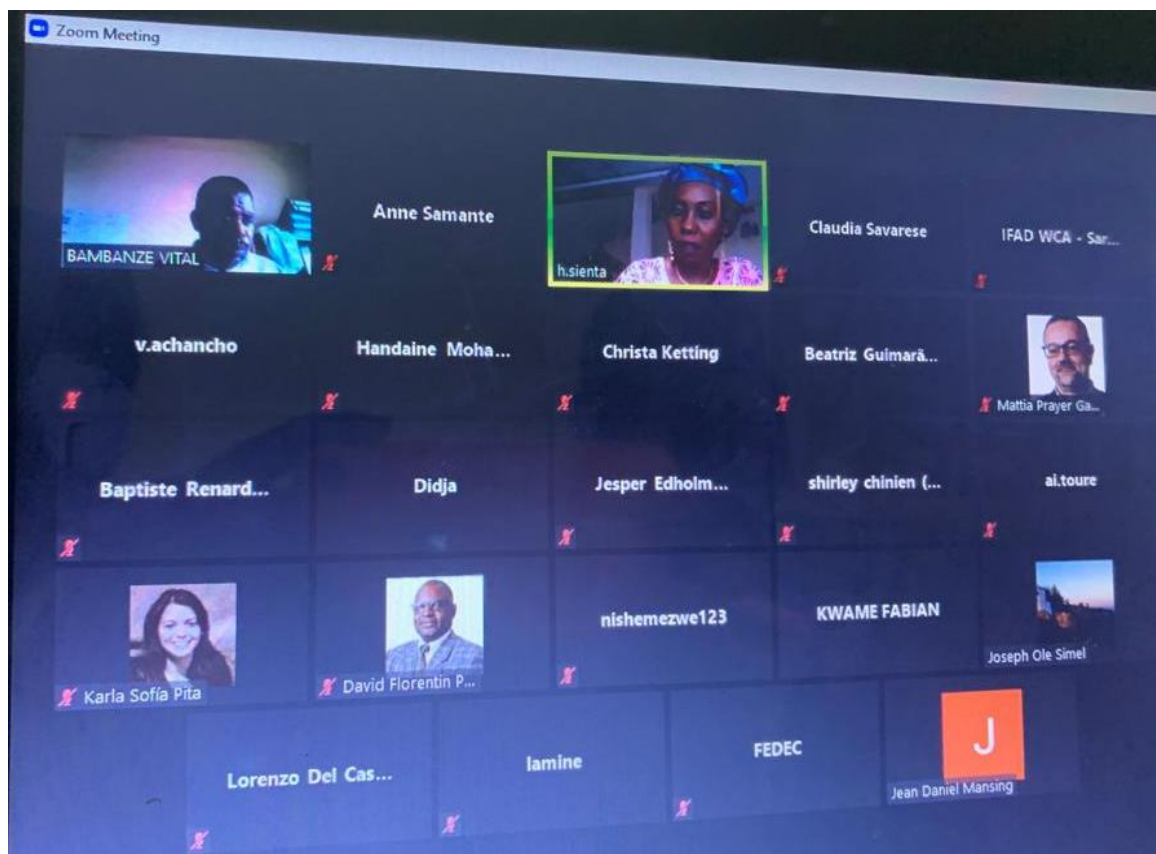


Africa Regional Consultation Meetings in preparation for the Fifth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (held virtually on 3 and 5 November 2020)



MEETINGS REPORT

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Introduction

The Africa regional consultation meetings in preparation for the fifth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD was held virtually on 5 and 7 November for English- and French- speaking regions, respectively. This years' meeting came against the backdrop of a global pandemic that has ravaged many nations. Both regional meetings were therefore organized virtually by a local non-governmental organization, Manyoito Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO), in collaboration with the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA).

The theme of the meeting, *'The value of indigenous food systems: Resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic'*, resonated well with IFAD's progressive commitment to consult and dialogue with indigenous peoples (IPs), as stipulated in its Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, which is grounded on the mutual understanding and strengthening of partnerships between IFAD and IPs globally. This theme also responded to the prevailing realities occasioned by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is exacerbating and devastating the precarious livelihoods of IPs, leaving them more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as droughts and famine.

The two-day programme was well designed, with intensive and rich content that was exchanged through power point presentations and in-depth discussions and question-and-answer sessions to fully engage participants and maximize output. In total, about 90 individuals participated in the meetings: for the Anglophone meeting, about 52 individuals from 11 countries;¹ for the Francophone meeting, about 38 individuals from 7 countries.² The participants made invaluable contributions despite the network and connectivity challenges inherent in IPs' territories. Contributions were made via online plenary platform, chat messages as well as emails, through which reflections, opinions and suggestions continued to flow long after the meeting was over.

Opening remarks

Both the Anglophone and Francophone consultation meetings started with an indigenous traditional prayer and blessing for the success of activities of the day. The depth of the prayers and blessings called on the almighty creator God to protect, bless from all evil intentions and make fruitful the meeting as well as give his grace to IPs to be prosperous and resilient to the pandemic and other hazards.

The Anglophone meeting was opened by Mr Valentine Achancha, IFAD Country Director of Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo. He stressed the importance of sustainable agricultural practices which enhance food production, and lauded the dynamic partnership between IFAD and IPs of Africa.

¹ Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda,

² Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Marrocco, Republic of the Congo.

The Francophone meeting was opened by Mrs Haoua Sienta, IFAD Country Director of Mauritania and The Gambia, who called for closeness between various partners and IFAD so as to enhance cooperation and positive impacts by IFAD-supported projects.

The meeting moderator was Mr Joseph Ole Simel, Executive Director of MPIDO and member of the steering committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum. He commended the efforts made by IPs to participate in this virtual meeting in spite of the technological challenges. He underscored the purpose of the meeting and praised IFAD for having set standards and good practices in the 21st century by developing and committing to implement the IPs Policy, reminding participants that there is still a need for more visibility of IPs both in Rome and at national levels. Noting that Africa is faced with old and new challenges, not least the current pandemic, he charged participants to exploit the immense inherent opportunities, including partnerships with close allies such as IFAD, IWGIA and others, to provide a forward-looking roadmap for Africa's IPs. Mr Ole Simel emphasized the theme of the virtual conference, drawing the attention of the participants to experiences, good practices, opportunities and challenges, particularly with respect to IPs' food systems in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that identifying opportunities is critical to strengthen good practices and find sustainable solutions that can be part of the regional strategic plan. "We want to look at what roles IFAD can play together with indigenous peoples," he said. "We will analyze and formulate action-oriented recommendations for the theme, draft a regional action plan that will guide negotiation between indigenous peoples and development partners and donors, including IFAD." He concluded by stating that the key output of the meeting is to discuss and agree upon possible contributions from IPs the United Nations Food Systems Summit, which is being organized by a number of development partners and will be taking place in Rome in October 2021.

After the official remarks, participants introduced themselves.

Background of the IP's Forum at IFAD and objectives of the regional meetings (Mr Ole Simel, Executive Director, MPIDO)

Mr Ole Simel provided background information on the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD in Rome, where IPs meet every two years to discuss how IFAD works and support IPs at community, national and regional levels. The Forum has a steering committee representing Africa, Asia, Latin America & the Caribbean, and the Pacific regions. Four people from the Africa region are members of the steering committee. The Forum provides the opportunity for IPs to engage directly with IFAD Governing Council, headed by the president of IFAD.

In addition, IFAD provide resources for local initiatives that feed into the Forum, with the current meeting being managed by Samburu Women Trust, as well as support other projects in the region.

The purpose of this regional consultation is to prepare for the fifth global meeting of the IP's Forum by determining priorities, action points, resolutions and recommendations. The specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- ✓ Exchange experience and good practices on the main theme of the Forum;
- ✓ Identify the challenges that IPs and their livelihoods face during COVID-19;
- ✓ Identify opportunities to strengthening good practices as sustainable solutions, and the corresponding elements for regional strategies to enhance IFAD's support to them;
- ✓ Analyse and formulate action-oriented recommendations on the theme of the Forum and draft regional action plans that will guide negotiations between IPs and development partners and donors (including IFAD staff) during the Forum; and
- ✓ Discuss and agree upon possible contributions from IPs to the United Nations Food Systems Summit to be held in 2021.

Recommendations drawn from this deliberation will be anchored on the major challenges in Africa today particularly in regard to IPs, including but not limited to threatened livelihoods, food security and emerging challenges such as COVID-19.

Synthesis of deliberations of the previous global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD (Joseph Ole Simel, Executive Director, MPIDO)

The meeting in February 2019 was the fourth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD. The critical elements under which joint recommendations to governments, the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) and IPs are premised include the following:

- Acknowledge, promote and support IPs' traditional knowledge, intellectual property, technology innovation and sustainable resource management systems, which are critical to adapt to, cope with and mitigate climate change.
- Promote the design and implementation of instruments and initiatives that respect the identity, dignity, human rights, livelihoods and cultural uniqueness of IPs' knowledge, vision and development.
- Emphasized the need for further funding to support initiatives for IPs for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The specific recommendations made to IFAD, the United Nations, governments and IPs' organizations are the following:

Joint recommendations to IFAD, governments and Indigenous Peoples:

- ✓ Acknowledge, promote and support Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, intellectual property, technologies and innovations as well as sustainable resource management systems, which are critical in strengthening community resilience for climate change and sustainable development.

- ✓ Promote the design and implementation of instruments and initiatives that foster full respect for the identity, dignity, human rights, livelihoods and cultural uniqueness of Indigenous Peoples and that build on their knowledge and vision of development.
- ✓ Intensify and support the active participation of Indigenous Peoples in policy processes, spaces and mechanisms at all levels. These include the identification and implementation of programme strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Indigenous Peoples. Ensure access to funds and resources that support the initiatives of Indigenous Peoples for climate mitigation and adaptation, starting from the Green Climate Fund.

Recommendations to IFAD:

- ✓ Promote and facilitate knowledge-sharing among Indigenous Peoples, particularly indigenous women and youth, with a special focus on the inter-generational transfer of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and good practices for addressing climate change and building or strengthening community resilience; through the “learning route” methodology, foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing between IFAD and Indigenous Peoples’ communities and organizations.
- ✓ Support the documentation of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, customary laws and innovations related to climate change adaptation and mitigation as a direct contribution to the work of local communities and the Indigenous Peoples Platform on Traditional Knowledge, focusing on the roles and contributions of indigenous women and youth.
- ✓ Increase investments, including through grants, to support capacity-building initiatives of indigenous organizations, institutions and communities, with a focus on youth and women, which build on their knowledge and innovations, to strengthen their climate resilience and self-determined development.
- ✓ Replicate and scale up successful experiences and good practices within projects funded by IFAD and the IPAF based on indicators defined by Indigenous Peoples.
- ✓ Prioritize support to Indigenous Peoples in securing their lands, territories and resources through demarcation, mapping, legal security, respect for indigenous governance systems and registration of customary land as collectively owned, including the right to land by indigenous women and youth; likewise, support the protection of the defenders of land and the environment.
- ✓ In line with the principle of “leaving no one behind”, include specific targets and activities in the country strategic opportunities programmes and investment projects focusing on Indigenous Peoples to address the gaps in achieving the SDG targets for Indigenous Peoples under categories such as reducing poverty and hunger, access to renewable energy, women’s empowerment, forest and biodiversity conservation, equality and non-discrimination, among others.

- ✓ Facilitate policy processes and dialogues at the national and regional levels between Indigenous Peoples, governments and the United Nations system to develop action plans or other measures that ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the International Labour Organization Convention 169, and the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.
- ✓ In line with the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, including the principle of free, prior and informed consent, guarantee the full, systematic and effective engagement and participation of Indigenous Peoples in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of IFAD-funded projects and strategies, including through: (i) the creation of a directory of indigenous experts to be hired within IFAD-supported initiatives at country level; (ii) the establishment of consultative bodies or participatory mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples in each country as part of IFAD's decentralization process; (iii) participatory monitoring and evaluation; (iv) access to grievance/complaint mechanisms; (v) data disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples in line with the revised Results and Impact Management System policy, and the inclusion of monitoring indicators on social, economic, cultural and institutional aspects, including the identity and well-being of Indigenous Peoples; (vi) the promotion and funding of internships for indigenous professionals and youth in IFAD; and (vii) the organization of an annual regional interface meeting between Indigenous Peoples and IFAD during regional portfolio review meetings.

Recommendations to governments:

- ✓ Respect and protect Indigenous Peoples' customary lands laws, territories and resources and traditional governance systems and adopt and/or implement policies in line with international instruments and standards. Support the demarcation, mapping, legal security, respect for indigenous governance systems and registration of customary land as collectively owned, including the right to land by indigenous women and youth.
- ✓ Ensure that projects or initiatives affecting Indigenous Peoples, their territories and resources cannot be taken without free, prior and informed consent.
- ✓ Increase investments to initiate, improve and promote the marketing of Indigenous Peoples' products (including indigenous traditional seeds, crops, fruits, vegetables and non-farming products) and protect intellectual property rights in order to improve livelihoods and access to markets for Indigenous Peoples, including women and youth.
- ✓ Build partnerships with Indigenous Peoples to design and implement specific targets and measures to ensure their inclusion in the achievement of the SDGs.

In light of the foregoing, Indigenous Peoples commit to:

- ✓ Strengthen initiatives to systematize Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, innovations and technologies as a strategy for the design of climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes and policies.
- ✓ Enhance and revive traditional indigenous knowledge and values and promote collaboration, research, horizontal knowledge-sharing and networking among Indigenous Peoples to address climate dynamics and global policies.
- ✓ Engage in and intensify advocacy actions to include a gender perspective in climate change policies and promote gender equality and women's empowerment, recognizing the differences between men and women in terms of their needs and access to resources, as well as the needs of the most vulnerable among us, including displaced persons and migrants, persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, youth and children.
- ✓ Strengthen our unity, solidarity and capacities to engage with IFAD at all levels and with governments, the United Nations system and other relevant development actors in promoting and defending our rights, well-being, aspirations and self-determined development.

IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples

This agenda item is a critical component of the meeting agenda, as it constitutes the basis of the IFAD/IPs partnership. A summary of each presentation follows.

Update on IFAD's engagement with IPs at the global level (*Mattia Prayer Galletti, Lead Technical Specialist – Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues, IFAD*)

Mr Galletti gave an overview of IFAD's history and operation scope. IFAD is a United Nations agency working as a financing institution that covers all regions of the world. Currently there are 177 member states, with an active portfolio in 93 countries.

The IFAD policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, approved in 2009, provided a major milestone for IFAD to engage and support IPs through grants, loans and country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) or country strategy notes (CSNs) and international advocacy and policy support. The Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD and the IPAF are the two main instruments of the policy.

The following key points were addressed:

- ✓ In its engagement with IPs, IFAD is sensitive to importance of cultural heritage, Free, Prior and Informed Consent, community-driven development, access to and control over land and resources, IPs' knowledge systems, all of which are critical elements to advance the resilience of IPs and their ecosystems.

- ✓ In 2020, IFAD completed six consultation meetings in Latin America & the Caribbean, five in Asia, two in Africa, and one in the Pacific. The outcomes will culminate into the Global Meeting of the Forum in 2021.
- ✓ The three strategic objectives are to: (i) fight poverty by increasing people's productive capacity; (ii) strengthen people's access to markets; and (iii) enhance the environmental sustainability and climate-resilience of their livelihood activities.
- ✓ A strategic framework has been established until 2025, outlining IFAD's commitments with member countries and fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ IFAD's IPs Policy was developed and formulated in 2009 after extensive consultation with IPs' organizations in all regions in the world. The robust policy entails principles of engagement, guiding IFAD operations as well as two specific instruments: the Indigenous Peoples Forum, which gives IFAD an opportunity to have constant dialogue with IPs' organizations designed on the basis of the principle of self-determination; and the IPAF, which gives IFAD the opportunity to support and finance projects that are designed and implemented by IPs' organizations.
- ✓ The IPAF was created in 2006 to support the self-driven development of indigenous peoples. IFAD has specifically engaged IPs through the IPAF grants of US\$20,000–US\$50,000. The grants have yielded tremendous results in livelihoods improvement, collective empowerment and the application of traditional knowledge.
- ✓ Every three years, the IPAF has a global call for proposals for small-scale projects with an implementation period of up to two years³ to support food security projects, income generation activities, management of natural resources, and preservation of traditional knowledge, awareness-raising, among other issues. The next global call will be in 2022.
- ✓ IFAD prepares a country strategy (COSOP or CSN), that is discussed, agreed and approved with counterpart governments. The strategy encompasses the concerns of all actors and implementing partners engaged in IFAD's country programs.
- ✓ The implementation of IFAD-funded projects⁴ has continued to promote accountability, strengthen partnerships and build IPs' capacities. It has also enhanced dialogue between IPs and national governments (e.g. Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Uganda) as well as advocacy and engagement with other actors.

Mr Galletti reiterated that IFAD not only finances projects but also shares the results of its engagement with indigenous peoples at the national, regional and global levels. At the global level, this includes the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, and international conferences.

³So far IPAF has been able to finance 159 projects reaching 120,000 beneficiaries with a total funding of US\$5.1 million.

⁴At the moment, there are 64 ongoing projects targeting approximately 7.6 million indigenous people's beneficiaries. In the last 2 years, IFAD approved 17 new projects targeting indigenous peoples (as of November 2020).

Review of the Indigenous Peoples' Action Plan for Africa (2019-2020) - East and Southern Africa Region (Ms Elena Pietschmann, Programme Officer, East and Southern Africa Division, IFAD)

The Indigenous peoples' Action Plan for Africa (2019-2020) aims to facilitate dialogue between government and IPs at country level. Country strategies assess economic and social conditions of IPs communities and outline main lines of intervention. They also identify possible partnerships, both at country and international level, as implementing partners or as co-financiers. These include other development banks and Rome-based agencies.

Some of the key achievements of the action plan are:

- ✓ New country strategies have been developed to promote participation by IPs in the design of programs and projects in the region.
- ✓ Engagement with youth groups has taken place to explore opportunities for indigenous communities to participate in activities of IFAD-funded projects. For example, in Ethiopia, the Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP) is ongoing and works directly with IPs, identifying indigenous knowledge and customary institutions and strengthening development activities.
- ✓ The mid-term review of the ongoing country strategy of Burundi (2016-2021) gives a strong focus on the most vulnerable communities including Batwa community.

West and Central Africa Region (Ms. Sara Fornabio, Regional Analyst, West and Central Africa Division, IFAD)

Significant progress has been made in the West and Central Africa region, including the following:

- ✓ An action plan for IPs has been developed targeting five country strategies in the West and Central Africa region to mainstream targeted approaches with IPs as well as improve socio-economic empowerment.
- ✓ Country strategies have been developed and approved in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Republic of the Congo, while the COSOP for Central African Republic and the CSN for Gabon are expected to be approved by the end of 2020. Those strategies are designed with the intent to facilitate dialogue between IPs and governments.
- ✓ A total of six IFAD-funded projects target IPs in the West and Central Africa region (WCA) –four approved and ongoing and two in the pipeline.

Seven IPAF projects are ongoing in WCA. Through these initiatives, IFAD aims to integrate social, environmental and climate concerns to realize inclusive and resilient rural development.

The IPAF sub-grantees organizations include: Volta Young Farmers Association (Ghana); Fondation Camerounaise de la Terre Vivante Africaine, Indigenous Women Organization Central African Network; Fondation pour l'Environnement et le Développement au Cameroun (Cameroon); Association debout femme autochtone du Congo (Republic of Congo); Action Paysanne pour le Développement Intégré; and Pilier aux Femmes Vulnérables Actives en RD Congo (DRC).

Plenary discussion highlights

- **Knowledge management.** In each country, knowledge management is taking place. In the regional office, there is a decentralized communication and knowledge management function in Nairobi that IPs can take advantage of. IFAD has a priority and focus on documenting its work with IPs.
- **Markets.** Marketing is also a priority of IFAD, particularly supporting women's enterprises. Honey is a prime example, as it can also be sold on international markets. IFAD is developing a regional trade initiative that indigenous traders can take advantage of to market their honey.
- **The IPAF portfolio.** The competitiveness of the proposals determines which products will be supported. Indigenous experts vet, select and award the best proposals. However, IFAD hopes to mobilize more resources to support more projects in the next cycle.

IPAF (Samburu Women Trust - SWT)

IPAF-funded projects are being undertaken in various countries and coordinated by SWT. Positive results were registered generally from all the projects. Three main areas were touched upon in the project reports: the main results expected; the impacts of the project on the ground; and lessons learned and challenges. The highlights are the following:

Main results expected

- The agricultural production of indigenous women and young people in general have improved through the introduction of new techniques for cultivating corn and other agricultural products.
- The income level of young people and indigenous women has increased.
- Indigenous women and youth have legally acquired land.

Impacts

- First large-scale production carried out by indigenous communities.
- Indigenous products gain value in the local market, also increasing communities' income, especially of women and youth.
- IPs recognize the economic value of corn cultivation.

- The promotion of villages is made attractive by income generation activities and the development of the local economy.
- Indigenous women have more decision-making power in the organization of activities and the management of cooperatives.

Lessons learned

- The involvement of the communities since the design stage facilitates the implementation of project activities.
- The organization of community consultations at each stage of the project cycle enables beneficiaries to better understand the project and increase engagement and ownership.

The IPAF-funded projects in Africa have been increasing, with a current total of 11 projects being funded across eight countries: Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Tanzania and Uganda. In 2018, 700 applications were received from all over the world, of which 50 per cent were from Africa. The 11 projects supported in Africa are coordinated by SWT, which is the regional intermediary organization. Despite the many challenges, SWT is doing an excellent job in supporting, monitoring and implementing the projects, collecting information and share knowledge, and identifying opportunities to link up the projects with IFAD country programmes. All of the projects are competitively selected. Proposals are selected by indigenous organizations and specialists on indigenous issues selected by indigenous organizations. The final selection from the list is made by the IPAF board, which is composed of representatives from indigenous organizations.

Presentation of selected IPAF-funded projects in Africa

Securing Territorial Land and Cultural Identity for the Akiye/Dorobo People in the North of the United Republic of Tanzania - Ujamaa Community Resource Trust (UCRT), Tanzania *(Mr Makko Sinandei, Executive Director and Programme Coordinator)*

UCRT has been implementing the project since 2014, which enhances land rights and resource management for sustainable livelihoods. Targeting both the hunter-gatherers and pastoralists of Northern Tanzania, UCRT has undertaken land-use planning processes for six villages and secured certificates of village land encompassing six grazing/forest areas, five Hadzabe (indigenous ethnic group in north-central Tanzania) settlement areas and one tourism area. It has also established natural resource governing by-laws as well as village land councils and ward tribunals. The land tenure has successfully been secured through physical demarcation and erecting signposts.

The project ensures that the land for hunting and gathering is secured through customary certificates of occupancy (like a title deed CSRO), three villages have received CSRO through the project. For economic empowerment, UCRT is encouraging the Akiye community to integrate pastoralism in its customary practices in the territory.

A goat component has been introduced and has provided over 120 goats, which are multiplying. There is also support for beekeeping, which is the traditional occupation for this community. The other component is leadership which has faced challenges in effectively including women. The leadership component will ensure that Hadzabe communities are organized and able to avert possible assimilation by the dominant Maasai pastoralists. The leadership component includes empowering traditional leadership structures to restore self-determination, mobilization and unity of purpose. In doing to, they will be able to advocate for their own rights. UCRT Tanzania is planning to enter into agreement with the social enterprise Carbon Tanzania to sell carbon to them and generate more resources for communities.

Enhancing apiculture among the Ogiek of Kapcherorwo - Common Vision for equitable and sustainable Development Cherangany Hills, Kenya (Ms Victoria Kuto, Programme Coordinator Common Vision for equitable and sustainable Development)

Ms Kuto thanked IFAD for its support and went on to mention the following project highlights:

- The project is located in the precincts of the forest, location where the Ogiek moved to during the colonial period. However, they have no legal ownership of the land.
- The project is focused on beekeeping, which has a positive impact on conservation since trees and flowers are critical for apiculture. The project provided better beehives to maximize harvests. However, dry spells create challenges.
- Women and youth in particular have benefited from this enterprise, since beekeeping was traditionally a patriarchal occupation. Both traditional and modern beehives are used.
- Marketing of honey is critical and there is a need to add value to enhance its competitiveness. Women are excited to know that they can make beauty products from bee wax.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted a number of activities, particularly the formation and training of cooperative groups in collaboration with the country government. However, the project has enhanced the visibility of this otherwise obscure group. One way to enhance the project's sustainability is through partnership with the country government and by ensuring that the project is youth-driven so that communication skills and innovative technology are well integrated.

One main challenge is the increase in alcohol consumption by men when there is a corresponding increase in income.

The overall theme of the fifth global meeting of the IP's Forum at IFAD (Ms Lola Garcia-Alix, Programme Coordinator, International Human Rights Advocacy Programme, IWGIA)

In February 2021, the fifth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD will take place in Rome. It will be held virtually and it will focus on *"The value of indigenous food systems: resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic"*. This consultative process is not new to IFAD as a methodology to ensure that the voices of the indigenous peoples are heard, as one voice, on the world stage, especially the UN.

From IFAD's perspective, the objectives of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum are to:

- Discuss the assessment of IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples among indigenous peoples' representatives, Member States and IFAD staff;
- Consult on rural development and poverty reduction; and
- Promote the participation of indigenous peoples' organizations in IFAD-supported activities at the country, regional and international levels.

The Forum therefore focuses on indigenous peoples' involvement in the development of IFAD's country strategies, project design, implementation and monitoring processes, and in policy dialogue and advocacy. Indigenous peoples need to collaborate with IFAD in terms of organizing, and the global meeting will provide great opportunities for them to build networks, engage with other regions, and contribute to the process. Indigenous peoples' contribution to access to healthy, nutritious and adequate amounts of food is critical, particularly in light of the COVID-19 challenges.

Recommendations for the fifth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD and Regional Action Plan (2021–2022)

The following recommendations to national governments, IFAD and other relevant institutions were made by the participants in the Francophone and Anglophone meetings for the IPs' Forum and regional action plan for 2021–2022.

Recommendations to national governments:

- Promote studies on pastoralism with an aim to strengthen pastoral livelihood systems, including value addition to the food production chain.
- Put mechanisms in place to strengthen the resilience of small producers, especially women and young people.
- Formulate policies to strengthen food production based on indigenous agricultural knowledge.
- Encourage traditional medicine to promote healthy diets.
- Promote processes and mechanisms to conserve, multiply and reproduce local seeds.

- Respond to and act on indigenous peoples' advocacy to engage on national issues and processes.

Recommendations to IFAD

- Conserve, multiply and reproduce local and indigenous seeds that are resistant to diseases and the vagaries of climate change through the creation of a seeds bank.
- Document the dietary and eating practices of indigenous peoples that are at risk of disappearing.
- Promote the food sovereignty of indigenous peoples in relation to food security, especially of those who are the most vulnerable.
- Promote the marketing of indigenous peoples' local products.
- Support climate change mitigation and adaptation activities based on indigenous peoples' knowledge systems.
- Support indigenous peoples on a COVID-19 economic recovery plan.

Recommendations to other relevant institutions

- Adopt a legal system at local, regional and global levels to protect the food systems of indigenous peoples.
- Promote the right to land by securing territories and traditional sources of food.
- Promote the regional and global recognition of the specificity of the food systems of indigenous peoples.
- Support indigenous peoples on COVID-19 economic recovery strategies.

Indigenous peoples' representatives and their organizations will also need to contribute to the formulation of a regional action plan that will guide the engagement between indigenous peoples and IFAD.

Local perspective on indigenous food systems: opportunities and challenges (Margaret Tunda Lepore, Youth Member of the Steering Committee of the IP's Forum at IFAD for Africa)

As a youth representative for the African region, Tunda described indigenous peoples' role in food production and the spiritual dimension of food, including coexistence with the ecosystem. The challenges to food security include diminishing productive lands, lack of agricultural inputs, extinction of indigenous seeds and the increasingly erratic weather patterns. The upcoming global food summit provides a perfect and timely opportunity to address food security-related challenges. In preparation for the food summit, indigenous peoples' organizations, partners and United Nations agencies should take into account the following:

- ✓ Indigenous peoples' food-related issues and proposed interventions should be linked with the theme of the food summit.

- ✓ Regional exhibitions of indigenous peoples' food products and value systems should be organized in order to share and transfer experiences and indigenous knowledge as well as increase visibility at the national and regional levels.
- ✓ The new challenges caused by COVID-19, including the post-recovery economic/livelihood strategies, should be taken into consideration before and during the deliberations of the upcoming food conference.
- ✓ The recommendations and action plans designed for indigenous peoples' interventions during the conference should be linked with and feed into the discussions at the United Nations General Summit of October 2021. This will ensure the uptake and scalability of indigenous peoples' food issues into the highest levels of decision-making within the United Nations framework.
- ✓ Indigenous peoples need to be provided with requisite information ahead of the forum to enable them to contribute meaningfully to the discussions and proactively participate in the implementation of its resolutions.

Plenary discussion highlights

- Food sovereignty is concomitant with security of land and natural resources. As such, governments should adequately consult with indigenous peoples.
- Indigenous peoples have been subjected to discrimination when it comes to COVID-19. Not only are they denied critical services, including testing for and management of COVID-19 infection, but there is also no structured engagement on a post COVID-19 recovery strategy. The office of the United Nations Secretary-General should ensure that indigenous peoples are not left out of the global food summit process.
- IFAD's Nairobi office is open and available to facilitate the dialogue between indigenous peoples and the Government on matters of national interest that have a bearing on indigenous peoples. IFAD has non-lending support and can support such dialogue. Indigenous peoples are consulting internally to develop a concept or proposal in this regard.
- Many international organizations and United Nations agencies have made provisions to ensure that the rights and concerns of indigenous peoples are taken into account when designing COVID-19 interventions and post-COVID-19 strategies. Indigenous peoples need to be facilitated to dialogue with governments and other stakeholders.
- There is an advisory committee to the Secretary-General on the Food Systems Summit, and indigenous representatives will be part of the committee that IFAD is leading. The summit will be an outstanding forum for all stakeholders, and the platforms around it are important opportunities that indigenous peoples should use to advance their interests.

IFAD Indigenous Peoples Awards 2021

In July 2020, IFAD launched the first call for nominations for the Indigenous Peoples Awards⁵ to promote best practices, share knowledge and lessons learned, and replicate and scale up successful approaches in working with indigenous peoples. The Awards categories are: Best performing IFAD-funded project; Best performing IPAF-funded project; and Best performing non-IFAD-funded project. The participants of the regional meetings voted the best candidate of each category to be included in the final list of nominations. A Selection Committee composed of members of the Steering Committee of the IPs' Forum will identify the three awards winners.

The nominations received from Africa are distributed as follows:

Awards category	# of nominations	Language
IFAD	3	English: 1 - French: 2
IPAF	6	English: 2 - French: 4
Non-IFAD	14	English: 9 - French: 5
Total	23	English: 12 - French: 11

⁵ <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/news-detail/asset/42006286>

Summary of recommendations by indigenous peoples

The following recommendations were made by IPs participating at the regional consultation meeting (both for the French- and English-speaking countries):

Area	Recommendations	Actions	Responsible	Timeframe
COVID-19 coping mechanisms and post-COVID recovery strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support indigenous peoples to adapt to changing circumstances of COVID-19 Establish early warning systems Provide food and non-food items as well as create awareness on COVID-19 prevention mechanisms for vulnerable indigenous peoples Engage indigenous peoples in economic strengthening/income-generating activities Enhance nutrition response during disaster Create mechanisms to improve livelihoods of indigenous peoples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct research and studies on the impact of COVID-19 on indigenous peoples Undertake pilot project in selected countries Indigenous peoples to develop concept notes and proposals 	IFAD Member States UNICEF WHO I/NGOs	December 2020 until March 2022
Documentation, communication and knowledge management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support digital transformation at high speed for accessibility of information on COVID-19, and enhance knowledge management for consistent information and guidance Create a consolidated documentation, communication and knowledge management platform at subregional level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile best practices and success stories from project implementing organizations for learning and experience-sharing Establish a digital platform for information-sharing and exchange 	Indigenous peoples' organizations IFAD	March 2020
Commercialization and marketing of indigenous peoples' products (e.g honey)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support innovation that increases the quality and standard and quality of local products to make them competitive Support the investments in storage and processing technologies Design promotional activities on commercialization and marketing Provide support on robust marketing strategies at national and regional levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design projects to build capacity of the community, and use innovations and techniques that add value Create a local brand for each area Organize annual exhibitions to market products regionally Create on-line promotional and marketing platforms Organize exhibitions and bazaars for indigenous peoples at subregional levels 	Member States IFAD I/NGOs CBOs	
Enhanced financing opportunities (both within and outside of the IPAF) to indigenous peoples across the continent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize another meeting to understand the guidelines and processes that can support I/NGOs to create strong partnerships with IFAD Diversify alternative financial sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize a regional meeting Mobilize resources within subregions and across the world 	IFAD	December 2020

United Nations Food Systems Summit	– Consider indigenous peoples’ food system knowledge and practices	– Mainstream indigenous knowledge and practices on food production at all levels	IWGIA IFAD Member States United Nations agencies	
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Closing remarks

Mr Ole Simel recapped the theme of the meeting – *“The value of indigenous food systems: Resilience in the context of the COVID-19”* – and expressed his joy and thanks to the “indigenous peoples’ family” for their participation and the success of the meetings. He urged all participants to make their contribution during the next IPs’ Forum in February 2021. He thanked the moderators of the meeting: Vital Bambanze (from Burundi) Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and Esperance Nyota (from eastern DRC) as well as Prof. Handaine Mohammed (from Morocco) encouraging the full participation of those from North Africa especially Algeria and Morocco. He also thanked all the participants who held on until the end. MPIDO reiterated its commitment to continue the dialogue.

Participants expressed their appreciation for the organization of the meeting by MPIDO, and its foresight to organize of “mock” meetings in order to test the system and identify any pitfalls a few days before the meeting itself. In this regard, Anne Samante was especially recognized.

In order for the rich indigenous food system not to be lost, all efforts have to be made to propose concrete solutions and actions to relevant authorities. This is the path toward maximizing development effectiveness, the impact on the ground of IFAD-funded grants, and the sustainable development results achieved.

IFAD continues to be a major partner and has developed a model that other United Nations agencies need to replicate. IFAD is requested to play a major role, to advocate with governments for more resources for activities to support those who have been affected directly and indirectly by COVID-19.

List of meetings participants

No.	Name and Surname	Organization	Gender	Country
Anglophone IPs Representatives				
1	Margaret Lomonyang	PROBICOU	F	Uganda
2	Nathan Makuregye	PROBICOU	M	Uganda
3	Eunice Chepkemioi	Ogiek Peoples Development Program (OPDP)	F	Kenya
4	Keekabile Mogodu	San Rights Advocate	M	Botswana
5	Edwin Ogar	WATER	M	Nigeria
6	Ogato Abera	Dere Integrated Development Action	M	Ethiopia
7	Anthony Semetu	Youth indigenous network-Kenya	M	Kenya
8	Kebede Kaza	Gamo Development Association (GaDA)	M	Ethiopia
9	Lawrence Bondo	Community Development Initiative (CDI)	M	Liberia
10	Edward Porokwa	PINGOs Forum	M	Tanzania
11	Museyia Sylvia	Yakhu	F	Kenya
12	Lolim Grace	Isiolo Gender Watch	F	Kenya
13	Neema Ndemno	Pastoralism Research Centre	F	Tanzania
14	Porokwa Scola		F	Tanzania
15	Hawi Abdisa Mecha	MHO	F	Ethiopia
16	Zelege Olana Furata	MHO	M	Ethiopia
17	Mesay Midekisa Benti	MHO	F	Ethiopia
18	Gedefa Fite Jote		M	Ethiopia
19	Tlhokomelang Ngaka:		F	Botswana
20	Namaswe Kikonyana		F	Botswana
21	Banyatsi Salutu		M	Botswana
22	Galenkutlwe Leakwa		M	Botswana
23	Olebile Sempane		F	Botswana
24	Azage Meseret	Meseret Humanitarian Organization (MHO)	F	Ethiopia
25	Tegenie Mesfin	Meseret Humanitarian Organization (MHO)	M	Ethiopia
26	Abuzaid Khalida	SAWA-Sudan	F	Sudan
27	Isa Basiru	REPALEAC-Cameroon	M	Cameroon
28	Gbortsu Fabian		M	Ghana
29	Maimuna Umaro	Sura Mama	F	Cameroon
30	Grace Namkula	PROBICOU	F	Uganda
31	Annette Chemchor	Civil Society Coalition on Indigenous People of Uganda	F	Uganda
32	Carson Kiburo	Jamii Asilia Centre	M	Kenya
33	Tiglu Haile	Gamo Development Association (GaDA)	M	Ethiopia

Francophone IPs Representatives				
1	Didja Djibrilla		F	Chad
2	Severin Sindizera		M	Burundi
3	Zahia Bachir		F	Algeria
4	Kacibassa Donatien		M	DR Congo
5	Nicholas Mushumbi Mukumo		M	DRC
6	Mansingi Jean Daniel		M	DRC
7	Joseph Itongwa		M	DR Congo
8	Nicholas Balkisou Buba		F	Cameroon
9	Handaine Mohammed		M	Morocco
10	Akilimali Dieudonne		M	DRC
11	Nshimirimana Ephrem		M	Burundi
12	Ciza Charles		M	Burundi
13	Ngabire Cloella		F	Burundi
14	Keddy Bosulu		M	RDC
15	Diel Mochire		M	RDC
16	Marie Murhega		F	RDC
18	Neto Mwendilungu		M	RDC
19	Aissatou Oumarou		F	Chad
20	Youssef Idriss		M	
21	Mahamat Saleh Abdel		M	Chad
22	Aicha El Hassani		F	Morocco
23	Yasmina Idssaidi		F	Morocco
24	Bouba Samir		F	Algeria
25	Casimir Ndouloum		F	Chad
26	Kenza Bouraba		F	Algeria
27	Fassi Iyes		F	Algeria
28	Gbortsu Fabian		M	Ghana
29	Isa Basiru		M	

International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs				
1	Garcia-Alix	Lola	F	

Member of the Steering Committee of the IPs' Forum at IFAD				
1	Joseph Ole Simel	MPIDO	M	
2	Esperence Binyuki Nyota	UEFA	F	
3	Tunda Lepore	Slow Food		

Members of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues				
1	Vital Bambanze		F	Burundi
2	Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim		F	Chad

IPAF Projects				
1	Nzimba Zere Carine	Association Debout Femme Autochtone du Congo (ADFAC	F	Congo
2	Virginie Edoa	Fondation pour l'Environnement et le Développement au Cameroun (FEDEC)	F	Cameroon
3	Hawe Hamman Bouba	African Indigenous Women Organization Central African Network (AIWOCAN)	F	Cameroon
5	Veronique Bulaya	Pilier aux Femmes Vulnérables Actives en RD Congo (PFEVA ASBL)	F	DR Congo
6	Rene Kayembe	Action Paysanne pour le Developpement Integre (APROPEV)	F	DR Congo
7	Amina Zioual	Voix de la Femme Amazighe (VFA)	F	Morocco
8	Driss El Ghazouani		M	Morocco
9	Mouamfon Mama	Fondation Camerounaise de la Terre Vivante (FCTV)	F	Cameroon
10	Mouamfon Mama		M	Cameroon
11	Dr. Victoria Kutto		F	Kenya
12	Makko Sinandei		M	Tanzania

IFAD Investment Projects				
1	Emmanuel Nengo		M	Burundi
2	Faith Muthoni		F	
3	Arker Natura		M	Ethiopia

MPIDO Secretariat				
1	Anne Samante	Finance and Administration	F	
2	Salau Rogei	Program Coordinator Capacity Building Program	M	

IFAD Staff				
1	Aissa Toure, Country Director, Burundi			
2	Baptiste Renard, Consultant, Regional team			
3	Beatrice Guamirez - Indigenous Peoples team			
4	Benjamin Tchiyevo, Country Program Officer, Angola			
5	Christa Ketting, Social Inclusion Analyst for NEN, ECG			

6	Claudia Savarese, Programme Officer, WCA
7	Custodio Mucavele, Country Program Officer, Mozambique
8	Elena Pietschmann, Regional Program Officer, ESA
9	Esther Kasalu-Coffin, Hub Director, East Africa and Indian Ocean (EAIO) Hub
10	Florence Munyiri, Social Inclusion Analyst for ESA, ECG
11	Haoua Sienta, WCA Country Director for Mauritania and The Gambia
12	Jesper Edholm Widen, Consultant, WCA
13	Karla Sofia Pita Vidal - Indigenous Peoples team
14	Lorenzo del Castillo - Indigenous Peoples team
15	Marcelin Norvilus, Programme Officer, WCA
16	Mattia Prayer Galletti, Lead Technical Specialist - Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Issues
17	Odile Sarassoro, Country Programme Officer, WCA
18	Philippe Remy, Country Director, NEN
19	Robson Mutandi, Hub Director, Southern Africa Hub
20	Ronald Ajengo, Country Program Officer, Kenya
21	Sara Fornabaio, Regional Analyst, WCA
22	Seyoum Tesfa, Country Program Officer, Ethiopia
23	Shirley Chinien, Lead Regional Economist
24	Ulaş Demirag, Hub Director, Addis Hub
25	Valantine Achancho, CD of Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Chad