

A close-up photograph of a woman wearing a traditional woven hat, looking down at her hand. Her hand is adorned with intricate red henna designs. She is holding a large green leaf. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. A teal-colored text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# IFAD's progress in its engagement with indigenous peoples

in the biennium 2019/2020

## Acronyms

ASAP+	Enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme
AMAN	Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago
COSOP	Country strategic opportunities programme
CSN	Country strategy note
ECG	Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division (IFAD)
FIMI	Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas
FPIC	Free, prior and informed consent
FILAC	Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GESI	Gender equality and social inclusion strategy
GIYC	Global Indigenous Youth Caucus
ILC	International Land Coalition
IPAF	Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility
IPPF	Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework
IWGIA	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs
LAO PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
NUS	Neglected and underutilized species
PLANPIES	National Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in El Salvador
SWT	Samburu Women Trust
SECAP	Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNHLPF	United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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# IFAD's progress in its engagement with indigenous peoples in the biennium 2019–2020

In view of the fifth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum (IPs' Forum) at IFAD, this report aims to provide an update on IFAD's work with indigenous peoples in terms of the main trends observed, results achieved and activities implemented within the partnership with indigenous peoples in 2019–2020. The global meeting of the Forum will be an invaluable opportunity for indigenous peoples and IFAD staff to capitalize on their experiences and further strengthen their collaboration, also taking into consideration the ongoing process of IFAD reforms that will see IFAD increasing its country presence through a major decentralization process.

## 1. Introduction: The Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

Since its launch in 2011, the IPs' Forum at IFAD<sup>1</sup> has provided a concrete platform for IFAD to institutionalize consultation and dialogue with representatives of indigenous peoples' institutions. The Forum focuses on monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples (2009)<sup>2</sup> and IFAD in translating the policy's principles into action on the ground. The Forum also promotes the participation of indigenous peoples in IFAD activities at country, regional and international levels, and at all stages of project and programme cycles. The overall process is guided by a Steering Committee composed of representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations from the different regions and a representative, respectively, from the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF), the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and IFAD. In 2019, four indigenous youth representatives were nominated (one per region) as new members of the Steering Committee as a way to concretely promote the participation of youth in IFAD's decision-making processes.

Global meetings of the IPs' Forum at IFAD are held every two years in conjunction with IFAD's Governing Council. Issues, concerns and lessons shared during the meeting and regional working sessions preceding the global meeting are captured in a Synthesis of Deliberations and shared with participants and IFAD Management for discussion and endorsement. The Synthesis is then presented to IFAD's Governing Council.

In response to indigenous peoples' demand for more agency in climate action, the fourth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD took place in February 2019<sup>3</sup> with the overall theme "Indigenous peoples' knowledge and innovations for climate resilience and sustainable development". Four regional consultation workshops were held in late 2018 – in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific – in preparation for the meeting. The global meeting brought together 38 indigenous peoples' representatives, of whom 45 per cent were women and 24 per cent were young people under 35 years of age, who exchanged views on developments in the partnership with IFAD.

During the global meeting, representatives of indigenous peoples' institutions, together with staff of IFAD's regional divisions, discussed and agreed upon regional action plans for 2019–2020. In the Synthesis of Deliberations delivered to the forty-second session of the IFAD Governing Council, the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/nl/indigenous-peoples-forum>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38711624/39417924/ip\\_policy\\_e.pdf/a7cd3bc3-8622-4302-afdf-6db216ad5feb](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38711624/39417924/ip_policy_e.pdf/a7cd3bc3-8622-4302-afdf-6db216ad5feb).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/event/asset/40852129>.



representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations called upon IFAD to:<sup>4</sup> (i) promote and facilitate knowledge-sharing, with a special focus on inter-generational transfer, to address climate change and build or strengthen community resilience; (ii) support the documentation of indigenous peoples' knowledge, customary laws and innovations related to climate change adaptation and mitigation (as a direct contribution to local communities and the Indigenous Peoples Platform on Traditional Knowledge); (iii) increase investments to support capacity-building initiatives of indigenous organizations, institutions and communities, with a focus on youth and women, that build on their knowledge and innovations; (iv) replicate and scale up successful experiences and good practices within projects funded by IFAD and the IPAF; (v) prioritize support to indigenous peoples in securing their lands, territories and resources, and likewise support the protection of the defenders of land and the environment; (vi) include specific targets and activities in IFAD's country strategic opportunities programmes (COSOPs) and investment projects to address the gaps in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets for indigenous peoples; (vii) facilitate policy processes and dialogues at the national and regional levels; and (viii) guarantee the full, systematic and effective engagement and participation of indigenous peoples throughout the cycle of IFAD-funded projects and strategies.

During the course of 2020, regular updates were provided to the Steering Committee of the IPs' Forum at IFAD on the progress made to address the recommendations. Meetings with IFAD's divisional focal points on indigenous peoples took place via Skype to follow up and monitor the implementation of the regional action plans developed during the global meeting held in February 2019.

## 2. The fifth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

**“The value of indigenous food systems: resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic”** will be the overall theme for the fifth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD that will take place in February 2021 (remotely). This was also the theme of the fourteen virtual regional and subregional consultations which took place between October and November 2020 in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific.<sup>5</sup>

The regional consultations had outstanding results in terms of participation, with the involvement of around 500 people including: representatives of regional and subregional networks/constituencies of indigenous peoples; representatives from IFAD-funded projects in the regions and subregions; member/s of the UNPFII; participants selected from IPAF-funded projects and IPAF regional implementing partners; and IFAD staff and selected development partners as observers (UN agencies, national/international NGOs working on indigenous peoples issues and partners such as Slow Food).

The meetings were important platforms for indigenous peoples' representatives to also discuss how to engage with the 2021 Food Systems Summit and to identify challenges and opportunities to contribute to its objectives and outcomes.

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714174/41034634/ipforum2019\\_synthesis\\_e.pdf/7c873976-5ee5-b797-ebf9-5da92d657b85#:~:text=Fourth%20global%20meeting%20of%20the%20Indigenous%20Peoples%27%20Forum,Indigenous%20Peoples%E2%80%99%20Knowledge%20and%20Innovations%20for%20Climate%20Resilience](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714174/41034634/ipforum2019_synthesis_e.pdf/7c873976-5ee5-b797-ebf9-5da92d657b85#:~:text=Fourth%20global%20meeting%20of%20the%20Indigenous%20Peoples%27%20Forum,Indigenous%20Peoples%E2%80%99%20Knowledge%20and%20Innovations%20for%20Climate%20Resilience).

<sup>5</sup> The workshops were organized by the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), Mainyoto Pastoralist Development Organization for Africa; Tebtebba for Asia; Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Partners in Community Development Fiji for the Pacific – in cooperation with IFAD Country Offices and IFAD staff.

### 3. IFAD and indigenous peoples: advancements in the partnership in the 2019–2020 biennium

#### 3.a. Corporate commitments

- In 2019, IFAD revised its “*Operational Guidelines on Targeting*”<sup>6</sup> to operationalize its Targeting Policy while reflecting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The revised guidelines reiterate IFAD’s commitment to proactively engage with indigenous peoples’ representatives throughout the project cycle and include minimum standards for targeting IFAD priority groups in COSOPs. These standards include consultations with national bodies that address indigenous peoples’ issues and with indigenous peoples’ organizations, as well as analyses of main groups of indigenous peoples living in the country.
- *IFAD Nutrition Action Plan (2019–2025)*<sup>7</sup> was approved in 2019 to set out the framework to guide IFAD’s actions to accelerate mainstreaming of nutrition into its investments with a specific attention to effectively targeting nutritionally vulnerable groups (including women, children, youth – in particular adolescent girls – and indigenous peoples).
- *A new Framework for Implementing Transformational Approaches to Mainstreaming Themes* was developed in 2019 to mainstream the four thematic areas of environment and climate, gender, nutrition and youth into IFAD operations. The framework highlights that improvements in the economic position and well-being of IFAD’s target groups, which include indigenous peoples, will result from inclusive rural transformation that “*makes it possible for everyone, without exception, to exercise their economic, social and political rights; develop their abilities; and take advantage of opportunities available in a healthy environment*”. The framework includes data disaggregation for indigenous peoples.
- To take forward IFAD’s engagement and advocacy activities with indigenous peoples, in 2020 IFAD’s President appointed the Associate Vice-President of the External Relations and Governance Department of IFAD as *IFAD Champion on Indigenous Peoples*.
- *Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)* continues to be a key instrument in IFAD-supported projects and programmes. IFAD has recently submitted to the Executive Board its revised Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP),<sup>8</sup> which now include a specific standard on indigenous peoples and provisions for FPIC. The current “How to Do Note on FPIC in IFAD Investment Projects” (2017)<sup>9</sup> is also being revised to incorporate the recent changes in IFAD’s design process and its new SECAP.
- *The Enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+)*. ASAP<sup>10</sup> is IFAD’s flagship programme to strengthen environmental sustainability and climate resilience in its agricultural investment programmes. The Enhanced ASAP+ aims to increase the climate resilience of 10 million vulnerable people, particularly women and youth, thus enabling an increase in food and nutrition security. In 2020 it was also established that ASAP+ will have indigenous member(s) in its Steering/Advisory Committee, and discussions are ongoing on the proposal to allocate specific resources to improve the resilience to climate change of indigenous peoples under the programme.
- Indigenous peoples’ representatives were invited to participate in strategic dialogue as part of the consultations held for the *12th IFAD replenishment* (IFAD12). The latest report of IFAD<sup>11</sup> showed the commitment of the Fund to continue to advance social inclusion through its investments, focusing on transformative change for gender equality and women’s empowerment, nutrition, youth and youth employment, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities. Among the planned IFAD12 commitments, the *IFAD Strategy on Indigenous Peoples* will be renewed to define how IFAD can best address the specific needs of indigenous peoples within a changing global environment. During IFAD12, for the first time the Fund will also ensure that at least 10 new projects include indigenous peoples as a priority target group

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/41397731>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/41237860#:~:text=IFAD%20Action%20Plan%20Nutrition%202019-2025.%20This%20Nutrition%20Action,as%20key%20partners%20and%20IFAD%20Executive%20Board%20representatives>.

<sup>8</sup> Drawing on the United Nations Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming, which in turn is based on the UN Environmental Management Framework for Advancing Environmental and Social Sustainability in the UN System.

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40197975/htdn\\_fplic.pdf/7601fe69-3ada-4b9d-a30d-95ae4c98216b](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40197975/htdn_fplic.pdf/7601fe69-3ada-4b9d-a30d-95ae4c98216b).

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/asap>.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/doc-detail?sessid=126400>.

and that a regular grant is provided to replenish the IPAF. The IPs' Forum at IFAD will continue as a core vehicle for global strategic dialogue, advocacy and policy engagement.

- Building on IFAD's achievements and recommendations made during the fourth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD and during IFAD replenishment consultations,<sup>12</sup> the Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division (ECG) of IFAD developed *a new IFAD Action Plan (2020–2021) to work with indigenous peoples* that will be implemented through four areas: (i) support to IFAD's country programmes and implementation of IFAD's policy; (ii) strengthening of implementation capacity; (iii) evidence-based knowledge management, policy engagement and advocacy; and (iv) strategic partnership and resource mobilization.

### 3.b. The design of country strategies

*In the biennium, IFAD approved 15 COSOPs and country strategy notes (CSNs) that include and/or specifically target indigenous peoples* (Angola, Bolivia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Gabon, Honduras, Mali, Mexico, Panama, Rwanda, Tunisia, Viet Nam).

To achieve sustainable and inclusive rural transformation as defined in the 2030 Agenda, most of the COSOPs/CSNs will specifically target and/or prioritize generally excluded groups, including indigenous peoples, who are affected by strong inequality in access to services and markets and have the highest rates of poverty and malnutrition. Key activities to achieve a transition to more inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable food systems and economic activities for indigenous peoples identified by the COSOPs are: (i) **the use/promotion/valuing of indigenous peoples' indigenous knowledge** (e.g. Angola, Mexico, Viet Nam); (ii) **the protection of land rights** (e.g. Cameroon, Central African Republic); and (iii) **the adoption of participatory approaches and partnership to strengthen their self-driven development** (e.g. Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Honduras, Peru, Viet Nam).

During the biennium, **consultations with indigenous peoples' communities and their organizations took place** at various stages of the COSOPs, including SECAP background studies, COSOP review, CSN and full design (e.g. Brazil, Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Viet Nam). Specific FPIC provisions were also embedded (e.g. Bolivia, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru).

South-South and triangular cooperation was identified as a key element to share and enhance the results of rural development initiatives focusing on vulnerable and historically excluded groups including indigenous peoples (e.g. Bolivia, Honduras, Panama). Potential links to the IPAF and the IPs' Forum at IFAD were also included as strategic for scaling up lessons learned and successful experiences, reaching out to the global indigenous community (e.g. Panama, Tunisia).

As a good practice, some of the COSOPs included studies/reports on the situation of indigenous peoples in the country. For example, in Peru the COSOP preparation included the development of a report on *"The perspective of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Peruvians"* and specific activities were identified including the promotion of: initiatives that are demand-driven and adapted to indigenous peoples; alternative and traditional farming systems (Fundación Activos Culturales Afro - ACUA, the ICCO Cooperation and Slow Food grants); **capacity-building for indigenous peoples' associations** in productive and organizational activities and financial services; and awareness among technical and governmental institutions. The COSOP will also adopt self-targeting and will guarantee that the rights of self-determination for indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples will be respected.

In Viet Nam, the COSOP was informed by the findings from the study *"Gender, ethnic minorities, youth and poverty: current context analysis, opportunities and challenges"*. Aligned to SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 13, one of the Strategic Objectives of the new COSOP is to "foster the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of ethnic minorities' smallholder economic activities".

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<sup>12</sup> The Action Plan also builds on recommendations from the [Evaluation Synthesis conducted by the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD \(IOE\)](#) and IFAD's commitments in the Strategic Framework 2016–2025.

To achieve this, ethnic minorities will be engaged **to identify opportunities for generating sustainable, climate-resilient, nutrition-sensitive livelihoods within their cultural context.**

Overall, the design of the COSOPs in addressing indigenous peoples' issues is improving and in some cases the results will be measured not only by tracking the percentage of indigenous peoples among target beneficiaries (e.g. Bolivia, Peru, Viet Nam) but also by adopting specific indicators relevant to them, such as: amount of land brought under climate-resilient management (Viet Nam); number of men/women from ethnic minorities trained in climate-smart, natural resource management practices and adopting related technologies (Viet Nam); and food security and nutritional education provided to poor and vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples (Gabon).

### *3.c. The design and implementation of IFAD-supported projects and programmes*

During the biennium, IFAD's Executive Board approved 27 projects supporting indigenous peoples in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Of these:

- 21 are loans and country grants<sup>13</sup> (including four additional financings to previously approved operations) with a direct IFAD contribution benefiting indigenous peoples of about US\$200 million;
- 6 are regional and global grants, for IFAD financing of about US\$9 million, that include indigenous peoples as part of a larger beneficiary group.

#### *The adoption of FPIC and the inclusion of a specific strategy for indigenous peoples*

In line with the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, FPIC provisions were systematically included in the design of new projects (e.g. Bolivia, Brazil, Central African Republic, China (a), China (b), Ecuador, Guatemala, India (a), Indonesia (a), Indonesia (b), Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Nicaragua (a), Peru (a)).<sup>14</sup>

In this regard, recent projects approved in Brazil, Guatemala and Kenya represent very good practices where an **Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework** (IPPF) has been developed, which sets out the processes for carrying out informed consultation and participation, anticipating in some cases (e.g. Brazil) the potential inclusion of indigenous groups that could not be identified at the project design stage. The IPPF aims to provide guidance for the preparation of the Indigenous Peoples' Plan that will be designed together with indigenous peoples' communities once the project area and the indigenous peoples' groups are identified.

In Nicaragua (a), the FPIC implementation plan was the result of consultations with communities, authorities from territories and municipalities, governors of the autonomous regions, and members of the central government. Financial resources were allocated by the project for FPIC implementation. The new project builds on the results achieved by past operations in Nicaragua (b), particularly dialogue with indigenous peoples and strengthening of traditional governance structures.

As a good example, the FPIC plan developed in the Central African Republic describes responsibilities, time frames and budgetary considerations to create mechanisms to bring the entire community into the process and create a culture of full participation through deliberate social inclusion.<sup>15</sup> In Indonesia, to ensure compliance with IFAD policies, the projects will only start in those provinces where indigenous peoples are located after and if appropriate FPIC is obtained, while in Lao PDR, FPIC from the communities is ascertained and documented for all the villages where the project is being implemented.

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<sup>13</sup> See Annex II.

<sup>14</sup> The list of projects cited/referenced in the report is provided in Annex I.

<sup>15</sup> The FPIC implementation plan includes the following actions: (i) conduct sociocultural and land tenure assessment including user rights, traditional laws, lifestyles, governance systems and land use of indigenous peoples; (ii) identify decision-makers for inclusion in discussion groups on land tenure and user rights; (iii) undertake a consultation on the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the different components of the project (property rights, land tenure and resource management); and (iv) formalize FPIC and document it.



Good practices on FPIC implementation were also identified and collected in ongoing IFAD-funded projects (e.g. Colombia, El Salvador, India (b), Peru (b)). In India (b), a participatory planning process was adopted through elected village councils that ensures FPIC and a community-driven development approach. Village- and district-level consultations are conducted to obtain and document FPIC of the targeted communities, and the project systematically engages with the tribal communities at all stages of the planning. In Peru (b), one of the ongoing IFAD-funded projects supports **the participation of indigenous peoples' communities in determining the priorities and strategies** for achieving their own development and considers FPIC as a fundamental tool for the empowerment of indigenous peoples' organizations. In Colombia, the participatory process promoted by the project has made it possible to capture the different opinions of participants, including indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombians, about the planning of the project and the possible benefits. The project design includes consultations with representatives of the organizations and institutions of indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombians present in the project area in order to obtain FPIC for the project activities that affect them.

Not only were indigenous peoples targeted by many projects designed and/or approved in the biennium (e.g. Brazil, Bolivia, Central African Republic, China (a), China (b), Guatemala, India (a), Kenya, Lao PDR, Nepal (a), Peru (a), Sri Lanka), but they were directly involved in project design through consultations including engagement with indigenous youth, women and **traditional and customary institutions**. Participation of these communities is also facilitated by indigenous peoples' organizations and/or organizations working with them which were identified by the project as key partners (e.g. Indonesia (a)).

Consultations at project design, as well as socio-cultural-land/territorial analysis of indigenous peoples targeted by the projects as part of the design process (e.g. Ecuador, Indonesia (a), Peru (a)) allow for the adoption of differentiated strategies to work with these communities. The consultations also **take into account specific needs and aspirations of indigenous youth and women**, which, in some cases, are included in the gender equality and social inclusion strategy (GESI).

For example, in Indonesia (a), the Indigenous People's Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) will conduct district mapping in order to identify indigenous youth who are seeking to create new economic spaces and opportunities, while in Sudan (a), seed capital will be provided by the new project to support start-up pastoralist youth enterprises. In Colombia and Peru (b), ongoing operations are training and accompanying indigenous youth in sustainable entrepreneurship. An ongoing project in Cameroon – IFAD's flagship intervention in the country – is empowering indigenous peoples' communities engaged in agropastoral activities (Batwas, Mbororo), with special attention to indigenous women and youth. This project also develops annual gender action plans that integrate arrangements to address the needs of young indigenous women. In Brazil, special measures will be adopted by the new project to ensure that indigenous women and girls – who are among the most vulnerable in their communities<sup>16</sup> but are also **“guardians of indigenous ancestral knowledge”** – will actively participate in the development of the territorial resilience investment plans and that they will take up decision-making positions in the management of natural resources.

Ongoing IFAD operations in Colombia are expanding indigenous and Afro-Colombian women's access to and control over key resources such as land, capital, traditional knowledge and technology, and strengthening their autonomy and role in decision-making processes on community issues and their participation in local institutions. In Gabon, additional financing has been approved in support of a project whose gender strategy includes measure to improve access of Baka to means of production and processing technologies, improving their participation in, and leadership of, governance of value chain development.

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<sup>16</sup> Being victims of a triple discrimination based on gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic status.

During the biennium, **measures to support indigenous peoples' land rights have been included in selected IFAD operations.** In Indonesia (a), the project will adopt the "*indigenous food systems appraisal*" developed by AMAN which starts with the mapping of customary land holdings and tenure regimes and assessment of natural resource tenure arrangements. Land issues are central in approved and ongoing projects targeting pastoralists and agropastoralists (e.g. Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Niger). For example, the new project in Niger will contribute to the protection of natural resources by intervening in the restoration of pastoral lands, recognizing the land use rights of nomadic pastoralists. In Sudan (a), where the project identifies pastoralists as a key target group, intercommunity and participatory land-use mapping/planning will be adopted, thus allowing the inclusion of mobile pastoralists in land-use governance and management. In Lao PDR, indigenous peoples took part in participatory land-use planning and community-based forest management and funds were provided to implement innovative technologies for climate change adaptation. In Viet Nam, IFAD is supporting the issuance of land use certificates in indigenous communities targeted by the ongoing project in Bac Kan and Cao Bang.

**Some of the projects recognize the importance of documenting and valuing indigenous peoples' knowledge** – with emphasis on climate change and nutrition. In Ethiopia, indigenous knowledge from pastoral and agropastoral communities will be documented and best practices and success stories identified and shared with all concerned stakeholders to further strengthen development activities with these communities.

In Bolivia and Nepal (a), the new projects will seek to build on indigenous peoples' advanced knowledge of agricultural practices, agrobiodiversity and natural resource management to develop productive plans to build climate resilience. In Ecuador, a territorial approach will focus on groups that seek to recover their indigenous community identity and implement differentiated strategies which value the bio-cultural assets. In these communities, the implementation of adaptation measures will be based mainly on the recovery of ancestral knowledge.

Indigenous women play a crucial role in the preservation of food security, as they are the traditional carers of natural resources and managers of seeds and medicinal plants. Recognizing this role, the new projects designed for Brazil, Guatemala and Nicaragua (a) will build on their knowledge. In Nicaragua (a), knowledge on food and nutrition issues will be developed with each indigenous and Afro-descendant community, and food products will be identified based on their potential to improve diet quality, market opportunities, women's empowerment and resilience to climate change.

In Brazil and Nicaragua (a), attention will be given – in indigenous and traditional communities – to the use of neglected and underutilized species (NUS) with high nutritional value.

In this regard, interesting examples are also provided in ongoing operations. For example, in Nepal (b), the ongoing project started to implement supply chains/value chains for neglected and underutilized crops;<sup>17</sup> a project in India (c), whose main beneficiaries are tribal communities, implemented supply chains on non-timber forest products. In Latin America, through an ongoing grant to ACUA, IFAD is empowering Afro-descendant communities to exercise their rights, increase their incomes and achieve greater social inclusion.<sup>18</sup> The grant is mainly targeting women (50 per cent) – who remain the guardians of tradition in Afro-descendant communities – and youth (30 per cent) by **supporting innovative income-generating initiatives and the recovery of cultural knowledge and practices**, including preservation of long-forgotten crops. Also, thanks to the partnership with Slow Food, the grant achieved important results in terms of sustainability of cultural enterprises and access to market for products with cultural identity.

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<sup>17</sup> Finger millet, fox-tail millet, *chino*.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/story/asset/40315378>.

### *The participation of indigenous experts and support by IFAD in project design, supervision and implementation*

The IPs Team at IFAD works in close collaboration with regional divisions, the divisional focal points on indigenous peoples, and five Regional Gender and Social Inclusion Specialists hired under the ECG division. With respect to project design, in 2020 the IPs Team continued to provide inputs on indigenous peoples and an integrated mainstreaming approach in newly designed projects.

A good example in terms of ECG support provided in project design is represented by the new project in Nicaragua (a), where the design mission counted on the presence of the IFAD Senior Technical Specialist in Nutrition, whose extensive experience in working with indigenous peoples enabled indigenous peoples to be mainstreamed in the new project. Meetings with representative of indigenous peoples were held, including with the Chair of the Steering Committee of the IPs' Forum at IFAD, to seek their inputs for the new project. As part of the partnership with indigenous peoples and the IPs' Forum at IFAD, **consultations with indigenous peoples' representatives will be held throughout project design and beyond**. With the aim to concretely promote participation and inclusion of both indigenous peoples and young professionals living in rural areas, **a young indigenous sociologist from Miskito communities was hired to conduct a socio-economic analysis** of opportunities, risks and threats to the effective incorporation of vulnerable groups of rural youth, especially women belonging to indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, into inclusive rural transformation processes.

To support/strengthen design and implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020, a Technical Analyst on Social Inclusion and Indigenous Peoples joined the ECG Team in the region. Among other initiatives, an analysis was conducted on FPIC implementation in IFAD projects, and good practices were identified through interviews and exchanges with IFAD country directors and national project management units. Results from the study were presented and discussed with IFAD colleagues during a knowledge exchange session organized by IFAD on 10 December 2020 and will be presented as a publication.

Implementation support was provided during supervision missions in Sudan (b), where an IFAD consultant with expertise on indigenous peoples provided inputs to enhance the inclusion of issues related to indigenous peoples in project activities, including **the promotion of traditional knowledge from pastoral communities**. During the biennium, indigenous experts took part in project supervision in Cambodia, Nepal and Pakistan, among other countries.

Responding to one of the recommendations by the indigenous participants during the last global meeting and building on the lessons learned about the importance of involving indigenous experts or consultants with expertise on indigenous peoples, at an early design stage, **a roster of indigenous experts was developed, updated and incorporated into the IFAD shared roster for consultants**.

In Ecuador, a United Nations Volunteer was hired to support IFAD, UN WOMEN, FAO and UNDP on indigenous peoples' related issues (2018–2019). To respond to one of the recommendations<sup>19</sup> made to IFAD by indigenous peoples' representatives during the fourth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD, in 2020 **IFAD selected two indigenous interns** through the IFAD Enhanced Internship Programme financed through Canadian Supplementary Funds. The interns will be working on nutrition and indigenous peoples and tribal issues.

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<sup>19</sup> [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714174/41034634/ipforum2019\\_synthesis\\_e.pdf/7c873976-5ee5-b797-ebf9-5da92d657b85#:~:text=Synthesis%20of%20Deliberations%20We%2C%20Indigenous%20Peoples%20from%20Asia%2C,%E2%80%9CPromoting%20Indigenous%20Peoples%E2%80%99Knowledge%20and%20Innovations%20for%20Climate%20Resilience.](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714174/41034634/ipforum2019_synthesis_e.pdf/7c873976-5ee5-b797-ebf9-5da92d657b85#:~:text=Synthesis%20of%20Deliberations%20We%2C%20Indigenous%20Peoples%20from%20Asia%2C,%E2%80%9CPromoting%20Indigenous%20Peoples%E2%80%99Knowledge%20and%20Innovations%20for%20Climate%20Resilience.)

### *Strengthening the capacity of IFAD and project staff to engage with indigenous peoples at the country level*

In 2019, training sessions were organized for IFAD's operational staff to promote an integrated approach in addressing climate change and the environment, gender, youth, nutrition, and indigenous peoples at the operational level. Specific trainings on FPIC and IFAD's Policy of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples were also provided to IFAD staff, consultants and project management units.

A good example is offered by the new project in Brazil, where project technical staff will be provided with sensitivity training in issues of gender, race, ethnicity, and public health, with a focus on methodological approaches and instruments that ensure compliance with FPIC. Moreover, some of the projects updated their project implementation manuals to include provision for better engagement with indigenous peoples (e.g. Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Viet Nam).

Another way IFAD country teams are strengthening their capacity to engage with indigenous peoples at country level is through enhanced dialogue with indigenous peoples' organizations to assess opportunities for collaboration (e.g. Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal). For example, in India, members of the IPs' Forum Steering Committee were connected by the Country Office to relevant projects, and discussions are underway between the Country Office and indigenous peoples' organizations in Bangladesh to identify capacity-building needs.

Capacity development of IFAD staff on engaging with indigenous peoples is also occurring through the IPAF. Under the ongoing IPAF cycle, more efforts have been made to link IPAF projects to IFAD operations in the field. Country programme managers at IFAD were requested to provide feedback and advice on projects to be selected for the ongoing IPAF cycle. Links were created between IPAF regional coordinators and IFAD Country Offices in order to carry out joint monitoring visits to IPAF/IFAD projects, share regular information about achievements and lessons learned, and identify synergies and the possibility for scaling up IPAF achievements into the IFAD country programme.

In some cases, IFAD Country Offices are providing support in monitoring the implementation of IPAF-funded projects (e.g. Pakistan). A good practice to be replicated was the participation of the IPAF Coordinator for the Africa region (Samburu Women Trust – SWT) in the Consultative Workshop with Grant Recipients organized by IFAD in 2019 in Johannesburg. Her participation, sponsored by IFAD's East and Southern Africa Division, aimed to develop synergies between IPAF-supported activities and organizations and IFAD-supported projects at country level. Opportunities to link IPAF projects to other IFAD partners (e.g. Slow Food) are also being explored.

### *Efforts made in monitoring and evaluation*

Data disaggregation with respect to indigenous peoples was already adopted by IFAD in 2017 in its revised Results and Impact Management System, and this is reflected in monitoring and evaluation systems of ongoing and newly design operations (e.g. Cambodia, China, Guatemala, India, Nepal, Philippines, Viet Nam).

In line with IFAD Strategic Framework (2016–2025)<sup>20</sup> and with the specific recommendation made by UNPFII to IFAD,<sup>21</sup> a set of well-being indicators for indigenous peoples to be adopted in IFAD operations will be developed in 2021, as planned in the IFAD Action Plan 2020–2021 on Indigenous Peoples. This process will build on indicators that were suggested by the representatives of indigenous peoples during the second global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD<sup>22</sup> as well as on monitoring and evaluation systems developed/adopted by IPAF regional partners. Nevertheless, some IFAD-funded projects are already adopting **socially disaggregated data and monitoring**

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<sup>20</sup> "IFAD's interventions and indigenous peoples' targeting will be improved, including through more in-depth sociocultural and vulnerability analyses of different target groups and by integrating specific indicators on their well-being to capture impacts and results."

<sup>21</sup> Recommendation 83 addressed to IFAD during its XVII Session in April 2018, to develop specific indicators on the well-being of indigenous peoples, to be applied in its funded projects.

<sup>22</sup> The indicators refer to: FPIC; traditional knowledge; and land, territories and resources.



**systems based on specific indicators related to indigenous peoples' well-being.** For example, an ongoing project in India (b) will capture the following: number of traditional/indigenous crop varieties recovered and conserved; area under traditional/indigenous crop varieties and changes over the project period; number of traditional soil and water conservation technologies replicated; and number of traditional settled agriculture technologies replicated. In Nicaragua (a), the new project will include the number of indigenous peoples' communities/territories consulted which gave FPIC for project activities, while in Sri Lanka (a), the number of groups with indigenous peoples in leadership positions is included among the proposed additional indicators related to climate change adaptation and natural resources management. As previously mentioned, relevant indicators for indigenous peoples were also adopted by newly approved COSOPs.

At the operational level, some good practices have been identified in terms of **participatory monitoring**. In Brazil, consultative councils will be established to ensure attainment of objectives, transparency and equity, which will include the participation of beneficiaries and civil society representatives, including indigenous peoples. The impact assessment for the new project in Guatemala includes social and environmental variables (such as climate impacts), as well as an analysis disaggregated for indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. Activities of citizen engagement in the project will also be monitored and surveys will be carried out on beneficiary satisfaction. In India (a), where 65 per cent of new project beneficiaries belong to tribal peoples, their participation in project monitoring will be ensured through **participatory supervision, annual outcome surveys, and a grievance redress mechanism**.

#### *Direct support to indigenous peoples' self-driven development*

IFAD is currently funding the fifth cycle of the IPAF through a US\$3 million grant that also includes cofunding from Tamalpais Trust, Christensen Fund, IWGIA, FILAC and the Packard Foundation.

The ongoing fifth IPAF cycle is supporting 32 small projects ranging from US\$20,000 to US\$50,000, lasting up to two years and focusing on indigenous youth's self-driven development in the following areas: food security and nutrition; access and rights to land, territories and resources; access to markets; and climate change mitigation and adaptation. In 2020, IPAF projects and their communities have been strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and a series of initiatives and measures have been taken to seek mitigation and containment of the spread of COVID-19, including reallocation of funds.

**The IPAF continued to be an important tool to promote capacity development of indigenous organizations.** The IPAF workshops organized in 2019 and 2020 by the three partners were important occasions to provide capacity development to the partner organizations implementing IPAF projects and for knowledge-sharing on lessons learned and challenges. It is worth mentioning that in 2020 the Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas<sup>23</sup> (FIMI) nominated an indigenous woman, a representative of the organization implementing the ongoing IPAF project in Guyana, to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of FIMI's Global Leadership School. In 2020, supervision missions were conducted to FIMI (Mexico) and SWT (Kenya) by two consultants working with the IPs Team at IFAD to assess their performance in managing the IPAF. One of the common aspects emerging from the supervisions was **the key role played by the IPAF for their institutional strengthening**, in terms of enhanced grant management, advocacy, partnership-building and resource mobilization. In addition, the active role played by the three regional partners at the regional and global levels facilitates the link between IPAF-funded projects and regional/global movements of indigenous peoples. In 2019 and 2020, former IPAF projects implemented in Colombia, Ethiopia and Morocco received additional funds from Pawanka Fund to scale up/enhance ongoing activities.

A new grant "*Renewable Energy Solutions for Village Electrification – Transferring Indigenous Energy Knowledge from Malaysia to Indonesia*" was approved by IFAD in 2019 to AMAN. Funded through ASAP,<sup>24</sup> the initiative aims to improve energy access among Indonesian indigenous peoples through the use of community-based micro-hydro systems as an environmentally low-impact and resilient technology providing a strong foundation for sustainable community development.

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<sup>23</sup> The International Indigenous Women's Forum.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/asap>.

### 3.d. Knowledge management, partnership and resource mobilization

Specific efforts were made in the biennium to enhance evidence-based knowledge management, thus improving the effectiveness and efficiency of IFAD operations in working with indigenous peoples in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

#### Guidelines/briefs

- A policy brief on “Partnering with indigenous peoples for the SDGs” was released in October 2019. It highlights how the involvement of indigenous peoples is key to achieving the ambitions of the SDGs: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/41390824>.
- In June 2020, IFAD published the “How to Do Note on Gender and Pastoralism”,<sup>25</sup> which highlights the importance of gender in pastoral production systems. Designed for country programme teams, consultants and technical advisors, this tool provides guidance for designing projects with gender-sensitive interventions targeted at empowering pastoralist women so as to achieve more equitable development.
- In 2019, IFAD published the “How to Do Note on Mainstreaming Nutrition into COSOPs and Investment Projects”, in which specific attention is given to indigenous peoples and their food systems.

#### KM events (e.g. webinars, seminars)

- IFAD’s “Change Lectures” were organized with representative from the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) and the Congress of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin<sup>26</sup> to raise awareness on the challenges faced by indigenous peoples from community contexts to global spaces.
- A number of events were organized/hosted by IFAD to share and discuss **the contribution of indigenous peoples’ knowledge in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic** within IFAD (e.g. Change Lectures, Webinars, seminar) and outside (e.g. in the context of the World Food Prize, Indigenous Terra Madre 2020, UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (UN HLPF)). In 2020 FIMI organized a webinar on “Indigenous Women Facing COVID-19: Impacts and Strategies to Face the Pandemic” attended by IPAF grantees in Latin America.
- In 2019–2020, representatives from indigenous peoples’ organizations participated in IFAD’s “Recipes for Change”,<sup>27</sup> sharing knowledge of their food systems and how climate change is affecting them.
- In 2019 and 2020, meetings and events were organized to promote awareness of Afro-descendant communities and their rights – for example IFAD’s Change Lecture on “*Building Institutional Commitment on Afro-descendants*”,<sup>28</sup> and the Terra Madre 2020 webinar on “*Afro-descendants in the Americas: the protection of traditions and food biodiversity along the centuries*” (organized with Slow Food and Slow Food Youth Network).

#### Websites and social media

A new infographic presentation was developed on IFAD’s engagement with indigenous peoples: <https://bit.ly/2Tyqdlq>.

- A dedicated webpage was developed for the upcoming fifth global meeting of the IPs’ Forum at IFAD: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/event/asset/42106119>.
- Knowledge management on IPAF results/lessons/good practices has been enhanced in collaboration with the three IPAF implementing partners.
  - The webpage dedicated to the IPAF has been updated with information/videos on the ongoing cycle: <https://www.ifad.org/en/ipaf>.
  - Web stories on IPAF projects have been published on IFAD’s website (<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/story/asset/42027438>) and Facebook page.
  - Videos are available from the IPAF mid-term workshop organized by FIMI in 2020 in Mexico City: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rst8JcCOv3M&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rst8JcCOv3M&feature=emb_logo); [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=Erlo2m76lOc&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=Erlo2m76lOc&feature=emb_logo);

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/publication/asset/42001014>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/story/asset/41462749>.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/recipes-for-change>.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/46191-afrodescendientes-la-matriz-la-desigualdad-social-america-latina-retos-la>.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYYNaZmZ8Sg&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYYNaZmZ8Sg&feature=emb_logo);  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUWizvf2Gbk&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUWizvf2Gbk&feature=emb_logo);  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKmDBV7E5-Q&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKmDBV7E5-Q&feature=emb_logo).

- A subpage dedicated to IPAF projects in Asia and the Pacific developed by Tebtebba can be found at: <https://www.tebtebba.org/index.php/our-initiatives/ipaf#>.
- A Facebook group was created by Tebtebba on IPAF-funded projects in Asia and the Pacific: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1394106604079125/>.
- Photo-essays of ongoing IPAF projects in Latin America were developed by FIMI: <https://ifad-un.blogspot.com/2020/11/el-salvador-indigenas-nahuat-pipil.html> and <https://ifad-un.blogspot.com/2020/07/fortalecer-la-resiliencia-los-efectos.html>.
- A photographic mission was conducted in 2019 to document the results of a project funded in Malaysia by the IPAF in 2015–2018. The photos were used to develop a photographic web story that was published on IFAD's website: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/photo/asset/41246662>.

### *Replicating and scaling up successful experiences and good practices.*

In July 2020, IFAD launched the first call for nominations for the **Indigenous Peoples Awards**<sup>29</sup> in partnership with the members of the Steering Committee of the IPs' Forum at IFAD and of the IPAF Board. Aimed to promote best practices, share knowledge and lessons learned, and replicate and scale up results in working with indigenous peoples, the Indigenous Peoples Awards aim to recognize the efforts and achievements of development projects that successfully engage with indigenous peoples living in rural areas.

**The Awards also respond to one of the recommendations made by the participants in the fourth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD.**<sup>30</sup> Among the 53 nominations submitted in response to the first call for proposals, the participants in the regional consultations in preparation for the fifth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD selected the best project for each category in their respective regions. A selection committee composed of members of the Steering Committee of the IPs' Forum at IFAD is responsible for selecting the three award winners.<sup>31</sup> The awards will be delivered in a dedicated knowledge-sharing session in the context of the fifth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD in February 2021, and the projects will gain visibility and recognition throughout IFAD and its network of partners.

IFAD is taking stock of, systematizing and capitalizing on its experiences in working with indigenous peoples. During the biennium, the good practices generated in Country Offices have been collected to inform future programmes and they will be shared during the fifth global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD.

Country Offices also provided interesting examples of how **the knowledge generated in IFAD-funded operations is being shared and replicated**. In India, a symposium on stocktaking of shifting cultivation was organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in 2019 with support from a small IFAD country grant. Nutrition initiatives piloted in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh (India (d)), were documented and shared with Result Group on Nutrition of the UN Sustainable Development Framework - India, as well as with other IFAD operations in the country<sup>32</sup> for their replication. Knowledge Management and Learning Fairs were organized by IFAD Mekong Hub, where indigenous people's stakeholders participated (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam).

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/news-detail/asset/42006286#:~:text=IFAD launches the first call,minorities living in rural areas>.

<sup>30</sup> IFAD was called upon to “*replicate and scale up successful experiences and good practices within projects funded by IFAD and the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility based on indicators defined by indigenous peoples*”.

<sup>31</sup> Based on the following criteria: results achieved; sustainability; adoption of an integrated approach (combining engagement with indigenous peoples with environment and climate change, gender, youth and nutrition); and project scalability and/or replicability.

<sup>32</sup> “*Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Project*” and “*Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme*”.

Moreover, three new IFAD grant projects<sup>33</sup> were signed in 2019 to support knowledge management, policy networks and dialogue which include support for indigenous peoples in Viet Nam. The UN Joint Programme for Accelerating Rural Women's Economic Empowerment and the IFAD project in Guatemala (b) collaborated on the systematization of successful experiences on savings and credit among indigenous women's groups; a policy brief will be developed on this topic.

A continuous effort is being made by the IPs Team at IFAD **to use the knowledge generated by the IPAF on indigenous peoples' needs, solutions and innovations to feed IFAD-funded projects.** A positive example has emerged this year in Congo, where the IFAD Country Office engaged with the organization implementing an IPAF project in the country to build on the organization's experiences in engaging with indigenous peoples for the design of an IFAD-funded project in the country. A report on knowledge and best practices in using traditional seed prepared by Highlander Association – implementing an IPAF project in Cambodia – has been disseminated to ongoing and planned projects in Cambodia.

#### *Empowering indigenous youth and their communities to defend and promote their food heritage*

During the biennium, IFAD's partnership with Slow Food continued to be strengthened through the implementation of the grant *"Empowering indigenous youth and their communities to defend and promote their food heritage"*,<sup>34</sup> started in 2017 with IFAD funding of US\$0.9 million. Due to the positive results achieved by the project, it was selected among the best IFAD grants in 2019. The project's goal was to empower indigenous youth and their communities to improve their livelihoods by protecting and promoting their food heritage and traditional practices, which guarantee sustainability and resilience. The grant also aimed to strengthen and consolidate the Indigenous Terra Madre network through the active participation of indigenous youth in its governing bodies. In the context of Indigenous Terra Madre 2020, a number of webinars and forums were organized focusing on community resilience in the context of COVID-19, forest peoples' food systems in the face of land- grabbing, and the protection of traditions and food biodiversity by Afro-descendant communities.

#### *Exploring opportunities to mobilize Green Climate Fund resources in support of indigenous peoples*

To follow up on the recommendation made during the last global meeting of the IPs' Forum at IFAD held 2019, the Latin America and the Caribbean division at **IFAD hired two consultants to develop a report including a strategy and road map for enhancing indigenous peoples' access to international environmental funding including, but not limited to, the Green Climate Fund (GCF).** As a follow up, IFAD and FILAC organized the webinar "An assessment of IFAD's potential role in facilitating indigenous peoples' access to GCF funds and other financial resources", held virtually on 16 April 2020. The meeting was attended by members of the Steering Committee of the Forum, UNPFII representatives, authors of the report and representatives from FILAC, GCF, Tebtebba and IFAD. Concrete next steps were also identified. Dialogues on resource mobilization to support indigenous peoples' self-driven initiatives have been established with the GCF.

As a major achievement, in 2020 **the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency decided to make a contribution in supplementary funds of about US\$4.5 million<sup>35</sup> to IFAD's Indigenous Peoples' Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Programme**, which aims to support, through the IPAF, indigenous peoples' livelihoods and their resilience to the challenges of climate change. The programme follows a two tier approach to drive long term sustainability by supporting IPAF sixth cycle, while building upon IFAD's experience with indigenous peoples and strengthen potential regional partners to directly serve as climate finance delivery partners.

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<sup>33</sup> (i) Network for agriculture and rural development think-tanks for Mekong Countries; (ii) SSTC – climate smart value chain knowledge management project and (iii) ICT-based market linkages between enterprises and farmers in Vietnam.

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.slowfood.com/our-network/indigenous/ifad-slow-food/>.

<sup>35</sup> SEK 38 million.



### *Collaborating with the International Land Coalition to promote indigenous peoples' land rights*

In 2019, IFAD approved a grant to the International Land Coalition (ILC) for “Promoting People-centred Land Governance with International Land Coalition Members”. The target group includes indigenous peoples and pastoralists. An IFAD-ILC joint proposal to integrate local communities' lands in IFAD's operations was selected among the winners of the first Innovation Challenge<sup>36</sup> launched by IFAD in 2019. The project aimed to explore innovative geospatial approaches and solutions for collecting/sharing data on indigenous and local community lands. Pilot exercises were carried out in 2019 and 2020 in IFAD Country Offices in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and the United Republic of Tanzania.

As a key pillar for IFAD's engagement with indigenous peoples, during the biennium the Fund continued to **strengthen its partnerships with indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions** (e.g. Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Centre for the Autonomy and Development of Indigenous Peoples, GYIC, AMAN, IPAF regional partners, among others), foundations (Packard Foundation, Christensen Fund, FILAC, Tamalpais Trust) and NGOs advocating for indigenous peoples' rights (e.g. IWGIA).

### *3.e. Supporting policy dialogue and national and global policy engagement*

In terms of **global policy engagement**, in the biennium IFAD has supported the direct participation of indigenous delegates in the activities of relevant forums and institutions – such as the UNPFII; the UN HLPF; the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development; and the GIYC – as well as in relevant events, such as the World Food Summit and the Committee on World Food Security.

**At the national level**, in order to implement the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples outcome document and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, IFAD has supported policy dialogue among indigenous peoples, governments and UN Country Teams led by indigenous peoples' organizations in 10 countries.<sup>37</sup> Such support has taken place since 2015, together with IWGIA and in cooperation with the Secretariat of the UNPFII. Successful results of this initiative include the launch of the National Action Plan of Indigenous Peoples in El Salvador (PLANPIES) by the Salvadorean President in December 2018, the development of guidelines for public policy on indigenous peoples in Paraguay, and the adoption of a framework for action on indigenous peoples in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As a member of the Inter-Agency Support Group (IASG) on Indigenous Issues, IFAD is currently co-chairing a working group on Country Policy Engagement and Capacity Development as part of the implementation of the UN System-wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Updates on policy engagement at country level were provided by IFAD Country Offices during the regional consultations.

The Action Plan of the Rome-based Agencies (IFAD, FAO, World Food Programme) is including a line of action to support the implementation of PLANPIES in El Salvador. In Peru, the *Grupo de Desarrollo Rural*<sup>38</sup>, led by the *Centro Latinoamericano para el Desarrollo Rural*<sup>39</sup> and funded by IFAD with the aim to facilitate policy dialogue for rural transformation, has included the active participation of indigenous youth organizations.

In Indonesia, IFAD's Country office has started discussions with AMAN to develop a common strategy with UN Country Teams to support the implementation of the customary forests law. In Viet Nam and Cambodia, indigenous peoples participated in consultations organized by government and national Committees where they also provided inputs on their rights to land and

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/innovation-challenge/page11.html#content5-6z>.

<sup>37</sup> Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Myanmar, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda.

<sup>38</sup> Rural Dialogue Group.

<sup>39</sup> Latin American Center for Rural Development.

natural resources. In Nepal, IFAD's Country Office participated in a high-level dialogue on "Policy/Standards and Development Approach Addressing Rights, Issues and Concerns of Indigenous Peoples" organized by indigenous peoples' organizations in the country. In Viet Nam, good practices in working with ethnic minorities in IFAD operations have been documented for replication in relevant national plans/programmes.

**IFAD's ongoing decentralization process provides a key occasion to further support policy engagement at country level.** This is happening mainly through the design of COSOPs as well as IFAD's portfolio reviews, which offer opportunities to strengthen/facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples in policy-making processes, including dialogue at national level (e.g. Central African Republic, Mexico). Ongoing IFAD operations are also providing space for indigenous peoples' participation in national platforms relevant to them. For example, in Burundi, members of the Batwa communities are invited to country-level dialogues to define national strategies. In Peru (b), one of the ongoing projects calls for actions and resources to promote and facilitate policy dialogue, seeking to open up a space whereby indigenous peoples can have an influence and improve their participation and social and economic inclusion. IFAD operations in El Salvador include mechanisms for institutional strengthening of indigenous peoples' organizations and networks as well as for their participation in public policy dialogues for rural development.

As highlighted in the Assessment of the fourth IPAF cycle,<sup>40</sup> **the Facility is a key tool for indigenous peoples to engage in policy platforms** relevant to them and their rights. In the ongoing IPAF cycle, indigenous youth and women started to engage and coordinate with local and national government bodies on issues that affect their communities, including climate change and land rights (e.g. Congo,<sup>41</sup> India<sup>42</sup> and Nepal<sup>43</sup>).

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<sup>40</sup> [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/41013759/IPAF\\_report\\_e\\_web.pdf/7f262882-599e-dc77-d85e-a89996583b05](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/41013759/IPAF_report_e_web.pdf/7f262882-599e-dc77-d85e-a89996583b05).

<sup>41</sup> IPAF project: "Strengthening the Food Security of Indigenous Youth and Women in the Ingolo 2 Village through Learning about Maize Growing and Processing".

<sup>42</sup> IPAF project: "Empowering Tribal Youth for Nutritional Food Security and Income Enhancement in Karaput District of South Odisha".

<sup>43</sup> IPAF project: "Indigenous Youth Empowerment and Creating, Income-Generating Project (IYE-CIGP)".

## ANNEX I: List of projects cited in the report

Brazil: *Planting climate resilience in rural communities of the Northeast Project*  
Bolivia: *Constructing a culture of resilience against climate change for rural families in Bolivia*  
Burundi: *Agricultural Production Intensification and Vulnerability Reduction Project*  
Cambodia: *Sustainable Assets for Agriculture Markets, Business and Trade Project*  
Cameroon: *Youth Agropastoral Entrepreneurship Programme*  
Central African Republic: *Project to Improve the Productivity and Access to Markets of Agricultural Products in the Savannah Zones*  
China (a): *Yunnan Rural Revitalization Demonstration Project*  
China (b): *Hunan Rural Revitalization Demonstration Project*  
Colombia: *Building Rural Entrepreneurial Capacities Programme: Trust and Opportunity*  
Ecuador: *Sustainable and Appropriate Development Project in Rural Territories*  
El Salvador: *National Programme of Rural Economic Transformation for Living Well – Rural Adelante*  
Eritrea: *Integrated Agriculture Development Project*  
Ethiopia: *Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project*  
Gabon: *Agricultural and Rural Development Project, Phase II*  
Guatemala (a): *Project Responding to COVID-19: modern and resilient agrifood value chains*  
Guatemala (b): *Sustainable Rural Development Programme for the Northern Region*  
India (a): *Maharashtra Rural Women's Enterprise Development Project (Nav Tejaswini)*  
India (b): *Fostering Climate Resilient Upland Farming Systems in the Northeast*  
India (c): *Odisha Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme*  
India (d): *Tejaswini Rural Women's Empowerment Programme*  
Indonesia (a): *Transformasi Ekonomi Kampung Terpadu – Integrated Village Economic Transformation*  
Indonesia (b): *Uplands Agriculture Productivity and Markets Project*  
Kenya: *Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project*  
Lao People's Democratic Republic: *Partnerships for Irrigation and Commercialization of Smallholder Agriculture Project*  
Nepal (a): *Value Chains for Inclusive Transformation of Agriculture*  
Nepal (b): *Agriculture Sector Development Programme*  
Nicaragua (a): *Inclusive and resilient value chains linked to artisanal fishery and aquaculture in the Caribbean Coast Programme*  
Nicaragua (b): *Nicaraguan Dry Corridor Rural Family Sustainable Development Project*  
Niger: *Project to Strengthen Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutrition Insecurity*  
Pakistan: *Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project II*  
Peru (a): *Extension of Public Services for Local Productive Development in the Highlands and Rainforest of Peru (Avanzar Rural)*  
Peru (b): *Sustainable Territorial Development Project*  
Sudan (a): *Sustainable Natural Resources and Livelihoods Programme*  
Sudan (b): *Livestock Marketing and Resilience Programme*  
Sri Lanka: *Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project*  
Tonga: *Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II (Additional financing)*  
Viet Nam: *Commercial Smallholder Support Project in Bac Kan and Cao Bang*

## ANNEX II: IFAD-funded projects approved in 2019/2020 - Highlights of strategy to work with indigenous peoples

Approval Year	Country	Project title	Project area and target groups	Highlights of strategy to work with indigenous peoples
2020	Brazil	Planting climate resilience in rural communities of the Northeast Project*  * Co-funded by GCF	Geographic area: semi-arid region of approximately three States of Northeast Brazil  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The project includes the IPPF, including provisions for FPIC.</li> <li>(ii) The youth strategy will give special attention to young women and those coming from indigenous and traditional communities.</li> <li>(iii) The use of NUS with high nutritional value will be promoted.</li> <li>(iv) Specific efforts will be made to ensure that the territorial resilience investment plans reflect the needs of indigenous peoples (focus on indigenous women as “guardians of knowledge” and “farmer-experimenters”).</li> <li>(v) Consultative councils, including indigenous peoples’ representatives, will be set up to ensure attainment of objectives, transparency and equity.</li> <li>(vi) Specific training will be provided to technical staff on engagement with indigenous peoples and FPIC.</li> </ul>
2020	China	Yunnan Rural Revitalization Demonstration Project	Geographical area: seven currently nationally designated poor counties within the four municipalities/prefectures of Dali, Lijiang, Nujiang and Zhaotong,  % of ethnic minorities benefiting from the project: 60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The project will have a specific focus on ethnic minorities.</li> <li>(ii) Consultations with ethnic minorities’ communities will take place to ensure their aspirations, inclusion barriers and needs are considered in the development strategies.</li> <li>(iii) FPIC principles will be followed in planning and formulation of project interventions.</li> </ul>
2020	Eritrea	Integrated Agriculture Development Project	Geographical area: all six Zobas, with core interventions implemented in the four inland Zobas, while the two coastal Zobas will mostly be supported through environment and ecosystem protection interventions.  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) As investments in specific communities and territories were not identifiable during the project design stage, FPIC will further be solicited during the implementation phase.</li> <li>(ii) A detailed youth needs assessment will be incorporated as part of the socio-economic survey to determine the youth groupings for targeted interventions, including young people from minority groups.</li> </ul>



2020	India	Maharashtra Rural Women's Enterprise Development Project (Nav Tejaswini)	Geographical area: 34 rural districts of Maharashtra  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 65%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The project will ensure participation of tribal communities in the project activities without any adverse impacts on local tribal groups.</li> <li>ii) Beneficiary participation in project monitoring will be ensured through participatory supervision, annual outcome surveys and a grievance redress mechanism.</li> </ul>
2020	Kenya	Kenya Livestock Commercialization Project	Geographical area: counties in the Western region, Rift Valley region and Northern Region  % of indigenous peoples benefitting from the project: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Marginalized tribes such as indigenous people and vulnerable groups will benefit from the project interventions through quotas and delivery mechanisms sensitive to their needs and aspirations.</li> <li>(ii) An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework and Plan has been developed and will inform the development of the indigenous peoples' action plan in consultation with indigenous peoples.</li> </ul>
2020	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Partnerships for Irrigation and Commercialization of Smallholder Agriculture Project - ADDITIONAL FINANCING	Geographical area: initial focus on high- value crops to be supported by 15 targeted irrigation schemes in 12 districts in 4 provinces  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The targeting strategy, which includes ethnic minorities, builds on the active involvement of village authorities.</li> <li>ii) FPIC provisions are included.</li> <li>iii) Activities in the field of nutrition focus on the nutrition at-risk category of ethnic groups, adolescent girls, young mothers and children.</li> </ul>
2020	Nepal	Value Chains for Inclusive Transformation of Agriculture	Geographical area: 28 districts in States 2, 3 and 5  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) There will be participatory programme planning/ implementation</li> <li>(ii) Proportionate participation from women, Dalit, indigenous and marginalized communities, and youth will be ensured. Their concerns will be streamlined into the programme's planning and implementation processes.</li> <li>(iii) The programme will build on the advanced knowledge of traditional agricultural practices blended with modern technology.</li> </ul>
2020	Pakistan	Gwadar-Lasbela Livelihoods Support Project II	Geographical area: districts of Gwadar and Lasbel  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 35%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The project intervention has opportunities to strengthen indigenous climate risk management capabilities.</li> <li>(ii) Capacity-building is planned for indigenous peoples' fishers in coastal areas.</li> </ul>

2019	Cambodia	Sustainable Assets for Agriculture Markets, Business and Trade Project	<p>Geographical area: nationally and in 50 areas of smallholder production of commodities targeted by ASPIRE and AIMS (<i>ongoing IFAD operations</i>)</p> <p>% of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: Phase 1 does not include significant ethnic minority populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Subprojects in environmentally sensitive areas or requiring significant land acquisition will be excluded.</li> <li>(ii) Interests of indigenous minority groups will be protected through dialogue and informed consent with minority leaders and through advice of the Department of Ethnic Minority.</li> <li>(iii) In targeting indigenous groups, project planning activities will take specific consideration their need and interests including through engagement with their representatives and application of FPIC.</li> <li>(iv) Lessons learned from Ministry of Rural Development' recently completed project (Economic Infrastructure Programme to Sustain Land Reform) which financed infrastructure for indigenous minority communities will be applied.</li> </ul>
2019	Central African Republic	Project to Revitalize Crop and Livestock Production in the Savannah - ADDITIONAL FINANCING	<p>Geographical area: subprefectures of Bouar, Baoro, Bossemptélé and Yaloké, with a possible expansion to Bozoum following the midterm review</p> <p>% of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 1.4%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) One of the consequences of the 2013-2014 crisis is the deterioration of social cohesion, and the departure from the project area of livestock farmers, particularly the Mbororo people. Specific measures will be adopted to encourage the mainstreaming of women and young people and the return of indigenous livestock farmers belonging to the Mbororo people.</li> </ul>
2019	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Inclusive and Resilient Rural Development Support Project	<p>Geographical area: missing</p> <p>% of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 5%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The project intends to support a better inclusion of youth, women and indigenous people along the entire value chain.</li> <li>(ii) FPIC provision is included in the project.</li> </ul>
2019	Ethiopia	Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project	<p>Geographical area: about 100 woredas of the Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, SNNPR, and Somali</p> <p>% of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: TBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The Project Design Report mentions the implementation of nine principles of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>(ii) The project will identify indigenous knowledge and customary institutions that are expected to play pivotal roles in further strengthening various development activities among pastoral and agropastoral communities. Best practices and success stories will be identified and shared with all concerned stakeholders.</li> </ul>

2019	Gabon	Agricultural and Rural Development Project, Phase II - ADDITIONAL FINANCING	Geographical area: Ngounié, Ogooué-Ivindo, Woleu-Ntem  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 0.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Specific measures to ensure the involvement of Baka are included (also in the gender strategy).</li> <li>(ii) The project will establish partnerships with local organizations of indigenous peoples and local NGOs.</li> <li>(iii) Participation in policy dialogue is planned in order to ensure that the concerns of poor rural populations and their organizations are considered, including those representing youth and indigenous populations.</li> </ul>
2019	Indonesia	Transformasi Ekonomi Kampung Terpadu - Integrated Village Economic Transformation	Geographical area: 25 districts in the five eastern provinces of Indonesia - East Nusa Tenggara, Maluku, North Maluku, Papua and West Papua,  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) FPIC will be required from local indigenous communities.</li> <li>(ii) The project will build on social and indigenous entrepreneurship.</li> <li>(iii) A GESI will be developed to ensure that indigenous groups, among others, participate in project activities and benefit directly.</li> <li>(iv) The mapping methodology will draw on the "indigenous food systems appraisal" developed by AMAN.</li> </ul>
2019	Indonesia	Uplands Agriculture Productivity and Markets Project	Geographical area: provinces of Banten, Central Java, East Java, Gorontalo, North Sulawesi, West Java and West Nusa Tenggara  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The project will adhere to the principles of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.</li> <li>(ii) The project will only start in those provinces where indigenous peoples are located and only after and if appropriate FPIC is obtained.</li> <li>(iii) In working with indigenous peoples, the project will focus on community-driven development, valuing local knowledge, access to markets, gender equality, and climate-resilient agriculture.</li> <li>(iv) A social mobilization process will be put in place to ensure the inclusion of women, youth or any other group that may have been excluded from existing farmer's organizations.</li> </ul>
2019	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Partnerships for Irrigation and Commercialization of Smallholder Agriculture Project	Geographical area: roughly 90 villages associated with the 15 schemes of the Sustainable Rural Infrastructure and Watershed Management Sector Project; coverage will be expanded to similar villages in other districts  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The local planning approach will ensure that ethnic minorities and other vulnerable people will have full access to information and will have opportunities to express their needs and concerns.</li> <li>(ii) A full Indigenous Peoples Plan is not deemed necessary but good practices to ensure full participation will be applied, including a continuous consultation process and communication in local/ethnic languages where necessary, among other practices.</li> </ul>

2019	Niger	Project to Strengthen Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutrition Insecurity	Geographical area: 186 municipalities in the regions of Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi and Zinder, including 46 additional municipalities with 6,606 villages in the regions covered by the Family Farming Development Programme  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: TBC	(i) The project will contribute to the protection of natural resources by consolidating the pastoral corridors. (ii) Rights of way and use of natural resources of nomadic pastoral groups will be respected.
2019	Peru	Extension of Public Services for Local Productive Development in the Highlands and Rainforest of Peru	Geographical area: Amazonas, Ancash, Cajamarca, Lima and San Martin regions  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 6%	(i) The projects will take into account the characteristics of land tenure, gender, age and ethnic status, family income, survival strategies, climate vulnerability (and others) of each group.
2019	Sri Lanka	Smallholder Agribusiness and Resilience Project	Geographical area: focus on priority districts in the North, North Central, Central, and North West provinces of the dry zone  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: TBC	(i) The design includes empowering, enabling and procedural measures to promote sustainable socio-economic development, with a particular focus on youth, women, indigenous people, women-headed households, single women, widows and other vulnerable groups. (ii) The number of groups with indigenous peoples in leadership positions is included among the proposed additional indicators related to climate change adaptation and natural resources management (PDR, Appendix 2).
2019	Sudan	Sustainable Natural Resources and Livelihoods Programme	Geographical area: nine States across the Butana region in the East, the Sennar Region in the South-East and the Kordofan Region in the West  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 50%	(i) Pastoralists will be a key target group. From the outset, they will be involved in consultations regarding the management of the common resources and will also participate in the governance structures developed for oversight of the common resources. (ii) Seed capital will be provided to support start up pastoralist youth enterprises.
2019	Tonga	Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II (TRIP II) - ADDITIONAL FINANCING	Geographical area: national focus  % of indigenous peoples benefiting from the project: 100%	(i) The traditional community planning process was revitalized in TRIPI, showing awareness of local sensitivities, as well as being willing to be flexible to accommodate local needs. TRIPII is well-placed to ensure that the process builds on and contributes to a cultural space which is self-defined and inclusive. (ii) Targeting will take into account each major island group's history. The hallmark of the TRIPI approach has been the awareness of traditional and modern cultural spaces and the capacity to combine these for effective planning.



