recommendation themes most prominently addressed in the session:

- Ecosystem-based Management
- Mainstreaming biodiversity
- Improving knowledge and public awareness

Key points raised in the session that were important to note:

- The importance of Indigenous Peoples working together to make their voices heard both by the international community and by individual States.
- Indigenous way of life, culture, history and relationship with the environment gives them profound knowledge and experience.
- The critical importance of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge in achieving sustainable development and environmental stewardship.
- After sustained coordinated effort, the role and importance of IP has been recognized through various international instruments (Rio Summit, UNFCCC, CBD Article 8j, SD Goals 2030, etc. and particularly UNDRIP).
- Fundamental linkage/integrated relationship between biodiversity conservation, indigenous way of life and human rights.
- Language in some of these instruments, in particular Article 8j, is ground-breaking in understanding these relationships and knowledge and human rights, including to self determination.

Recommendations/actions identified for how to deal with the issues raised in the session:

- Recognize and respect the linkage between Indigenous Peoples, their rights and their knowledge and biological conservation and live up to the principles of UNDRIP that have been accepted unanimously by States.
- Words in declarations and documents are extremely important and hard fought but now we need to live up to the commitments through action

Take home message from the session:

- The fundamental importance of understanding and respecting the integrated relationship between conservation, sustainable development, human rights and the Indigenous way of life

- The UN has recognized this special relationship through many international instruments, in particular the CBD, SD Goals 2030 and through acceptance of the principles of UNDRIP -- government has committed, and they must be implemented.