

## IPAF-funded project

### Guyana

#### Reconnecting Wapichan Youth with Traditional Knowledge

This project engages with Wapichan youth in a traditional knowledge transmission process with elders, focused on traditional farming techniques, crop-processing skills, and skills in the harvesting and use of non-timber forest products. Special attention is given to indigenous peoples' knowledge and practices and how they will be put to use for community-driven development and livelihood enterprises.

Wapichan way of life is based on the concept that the Wapichan people depend on Mother Earth and that they need to care for and respect their environment. The project plans to support this connection through activities that strengthen traditional practices and their importance to Wapichan culture. One of the priorities of the project is to introduce indigenous youth to the use of technology and to natural resource conservation, in order to stimulate their interest in cultural issues, preserve the Wapichan language, and help them develop their own potential as leaders and environmental advocates. Videos and stories from the indigenous youth participants will be shared with a wider audience, including their peers in other communities, along with the knowledge they have gained. Indigenous youth involved in this project are considered as the future leaders who will not only be holding the traditional knowledge of the Wapichan people, but will also be linking with and contributing to the growing indigenous movement at the global level.

The project is a clear example of how the IPAF can contribute to strengthening indigenous peoples' networks and supporting sub-grantees to link with regional and international networks. The IPAF implementing partner at the regional level is the International Indigenous Women's Forum/Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indígenas (best known as FIMI, by its Spanish initials). FIMI facilitates the creation of spaces for dialogue, capacity-building and leadership development through its four strategic programmes: (i) Policy engagement and advocacy; (ii) Training and capacity building; (iii) Research and impact; and (iv) the Indigenous Women's Fund. The main strength of FIMI is its ability to articulate the different instances of the indigenous movement and link organizations operating at different levels. Through its Global Leadership School, FIMI particularly facilitates linkages among participating organizations and advocacy and political actions. A young indigenous woman from the project presented an action plan for advocacy and was selected for funding to access FIMI's Global Leadership School (seventh edition).

Additional resources:

- [Interview with Immaculata Casimero \(SCPDA, Guyana\)](#)

#### KEY FACTS

##### SUB-GRANTEE

South Central Peoples' Development Association (SCPDA)

##### COUNTRY

Guyana

##### PROJECT AREA

South Rupununi, Region 9

##### TARGETED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Wapichan

##### IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

2019–2021

##### SIPAF GRANT

US\$ 50,000