



What

Recent years have seen unprecedented commitments from governments and philanthropies to nature conservation – notably the Campaign for Nature, Legacy Landscapes and Protecting the Planet Challenge – emphasising approaches that empower Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) as stewards of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. The post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), has (draft) targets to extend equitably managed/governed protected areas (PAs) and conserved areas (CA

This understanding of equity as being a matter of equitable governance with three dimensions is based on the concept of environmental justice (EJ) .

Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool.²³ Work towards equity will, in most cases, be an incremental process taking some years. The SAGE tool has been developed over the last five years by a broad-based partnership led by IIED and has now been used at over 30 PAs/CAs in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.²⁴ The figure below shows a theory of change for SAGE based on an incremental process. In addition to benefits from better nature conservation, improved PA/CA management and governance can also contribute to IPLC's well-being/quality of life via other pathways e.g., employment, enhanced respect in society, better governance in other sectors.

: social safeguards should be used to identify, and effectively mitigate, any possible negative impacts on the wellbeing/quality of life of IPLCs, and to ensure respect for IPLCs' rights and their effective participation in decision-making²⁵. In addition, social

¹ "Conserved area" is shorthand for other effective area-based conservation measure (OECM) . An OECM is