



# SIXTH GLOBAL MEETING OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FORUM AT IFAD

## Consultation Meeting Report

### PACIFIC REGION

November 3 and 4 2022



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CLIMATE LEADERSHIP:  
COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE RESILIENCE AND BIODIVERSITY

## **Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (IPFI)**

### **2022 Regional consultation meeting report**

Region: ☐ Asia / ☐ Africa / ☐ Latin America and the Caribbean / ☒ Pacific

#### **Name of responsible organization:**

Partners in Community Development Fiji

#### **Introduction: Background and objectives**

*The **regional and sub-regional consultation meetings** 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. The regional consultations also track the progress made on past agreements, mainly the outcomes of previous global meetings and the regional action plans.*

*Following the theme of the sixth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, "**Indigenous Peoples climate leadership: community-based solutions to enhance resilience and biodiversity**", the regional and subregional consultation meetings will be an opportunity to recognize the key role Indigenous Peoples play in protecting the environment. Indigenous Peoples' food systems and how they can inform and expand the set of possibilities that humanity can draw upon in facing environmental uncertainty will also be showcased during the 6<sup>th</sup> global meeting of IPFI. Indigenous Peoples' food systems and how they can inform and expand the set of possibilities that humanity can draw upon in facing environmental uncertainty will also be showcased during the 6<sup>th</sup> global meeting of IPFI. The aim of theme is to showcase Indigenous Peoples perspectives on how to design and implement actions that enhance biodiversity, encourage climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and care for the community, its members, and the planet. IPIF further aims to foster an intersectional perspective to these issues, by promoting perspectives on gender, youth, and disability.*

*In this section, we recommend including:*

- *A brief description of the theme in relation to the specific regional and/sub-regional context, to facilitate understanding of the meeting content.*

The Sixth Global meeting of the IPFI will be an opportunity to recognize the key role Indigenous Peoples play in protecting the environment and their leadership in seeking global solutions to the immense challenges climate change is posing to humanity. Today Indigenous Peoples are at the forefront of resilience and are key *agents* of environmental conservation.

- *Eventual external conditions affecting the development of the meeting.*
- The meeting was initially scheduled for 27 & 28 October. Unfortunately for PCDF, there were no funds available to roll off the meeting hence request had to be made to IFAD to release full funds for the execution of the meeting. Funds did not arrive into PCDF account on time and the meeting had to be rescheduled to 3 & 4 November.

- The reshuffle turned out to work well for highland community representatives who would not have been able to make it to Suva due to the heavy rainfalls (causing flooding of Irish crossings and affected road condition) that affected country.
- Communication with regional participants was a challenge. Only three of the total regional participants were responding to communication made regarding the meeting. Despite confirmation from the three participants, none of them attended any of the sessions.
- Communication with local government and other stakeholders was also a challenge. There was no correspondence from them despite the email reminders and follow up phone calls. Challenge faced by government representatives is having to await their permanent secretary's approval in order to participate in such spaces.

- *The objectives of the regional meeting.*

- To host a meaningful dialogue where Indigenous Peoples representatives from the Pacific region convey their concerns, requests, and recommendations on the theme of the meetings.
- Exchange experiences and good practices on the main theme of the Forum;
- Share knowledge and evidence on Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership;
- Identify opportunities for strengthening good practices and finding sustainable solutions to the challenges that Indigenous Peoples and their livelihoods face due to climate change, and the corresponding elements for regional strategies to enhance IFAD's support;
- Allow for dissemination and communication on climate finance access for Indigenous Peoples;
- Analyse and formulate action-oriented recommendations on the theme of the Forum; and
- Draft regional action plans that will guide the engagement between Indigenous Peoples, development partners (including IFAD staff) and donors during the Forum.

- *A brief summary of the main points raised in the regional and/or sub-regional consultation meetings.*

1. Update on the implementation of IFAD's IPS Policy
2. Progress in compliance with the regional Plan agreed at last global meeting.
3. Discussions that would ensue and guide the formation of the recommendations were centred around the following;
  - Sharing examples of specific problems caused by climate change in communities and successful solutions.
  - Lessons learnt from these experiences and how can successes be replicated.
  - Contribution of indigenous peoples to the successful solutions recognized
  - What are the barriers that exists?

- Reasons behind why indigenous peoples cannot find solutions to address the problems communities face because of climate change. What would need to change to empower them to act on solutions?
  - Who are to champion important issues, climate change issues, indigenous peoples issues?
  - Traditional knowledge effectiveness has reached its limits
  - Document what is happening/ what is working thus far- create awareness in communities to understand the situation and work together to address these.
4. Discussions of presentation and formulation of recommendations.
  5. Finalisation of recommendations
  6. Nomination and selections of participants for global meeting

## Methodology

*We suggest to include:*

- *Dates of sub-regional and regional meetings*
- *Meeting modality –virtual/hybrid*
- *Duration*
- *Participants*
- *Working-group sessions (number, topics etc)*
- *Other info you deem relevant*

The sixth Pacific Region Consultation meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of November at the Peninsula Hotel in Suva. The meeting was scheduled for three hours per session and delivered in hybrid modality- in person and virtual (via zoom platform).

The first session on Thursday (3/12) began at 2pm and ended at 5pm (Fiji Standard Time. The second session commenced on Friday (4/12) from 9am – 12pm. A total of 16 participants were present (in person) at the Peninsula Hotel, four (4) participants joined virtually.

Working group sessions were used after the moderated presentations session. Participants were divided into 2 working groups, virtual participants were included in the two working groups. Each group were tasked to reflect on the moderated presentations and their experiences on the subject and tabulate recommendations.

## **Discussion on the 6<sup>th</sup> IPFI overall theme: “Indigenous Peoples’ Climate Leadership: Community-based solutions to enhance resilience and biodiversity”**

*Based on the discussion, we suggest to include good practices, experiences, learnings that emerged from the region focusing on the overall theme:*

1. *Examples of how indigenous peoples are climate leaders in the region;*
  - Documentation process of climate change impact adaptation to reduce loss and damage to indigenous people.

- Document stories, impacts, adaptation, what is working thus far to create awareness in communities to understand the situation and work together to address climate change.
  - Community led approaches- Focus on addressing these issues are often from scientific lens and environmental lens. To find solutions, climate change impacts indigenous people's existence, their interconnectedness to their land, food, water.
2. *Examples of how indigenous peoples contribute to climate resilience, adaption, or mitigation, at community level;*
- Common practise is agro-forestry to mitigate climate change impacts
  - Use of technology to support traditional practises
3. *Include challenges that IPs are facing in acting their leadership (e.g., access to climate finance, FPIC, participation in institutional processes relevant for IPs, development projects with negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples communities).*
- Impact of climate change on communities, example of relocated communities, is the loss and damage of generational wealth. It does not take into consideration all the factors that is valued by indigenous people, culture, and heritage.
  - As indigenous people, there is no solutions yet to the crisis of climate change, work now involves using what is available to develop a community-led solution. The climate change crisis impacts on food security, livelihoods, it is a holistic impact. Indigenous peoples must fall back to traditional structures, traditional knowledge, traditional setup to try and find the solutions.
  - There is no documentation from the past of successes – traditional knowledge documentation
  - Documentation process of climate change impact adaptation to reduce loss and damage to indigenous people.
  - Document and champion stories, impacts, adaptation, what is working thus far to create awareness in communities to understand the situation and work together to address climate change.
  - Focus on addressing these issues are often from scientific lens and environmental lens. To find solutions, climate change impacts indigenous people's existence, their interconnectedness to their land, food, water. It needs to be indigenous people/ community led.
  - Importance of having indigenous peoples at the climate change discussions for voices and issues to be heard.

## **Regional recommendations**

- *To IFAD*
1. Raise awareness on the implementation of Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), as a mandatory requirement for project approval.
  2. Implement FPIC considerations beyond project approval phase with indigenous partners, such that it is treated as ongoing part of project consultation on safeguards and any material change in project design

3. Operationalize clear guidelines for projects on how to implement FPIC in member countries, especially where there is no national FPIC equivalent
4. Promote and fund organic farming projects, dis-encouraging locality use of chemicals and hybrid crops, but support propagation and farming of climate resilient traditional crops and trees.
5. Encourage funding of agro-biodiversity and food sovereignty projects through indigenous partnerships with other platform partnership.
6. Raise awareness and continued recognition of women and youth capacity, highlighting their crucial roles in society in the transmission of traditional knowledge to ensure continuity and intergenerational equity
7. Recognize and consider indigenous peoples as rights and interest holders with time tested customary IP as partners to combat climate change
8. Address damage and loss to indigenous people's socio-economic structures through funding of climate change mitigation projects.
9. Consider the contextual application of indigenous production paradigm comprising "joined social capital" where collective community effort is expanded towards a common goal. This is a traditional mean of community production through cohesive effort, where all are obliged to work towards a goal as desired outcome, at national and regional levels.
10. Consider community solutions that highlight time tested IP traditional sciences balanced in application with modern sciences.
11. Assist and fund awareness programs for indigenous farmers on climate change, to help in adaptations and possible solutions to its implications, risks, and safeguards.

- *To governments*

1. Raise awareness on the impact of climate change on indigenous population and advocate on related issues through the use of indigenous climate champions.
2. Document, record and preserve body of knowledge relating to preservation and cultivation of native seeds. This will boost traditional food system resilience and strengthen food and nutrition sovereignty of indigenous peoples.
3. Review and/or enact specific legislation and policy framework that protects indigenous people in the governance and administration their cultural structure, heritage, identity, and their land & resources
4. Review of curriculum to include traditional knowledge, culture, and heritage, including publication of indigenous literature relating to traditional knowledge of the indigenous people with emphasis such matters as social structures, and sustainable practices relating to property and safeguards relating food production
5. Document and promote awareness of traditional/ indigenous calendar of fisheries and agriculture
6. Establish National libraries to facilitate in the preservation, conservation, and teaching of traditional knowledge. This will provide, amongst others, accessible central storage of documents relating to language, traditional practices, traditional food systems and sustainable use of resources.
7. Ratify and implement Treaties, Protocols and Declarations at International law relating to Indigenous peoples for preservation and protection of social structures, institution/s and property



## Synergies with partners

*Based on the discussion, we suggest including any current and potential partner that participated in the regional meetings and/or with whom it would be important to connect in order to create synergies for joint initiatives, with a focus on the IPFI overall theme (e.g., representatives of governments, UN agencies, human rights commissions, research centres).*

- With the absence of key stakeholders and government representatives, synergies as alluded to could not be made. Synergies amongst the participants however, were obvious as they openly discussed their experiences and learnings and, in the recommendations, made.

## Election of Indigenous Peoples delegates attending in person the 6<sup>th</sup> IPFI global meeting

*Total number of participants by region (Africa, Asia and LAC): 12 (criteria for selection, ToR SC)*

- *2 Members of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD;*
- *1 Member of the UNPFII;*
- *1 Member of the IPAF Board;*
- *1 Member from the IPAF regional implementing partner;*
- *5 representatives from regional/sub regional networks of indigenous peoples selected by the Members of the Steering Committee in consultation with their regional and subregional networks;*
- *2 participants from IFAD-funded projects.*

<b>Participant name</b>	<b>Role (e.g., SC members; IPAF/IFAD project participant; IPs network)</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Ulai Baya	<i>n.1 Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD</i>	Fiji	
	<i>n.2</i>		
	<i>n.1 Member of the UNPFII</i>		
	<i>n. 1 Member of the IPAF Board</i>		
	<i>n. 1 Member from the IPAF regional implementing partner</i>		
Mere Vakarewa	<i>n.1 Representative from regional/sub regional networks</i>	Fiji	Selavo Organic Island
	<i>n.2</i>		
	<i>n. 3</i>		
	<i>n. 4</i>		

	<i>n. 5</i>		
Ratu Orisi Kubunadakai	<i>n. 1 Representative IFAD-funded project PHVA, FAPP, PIRAS</i>	Fiji	Fiji Highlands Farmer Organisation
	<i>n. 2</i>		

*In the case of the Pacific region, the total number of participants is 3:*

- *1 Member of the Steering Committee of the Forum;*
- *1 representative from regional/sub-regional indigenous peoples' networks selected by the Members of the Steering Committee in consultation with regional / sub-regional networks;*
- *1 participant from IFAD-funded projects in the region.*

#### Annexes

- List of participants (including info on participants' country, organization and email, role)
- Meeting(s) agenda(s)
- Presentations delivered (including Progress on IFAD IPs Policy delivered by IFAD)
- Updated regional action plan
- Q&A session (if any)
- Summary of sub-regional meetings (if any)

#### Annex 1: List of participants

##### List of participants (add rows as needed)

Participant name	Role (e.g. SC members; IPAF/IFAD project participant; IPs network)	Country	Organisation
Ulaiasi Matagasau		Fiji	Nasautoka Farmers rep
Bulou Balecakau	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	Nadrau Farmers rep
Merewalesi Vakarewa	<i>IPAF project participant</i>	Fiji	Selavo Organic Island
Cema Bolabola	<i>Pacific I. Coalition of NGOs</i>	Fiji	Pacific Islands Coalition of NGOs



Apisai Kuruicivi	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	Lewa Farmers rep
Asena Silivia Tanoa	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	Matokana Farmers rep
Jimaima Kuruwale	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	PCDF
Mereoni Raivakariri		Fiji	Nasautoka Farmers rep
Vilimoni Mateiwai	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	Noikoro Farmers rep
Orisi Kununadakai	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	Fiji Highland Farmers Association
Mereseini Naola	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	Noikoro Farmers rep
Filipe Baituwawa	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	Wema Farmers rep
Tevita Ravumaidama	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	PCDF
Ulai Baya	<i>SC member</i>	Fiji	Macuata Farmers
Sakiusa Tubuna	<i>IFAD regional</i>	Fiji	IFAD regional
Semi Lotawa	<i>IFAD project participant</i>	Fiji	Rise Beyond the Reef
Susana Yalikanacea	<i>IPAF project participant</i>	Fiji	Selavo Organic Island
Serenia Madigibuli	<i>PIFON</i>	Fiji	PIFON
Kenneth Gortz	<i>PCDF/ IT</i>	Fiji	PCDF
Aisea Tuisue	<i>PCDF Secretariat</i>	Fiji	PCDF
Grace Fox	<i>PCDF Secretariat</i>	Fiji	PCDF

