INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ FORUM AT IFAD

Promoting Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and Innovations for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development

Regional consultation workshops 2018
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Introduction:

As a key instrument to implement the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum was established at IFAD in 2011. The Forum is as a permanent process of consultation and dialogue between representatives from indigenous peoples’ institutions and organizations, IFAD and governments. The Forum enables participants to assess IFAD’s engagement with indigenous peoples, consult on rural development and poverty reduction and promote the participation of indigenous peoples’ organizations in IFAD’s activities at the country, regional and international levels. Overall, these activities help IFAD to implement its policy and translate its principles into action on the ground.

The global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples’ Forum convenes every other year in conjunction with IFAD’s Governing Council, IFAD’s main decision-making body. In preparation for each global meeting, regional consultation workshops are organized to ensure that the Forum reflects the diversity of perspectives and recommendations gathered from indigenous peoples in the various regions where IFAD operates and track the progress on past agreements.

A unique process within the UN system, the Forum institutionalizes IFAD’s consultation and dialogue with indigenous peoples’ representatives at all levels and provides an opportunity for indigenous peoples and IFAD to further strengthen their collaboration for rural transformation.

Past editions of the Forum

At the three previous global meetings indigenous peoples’ representatives called on IFAD to support initiatives to recognize and protect their rights; value their knowledge; strengthen their participation throughout IFAD’s project cycles; and ensure that free, prior and informed consent is respected.

The global Indigenous Peoples Forum meeting is the culmination of a broader process

In preparation for the third global meeting of the Forum in 2017, regional workshops took place in late 2016 in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific in order to identify regional recommendations for further strengthening the partnership between IFAD and indigenous peoples.

The overall theme for the third global meeting was economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth.

consent (FPIC) is sought in the context of IFAD-funded projects.

The third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD took place in Rome in February 2017.

In the Synthesis of Deliberations that was based on the discussions and contributions during the Global meeting, Indigenous Peoples of Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, acknowledged that:

- There has been progress in the implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and the strengthening of partnerships between indigenous peoples and IFAD.
- The increased participation of indigenous peoples in IFAD operations has resulted in improved targeting and enhanced quality in the design of IFAD's country strategies and several projects and their implementation.

They recognized IFAD's leading role in finding avenues for indigenous peoples to promote their concept of self-determined development. In particular, they highly appreciated:

- The strong commitment of the outgoing IFAD President, Kanayo F. Nwanze, and they call upon the new leadership to enhance IFAD's development effectiveness with indigenous peoples within the framework of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Among the recommendations addressed by indigenous representatives to IFAD were:

- To promote programme-based mechanisms to ensure the systematic participation of indigenous peoples in project design and implementation and in in-country policy engagement and ensure those mechanisms support consultation with and participation of indigenous women and youth, in line with the IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.
- To establish partnerships with indigenous peoples to mobilize resources through the Green Climate Fund that will support community resilience and adaptation initiatives, using indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge and innovations.

These recommendations echo the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples held in 2014, which recognizes that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. States also acknowledge the importance of indigenous peoples benefiting of their knowledge, innovations and practices. In addition, States commit to respect the contributions of indigenous peoples to ecosystem management and sustainable development and confirm that indigenous peoples' knowledge and strategies to sustain their environment should be respected and considered when they develop national and international approaches on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

1 Indigenous Peoples' Forum: https://www.ifad.org/web/guest/indigenous-peoples-forum
The new IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025, in line with the 2030 Agenda\(^2\) which commits to leave no one behind, reaffirms IFAD’s commitment to indigenous peoples’ self-driven development. The Strategic Framework states that IFAD will pro-actively support indigenous peoples, as part of its target group, in developing their skills and assets to benefit from emerging economic opportunities, while respecting and enhancing their traditional livelihoods, occupations and knowledge. IFAD’s interventions and its targeting of indigenous peoples will be improved by conducting more in-depth socio-cultural and vulnerability analyses of different target groups and by integrating specific indicators on their well-being to capture impacts and results.

The fourth Global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD

Promoting Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and Innovations for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development will be the overall theme for the forth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD. The meeting is scheduled to take place at IFAD Headquarters in Rome on 12-13 February 2019, in conjunction with the Governing Council. This will also be the theme for the regional consultation workshops that will be organized in preparation for the global meeting in November and December 2018.

Among the nine principles of the 2009 IFAD’s Policy of Engagement with Indigenous People\(^3\), two directly relate to indigenous knowledge, and climate change. The policy recognizes that indigenous peoples are often bearers of unique knowledge and custodians of biodiversity. IFAD will support pro-poor research that blends traditional knowledge and practices with modern and scientific approaches as well as blending new ways with traditional ones to improve their livelihoods. With regard to climate change, the policy states that IFAD will support indigenous peoples in enhancing the resilience of the ecosystems in which they live and in developing innovative adaptation measures. IFAD will also not fund mitigation measures that could have a significant negative impact on their livelihoods.

The need to engage indigenous peoples in Climate Change policies and actions has been recognized by the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. The preamble of the Paris agreement (2015) also acknowledges that Parties, when taking action to address climate change, should respect, promote and consider their respective obligations including those related to indigenous peoples. The international climate policy arena has also recognized the unique role that indigenous peoples and local communities play in exchanging knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change.

The decision of the UNFCC COP 23 (2017) to operationalize the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Knowledge- Sharing Platform (LCIP) and the adoption by the Green Climate Fund of an Indigenous Peoples’ Policy are two major developments regarding inclusion of indigenous peoples in decision making related to climate action.

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\(^3\) IFAD Policy of engagement with Indigenous Peoples [https://www.ifad.org/documents/38711624/39417924/ip_policy_e.pdf/a7cd3bc3-8622-4302-afdf-6db216ad5f6b](https://www.ifad.org/documents/38711624/39417924/ip_policy_e.pdf/a7cd3bc3-8622-4302-afdf-6db216ad5f6b)
and ensuring respect for and the active protection of indigenous peoples rights in Climate Change financing instruments and projects.

All these recent developments point to the importance of understanding, from the perspective of indigenous peoples, how to ensure that IFAD polices, program and instruments promote and support Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and Innovations for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development. Therefore, it has been decided that this will be the overall theme for the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD.

**Promoting Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and Innovations for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development**

The following articles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) have a direct relevance to the overall theme of the 4th session of the Indigenous Peoples Forum.

**Art. 5:** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

**Art. 11:** Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

**Art. 23,** recognize the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the exercise of their right to development;

**Art. 25,** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive, spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.

**Art. 20,** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.


**The Outcome Document of World Conference of Indigenous Peoples** adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2014, recognizes that traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It also acknowledges “the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples, wherever possible, in the benefits of their knowledge, innovations and practices”. States also commit themselves to respecting the contributions of indigenous peoples to ecosystem management and sustainable development, including knowledge acquired through experience in hunting, gathering, fishing, pastoralism and agriculture, as well as their sciences, technologies and cultures.
In 2015, countries adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals**. The new Development Agenda aims to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new agreed Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

The voice of indigenous peoples is key in moving towards greater policy coherence. when development interventions seek to attain intrinsically linked objectives related to economic growth, poverty reduction, sustainable development and climate change.

With regard to the SDGs, it should be highlighted that States have committed themselves to adopt urgent measures to combat climate change and its effects, among the targets adopted are strengthening resilience and the ability to adapt to climate and environmental risks. natural disasters in all countries; incorporate measures related to climate change into national policies, strategies and plans; and, improve education, awareness and human and institutional capacity in relation to climate change mitigation, adaptation, reduction of its effects and early warning.

One of the agreed measures to achieve this objective is the promotion of mechanisms to increase the capacity for effective planning and management in relation to climate change in countries (least developed and small island) focusing on women, youth, local communities and marginalized groups).

Other SDGs relevant to indigenous peoples is the reduction of inequality in and between countries, especially by the inequality gaps that are observed between indigenous peoples and the rest of societies.

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**Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development**

https://www.indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/index.php/english/
where they live, regardless of the countries. To overcome this situation, States have committed to promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all people, regardless of their age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic situation or other condition, guaranteeing the equal opportunities and reduce inequality of results, through the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies and practices and the promotion of appropriate laws, policies and measures. For the proper monitoring of the implementations of the goals and targets said measures, indigenous peoples have stressed the need for improving the quantity and quality of the data that are available regarding the situation of indigenous peoples and ensuring its disaggregation.

Both the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, highlight the growing international concern and commitment to addressing climate change and its social, environmental and economic impact.

Indigenous peoples are among those who have contributed least to the problem of climate change, yet they are the ones suffering from its worst impacts. They are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change because many of them depend on ecosystems that are particularly prone to the effects of climate change and extreme weather events. Some of the most affected regions are small islands, high altitudes, humid tropics, coastal regions, deserts and polar areas. Global warming increases the risk of disease, changes animal migration routes, reduces biodiversity, causes saltwater inundation of fresh water, destroys crops and results in food insecurity.

Indigenous peoples are, however, not simply victims of climate change but have an important contribution to make to address climate change. Due to their close relationship with the environment, indigenous peoples are uniquely positioned to adapt to climate change. Indigenous peoples are also repositories of learning and knowledge about how to cope successfully with local-level climate change and respond effectively to major environmental changes such as natural disasters. Indigenous peoples play a fundamental role in the conservation of biological diversity and the protection of forests and other natural resources, and their traditional knowledge of the environment can substantively enrich scientific knowledge and adaptation activities when taking climate change-related actions.

The Paris Agreement is the first climate change treaty to explicitly recognize human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples. The preamble acknowledges that climate change is a common concern of humankind and that parties should, when acting to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health and the rights of indigenous peoples. These references provide an important milestone and commitment, as in implementing the Agreement, parties should ensure that indigenous peoples’ rights are respected in their climate change measures.
Following a decision of the Paris Agreement, the UNFCCC COP 23 (2017) decided to operationalize the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Knowledge-Sharing Platform (LCIP). The adoption of the platform opens a new space to bring to and share indigenous knowledge, positive contributions and lessons learned with the climate change action discussions and negotiations, and it thus presents an opportunity for strengthened engagement between indigenous peoples and the climate change community.

On February 2018, The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board approved the GCF’s Indigenous Peoples Policy. The policy aims “to put in place a process and requirements for ensuring the GCF activities are developed and implemented in such a way that fosters full respect for and the active protection and promotion of indigenous peoples’ dignity and, rights. Identities, aspirations, natural resource-based livelihoods, autonomy, protagonism and cultural uniqueness”

As a response to the situation of Indigenous Peoples and Renewable Energy in the context of the implementation of SDG 7, and the call of 2030 Agenda for Development (SDGs) of “leaving no one behind” as well as on Developing Partnerships to achieve the SDGs (Goal 17 on Means of Implementation), and combatting climate change, the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG) has initiated the establishment of the Right Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples (REP) with the following goals

• Ensure that renewable energy projects are fully aligned with the respect and protection of human rights; and
• Provide at least 50 million indigenous peoples access to renewable energy by 2030 that is developed and managed in ways that are consistent with their self-determined needs and development aspirations.

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE RIGHT ENERGY PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development, July 2018

IFAD’s experiences and ongoing reforms

The focus of the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD is an opportunity for indigenous peoples and IFAD staff to capitalize on their experiences and further strengthen their collaboration taking into consideration also the ongoing process of IFAD’s reforms.

Through a major decentralization IFAD will increase its presence at country level. Furthermore, IFAD is revising and enhancing the Country Strategic Opportunities

Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
http://unsr.vtaulicorpuz.org/site/images/docs/annual/2017-a-hrc-36-46-en.pdf

As they are among those most affected by climate change, indigenous peoples have for over two decades been demanding greater protection of their human rights and increased participation in the context of international discussions and negotiations on climate change action. They continue to advocate for the development of a human rights-based approach to climate change, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
Programmes (COSOP) and the Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP). Last but not least, IFAD is going to revise its Targeting Policy on the basis of the achievements made so far.

The corporate re-organization has led to the shift of the Indigenous People team to the Environment, Climate Change, Gender and Social Inclusion Division at IFAD. Within this Division, the Social Inclusion team will be responsible to strengthen IFAD's competency what regards gender, youth, nutrition and indigenous peoples and tribal issues.

In 2015 IFAD's Independent Office of Evaluation also carried out an Evaluation Synthesis on IPs. The main lessons learned are the following:

- Operationalization of FPIC needs more clarity at corporate level. FPIC is about effective beneficiary participation throughout the project cycle,
- there are considerable improvements needed to be done.
- Geographical targeting approaches have not been in accordance with IFADs targeting policy and there must be a change to this. Caution is necessary to ensure that primary geographical focus does not diminish the focus on indigenous peoples' specific issues.
- Project designs must be responsive to indigenous peoples' priorities and thus be demand-driven.
- IFAD has the capacity and potential to influence institutions, policies and international processes what regards the protection of indigenous peoples.


The regional workshops

In preparation for the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD, regional workshops will be organized in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.

Goal

To ensure that indigenous peoples lead their own direct engagement and contribution in the preparation process for the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD.

Objectives

Within the overall focus, the specific objectives of the regional workshops are to:

- Exchange experiences and good practices on Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and Innovations on Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development.
- Identify the challenges that indigenous peoples face in promoting Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and Innovations for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Development.

4 https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/40320989/traditional_knowledge_advantage.pdf/58c15785-2072-4265-993f-3ac7ae9127c9
✓ Identify opportunities for strengthening good practices as sustainable solutions for the future, and the corresponding elements for regional strategies to enhance IFAD’s support to them.

✓ Analyze and formulate action-oriented recommendations on the theme of the 2018 Forum and draft regional action plans that will guide negotiations between indigenous peoples and development partners and donors (including IFAD staff) during the fourth global meeting of the indigenous peoples’ forum at IFAD.

**The regional workshops will also:**

- Review the recommendations made at the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD (2017) and assess the progress of the recommendations and regional action plans adopted.
- Visit a project financed by IFAD or IPAF (depending on proximity and availability of resources).
- Draft TORs for Country Coordinating Mechanisms formed by representatives of IPs’ organizations
- Prepare the regional participation in the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD.

**Time frame and organization**

The Asia regional consultation is being organized by AMAN and the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA). The workshop will take place in Bogor, Indonesia from 12 to 15 November 2018.

The Pacific regional consultation is being organized by PIFON and IWGIA. The workshop will take place in Nadi, Fiji from 4 to 7 December 2018.

The Latin America and Caribbean regional consultation is being organized by Centro para la Autonomía y Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI) and IWGIA. The workshop will take place in Panama from 10 to 13 December 2018.

The Africa regional workshop is being organized by MPIDO and IWGIA. The workshop will take place in Nairobi from 19 to 23 in November 2018.

All regional consultations will be organized in cooperation with IFAD country offices and IFAD staff.

**Participants**

Expected participants in the regional workshop are:

- Representatives of regional and sub-regional networks/constituencies of indigenous peoples (to be selected by the members of the steering committee in consultation with
their regional and sub-regional networks/constituencies). They will represent 40 per cent of participants.

- Representatives from IFAD-funded projects in the regions and sub-regions (to be selected by country programme managers). They will represent 20 per cent of participants.
- Member(s) of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
- 20% of participants selected from IPAF-funded projects.
- Member of IPAF co-management organization at the regional level (FIMI in LAC, Samburu Women Trust in Africa, and Tebtebba in Asia; possibly the IPAF Coordinator should represent the organization)
- Two Members of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD.
- IFAD staff

All participants must be familiar with IFAD’s investment projects and the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and be knowledgeable and/or engaged on the ground with the theme of the fourth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD. Geographical balance within the region must be ensured, as well as the different ecosystems and livelihood systems (pastoralists, fisher folk, hunter and gatherers). Gender balance and the participation of youth will be ensured.

IFAD country programme managers and officers are strongly encouraged to participate in the regional consultations. IFAD staff are expected to cover their travel and accommodation costs. Project staff are welcome to participate in the regional consultations, provided they can cover the costs of their travel and accommodation.

**Capturing good practices from IFAD-funded projects**

In preparation for the Workshop, selected indigenous participants from IFAD-funded projects will be asked to submit a form that requests a brief description of cases of relevance to the overall theme, which the participants can share at the workshops.

The good practices should showcase the successful experience of indigenous communities benefitting from IFAD-funded projects and initiatives. The case studies will document how the communities have enhanced the resilience of their ecosystems and developed innovative adaptation measures building on the distinctiveness of indigenous peoples, their traditional knowledge, cultures and natural resources.