

# Incorporating traditional and local knowledge to EBSA Process

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# Structure

- Current EBSA Process
- Why integrate ITK
- How to integrate ITK
- Examples

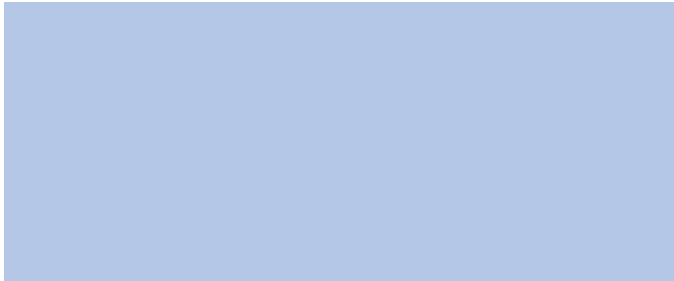
# The current EBSA Process

- Exclusive use of scientific and technical criteria
- Disconnect with social-cultural and economic criteria
- Lack of mechanisms or protocols to integrate Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge
- Minimal space for indigenous perspectives, hindering a comprehensive understanding of ecosystems
- The document on incorporating ITK and the training manual:
  - <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-20/information/sbstta-20-inf-21-en.pdf>
  - <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-16/information/sbstta-16-inf-10-en.pdf>

# EBSAs as integrated in the daily lives of communities – Mapping the interjunction



- Eyes and ears of ocean and rightful knowledge holders
  - Biodiversity Assessment
  - Ecosystem functioning
- Advance the understanding of “special places” in the ocean
- Dependency on natural resources for sustenance and culture
  - Sustainable resource management
  - Cultural significance
- Most at risk for ecological changes
- Rights Holders
  - Legal and Ethical Considerations
  - Community Engagement



How?



**Collaborate collaborate and collaborate**

# How to collaborate?

Participatory  
approaches  
& inclusive  
decision  
making

Knowledge  
Exchange &  
Capacity  
Building



Trust  
Building and  
cultural  
sensitivity

Legal &  
ethical  
considerati  
ons

Integration  
of  
customary  
governance  
systems

- In summary, the inclusion of indigenous and traditional knowledge in the identification and management of EBSAs is vital for a holistic and culturally sensitive approach to biodiversity conservation. It not only enhances the scientific understanding of ecosystems but also promotes the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of cultural diversity

*“We have not amassed any great wealth for our children; we can at least take care of these marine resources and give that as our legacy to our children”*





Thank You

# Examples :

- One notable example of successful Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge (ITK) integration in Ecologically or Biologically Significant Area (EBSA) designation is the collaboration between the Inuit of the Canadian Arctic and scientific researchers. In this partnership, local Inuit knowledge about sea ice dynamics, marine mammal migration patterns, and seasonal variations significantly contributed to the identification of key EBSAs.
- The Inuit's intimate understanding of the Arctic environment, passed down through generations, complemented scientific data. This synergy led to more accurate delineation of critical areas for biodiversity conservation, particularly for marine mammals like polar bears and seals. The success of this collaboration underscores the importance of valuing and integrating ITK for effective and culturally sensitive conservation strategies.

- 1. Great Barrier Reef, Australia:** Indigenous Australian communities, particularly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, have played a crucial role in the conservation of the Great Barrier Reef. Their traditional ecological knowledge contributes to monitoring coral health, understanding marine species behaviors, and identifying key areas for protection.
- 2. Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, Canada:** The Haida Nation in Canada has actively participated in the management of Gwaii Haanas, integrating their traditional knowledge with scientific approaches. This collaboration has resulted in the identification of ecologically significant areas for protection, emphasizing the interconnectedness of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
- 3. Aysén Region, Chile:** Indigenous communities in the Aysén Region have collaborated with conservation organizations to integrate traditional knowledge into the identification of ecologically sensitive areas. This partnership has been instrumental in developing sustainable land and water management practices that balance conservation with cultural values.
- 4. Torres Strait Islands, Papua New Guinea:** Indigenous communities in the Torres Strait Islands have contributed to EBSA identification by sharing their knowledge of marine resources and navigation patterns. This collaboration has led to the recognition of key areas for marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries management.