



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

Summary Report Regional Consultation Meetings

Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership:
community-based solutions to enhance resilience
and biodiversity

Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

Summary Report of the Regional Consultation Meetings held in preparation for the sixth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

Background

In preparation for the sixth global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (IPFI), during October and November 2022, 13 regional and subregional consultation meetings were held in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific. The sessions provided a space for IFAD to update Indigenous Peoples' organizations (IPOs) and Indigenous Peoples' communities and their representatives about the work conducted in the past biennium, reflect on progress since the last IPFI global meeting, and engage in dialogue on the theme of the sixth global meeting, **“Indigenous peoples’ climate leadership: community-based solutions to enhance resilience and biodiversity”**.

Drawing on the lessons of 2020, the format of the 2022 sessions combined in-person and virtual modalities to maximize participation. The sessions brought together over 150 representatives from IPOs and Indigenous Peoples' communities, recipients of the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) grants, and beneficiaries of IFAD-funded projects, along with representatives from IFAD, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and development partners. The meetings were organized by regional IPOs in collaboration with IFAD country offices and IFAD staff and the Forum Steering Committee: Mainyoto Pastoralist Development Organization (MPIDO) for Africa; Global Home for Indigenous Peoples (GH4IP) for Asia; Centre for the Indigenous Peoples' Autonomy and Development (CAPDI) for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) for the Pacific.

Objectives of the regional and subregional 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.
- Review and select the candidate proposals for the IFAD Indigenous Peoples Awards.

The sessions also contributed to: assessing the progress of implementation of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples adopted in 2009; Reviewing the recommendations made at the IPFI fifth global meeting of the (2021) and assessing the progress of the recommendations and regional action plans adopted; and preparing the regional participation in the sixth global meeting of the IPFI, including the selection of delegates for the global meeting and selection of candidates for IFAD Indigenous Peoples Awards.

Regional and subregional meetings (2022)

Region	Meeting	Number of participants
Africa	English-speaking countries (16 Nov)	40
	French speaking countries (17 Nov)	30
Asia	South Asia (20 Oct)	64
	East Asia (31 Oct)	63
	Central and West Asia (1 Nov)	42
	Regional (9 Nov)	46
Latin America and the Caribbean	Mesoamerica (30 Sep)	65
	Amazon (14 Oct)	29
	Cono Sur (21 Oct)	82
	Caribbean (28 Oct)	24
	Andes (3 Nov)	42
	Regional (4 Nov)	66
Pacific	Regional (3-4 Nov)	20

Main issues

- **Effects of climate change.** Indigenous Peoples are experiencing the effects of climate change. Drought, floods and erratic weather patterns are causing soil erosion, loss of flora and fauna, loss of pasture (a concern of pastoralist communities) and fires. These in turn lead to: disruptions to agriculture calendars and consequently to food insecurity; loss of traditional knowledge; changes in livelihood strategies (sometimes towards unsustainable practices), including migration; increased tensions and conflicts with neighbours; increased burden on women; and sometimes increased pressure on Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories due to extractive interests in materials for sustainable energy transitions and conservation initiatives.
- **Climate-action leadership.** Indigenous Peoples demonstrate climate-action leadership at all levels and in many dimensions: from community-based action to advocacy at national and international spaces (e.g. Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity); and from practical solutions to conceptual understanding of the problems and ideas to address them.
- **Adaptation and mitigation measures.** Examples of Indigenous Peoples' community-based adaptation measures include: adjusting agriculture calendars; adopting more resilient varieties of seeds and livestock; preserving and revitalizing traditional technologies, knowledge and capacities, and incorporating new ones; strengthening and innovating on traditional organizational systems and institutions, and adopting new ones; diversifying agriculture and livelihood strategies (including migration); and promoting soil and water conservation. Mitigation measures include: promoting reforestation; land use and territorial planning; generating community-based plans anchored on Indigenous Peoples' visions of well-being; and reclaiming and adopting more sustainable agriculture practices. In order to create the conditions to successfully carry out these measures, Indigenous Peoples continue to defend their rights and spaces for effective participation. They also develop partnerships and build solidarity with national and international organizations and other communities in struggle, and engage in national and international advocacy.

Lessons learned

- **Leadership.** Indigenous Peoples' leadership is tied to their ways of knowing and being, to a deep and intimate relationship with the land, to life in community, to a resilient and creative spirit, and

to an intercultural and long-term outlook – all of which are driven by their land and territorial security and their governance systems and institutions.

- **The role of women and youth.** Indigenous women play an indispensable role as knowledge bearers and transmitters, and as anchors and guardians of community life and well-being. Young people also play an indispensable role as sources of energy and guardians of the future.
- **Partnership with IFAD.** IFAD is a valued partner and leader in engaging with Indigenous Peoples. Its commitment to the participation of Indigenous Peoples, its approach to consultation through the IPFI, and its direct investment through the IPAF are valued. IFAD is recognized as a strategic partner that can play an advocacy role in creating spaces for dialogue between Indigenous Peoples and states as well as mobilize other international organizations.

Challenges

- **Leadership.** Indigenous Peoples' leadership is not without challenges and obstacles. These include: a lack of awareness, understanding and recognition of their perspectives, actions and governance systems, and a resulting lack of support; and continues infringement on Indigenous Peoples' rights, and encroachments on their lands and territories by extractive industries and development initiatives (and sometimes by climate change policies and action). In addition Indigenous Peoples' leadership is sometimes limited by weak IPOs, lack of capacity and lack of support for south-south collaboration.
- **Participation.** There are limited spaces for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples. Failure to uphold free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), and cumbersome and exclusionary bureaucracies and processes contribute to limiting participation.
- **Projects.** Projects are often short term and inconsistent with long-term planning of Indigenous Peoples; finances are limited and complicated by the fact that they go through governments rather than directly to Indigenous Peoples.

Recommendations to IFAD

- **Engagement and advocacy.** It is recommended that IFAD strengthen and expand its role as a partner, advocate and leader in its engagement with Indigenous Peoples to create more spaces for their participation and voices. This can include mobilizing the support of other international agencies, supporting the participation of Indigenous Peoples in international discussions, and strengthening IFAD's action at the national levels to promote dialogue and cooperation between states and Indigenous Peoples.
- **Projects.** It is recommended that IFAD increase the level and duration of investments in areas home to Indigenous Peoples, that it channels investments more directly rather than going through states, and that it simplifies the bureaucracy around grant applications. It is also recommended that IFAD ensure participation and consultation throughout the project cycle (from conceptualization to evaluation) and that it ensure FPIC.
- **Capacity-building.** It is recommended that IFAD invest in building the capacities of IPOs, and indigenous women and youth and that it builds the capacities of personnel working with Indigenous Peoples, especially in terms of their rights and perspectives.

Recommendations specific to each region were formulated during the regional and subregional consultation meetings and can be found in the respective report of each of the four regions.