

Title: 'Both Hands': Diverse Knowledge Systems for Saving the Planet's Biodiversity

Brenda Tahī

In 2019, the most comprehensive biodiversity assessment ever attempted delivered a devastating verdict to the governments of the globe: one million species are on the brink of extinction, and nature is declining at rates unprecedented in human history. Since then, from all accounts, the pace at which governments are acting will not reverse these calamitous trends.

It's time now for the Second Global Assessment (GA2) of biodiversity, to be delivered by IPBES - the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Brenda is a lead author for Chapter 2 of the IPBES Global Assessment and is here to share the work of IPBES and its place in international policy for biodiversity. She is not here to simply deliver bad news, but to point to a hopeful and urgent story about solutions that can make a real difference.

Drawing on her role at the very centre of international biodiversity science, Brenda's work—alongside her many colleagues in IPBES—pushes back against the assumption that Western science alone can save us. She reveals how Indigenous Peoples, who manage lands containing around 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity, offer so much to the transformational effort needed to turn the biodiversity crisis around.

This is honest, hopeful, and challenging storytelling from an elder who, at this stage in life, has pitched her effort and expertise into an issue of planetary significance. Join Brenda as she shares what's behind this global assessment and how we need to use both hands to do the heavy lifting ahead.

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