

Concept Note: Supporting Meaningful Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in UNFCCC COP 21 in Partnership with the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC)

(draft of 25 May 2015)



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

BACKGROUND

This initiative aims to ensure the effective and visible participation of indigenous peoples and local communities (IP/LCs) in the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including supporting preparatory activities throughout 2015 and follow up activities in the aftermath of COP 21.

This concept note has been prepared by UN colleagues with input and guidance from a number of indigenous representatives, including Co-chairs and members of the Global Steering Committee of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC)¹, members of the alliance of 5 indigenous peoples (IP) organizations that coordinated inputs to the Forests action area of the Secretary General's Climate-Summit in September 2014 and the IP Pavilion at UNFCCC COP 20 in Lima in December 2014², members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The organizers consider it to be the highest priority that this body of work complement and synergize with activities already planned by indigenous organizations in the lead-up to COP 21, and intend to engage closely with the Global Steering Committee of the IIPFCC both to ensure coordination and to further develop, refine and execute this programme of work.

This concept note is intended as a living document to be developed and advanced in partnership with the Global Steering Committee, Norway, France, Peru, indigenous peoples and local community organizations, and others.

In addition to the support of the Governments of Norway, France and Peru, other governments, foundations, NGOs, companies and multilaterals are invited to contribute to this programme of work in cash and in-kind support.

RATIONALE

Given their widespread reliance on natural resources and ecosystems, indigenous peoples and local communities are especially vulnerable to, and disproportionately impacted by, climate change. They also play a critically important role in climate change mitigation and adaptation through their historic and effective role as stewards of much of the world's remaining forests. Since they often lack a voice in

¹ The International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) is the representative body of indigenous peoples participating in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This coalition has global representation and coordinates indigenous peoples' presence at international climate events including UNFCCC COPs.

² These organizations include: AMAN (Indigenous Peoples Alliance of Indonesia), AIDSEP (La Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana), AMPB (Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests), COICA (Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon) and REPALÉAC (Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa)

decision-making processes that affect them, it is imperative they are supported and enabled to participate in and influence global decision-making on climate change.

What's more, facilitating their participation can contribute to a stronger, more effective, and more equitable climate outcome by ensuring that local knowledge, perspectives and innovations are taken into account. Indigenous peoples in particular have unique perspectives and aspirations for development and environment that are frequently not heard by decision-makers. Supporting their strong engagement and participation up to and during COP 21, as well as supporting their follow up activities in the aftermath of COP 21, is a powerful way to ensure their voices are heard.

This initiative is designed to empower indigenous peoples and local communities and provide them with a platform to advance their needs and priorities within the UNFCCC agenda.

Much of the program of work proposed below will be produced in alignment with the 'action areas' of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda – areas that have been identified as being critical to making progress on climate change. Of these action areas, the primary overlaps with indigenous peoples' and local communities' concerns are in the areas of Forests, Agriculture, Adaptation/Resilience and Finance.

However, indigenous peoples have a particular contribution to make in discussions around forests, given their strong historic and cultural connection and the stewardship role they continue to play in sustainably managing many of the world's remaining forests. It is noteworthy that at COP 20, for the first time at a UNFCCC COP, indigenous peoples presented an ambitious proposal for the sustainable protection of 400 million hectares of tropical forests and a clear agenda for securing land rights. Since forests and REDD+ will be a core component of any climate deal reached in Paris, special emphasis will be placed on forests and ensuring that meaningful opportunities are created for IPs to engage and contribute on this topic.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

1. Indigenous peoples and local communities are supported in preparing to engage effectively in COP 21

- The capacity of IP/LC representatives to engage effectively in COP 21 is strengthened.
- Key IP/LC representatives are supported to participate in preparatory/planning meetings throughout 2015
- IP/LC positions and contributions to COP 21 are defined through national and regional consultations.
- IP/LC experiences and perspectives are communicated to government representatives and UNFCCC negotiators through country- and region-specific activities in the run-up to and during COP 21.

2. Indigenous peoples and local communities are meaningfully and visibly represented at COP 21

- IP/LCs deliver a declaration(s)/ call(s) for action addressing priority issues (e.g. land titling, respect and restoration of ancestral territoriality, dedicated territorial climate finance, self-determination, and free, prior, and informed consent) and are duly profiled as innovators, partners, and essential stakeholders in the Paris agreement.
- The visibility and standing of IP/LCs in their own countries is strengthened through opportunities to interact with their governments in an international setting.

- Powerful and useful dialogue is facilitated among IP/LCs, governments, private sector, multilaterals and others, both inside and outside the formal UNFCCC negotiations area (Blue Zone).
- 3. The key outcomes of COP 21 are communicated to indigenous peoples and local communities around the world and follow up dialogue is supported**
- Continued engagement between IP/LCs and their governments is facilitated after COP 21, through national-level workshops and meetings.
 - COP 21 outcomes are communicated to IP/LC constituencies on the ground.
- 4. Major commitments and announcements of relevance to the indigenous and local agendas are mobilized, and highlighted at COP 21**
- Developed and developing country governments make clear commitments to support and recognize indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights and empower IP/LCs to manage forests and other natural resources in a way that promotes a low-carbon economy, adapts and responds to climate change, and reduces poverty.
 - Private sector partners make clear commitments to engage with IP/LCs and commit to business practices that strengthen and respect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities as they relate to territorial autonomy, FPIC, forests and natural resource management, sustainable development and climate action.
 - High profile platforms showcase concrete actions/commitments and successful partnerships in support of IP/LCs.
- 5. The impact of climate change on indigenous peoples and local communities, and their role in contributing to climate solutions is communicated to governments and the global public**
- Governments and the global public hear and absorb the message that investing in IP/LCs is one of the most cost-effective ways to address poverty, inequality, environmental degradation and climate justice.
 - Governments and the global public see IP/LCs as a key part of the solution to climate change.
 - A high-profile public event showcases achievements and innovations of IP/LCs who are taking action, independently and in partnership, to protect forests and respond to climate change.
 - An emphasis on cross-sectoral partnerships, on-the-ground actions and local solutions to address climate change attracts positive media attention to COP 21.

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE INITIATIVE

I. Supporting IP/LC Preparations for COP 21

- a) Support IP/LC Participation in Regional & Global Preparatory Meetings in Advance of COP 21**
- Support a preparatory meeting of the IIPFCC Global Steering Committee in Bonn in late May, directly before the IIPFCC Strategy Meeting which is tentatively scheduled for 31 May – 1 June (precise date tbc) to advance planning and preparatory activities for COP 21.
 - Support core groups of IP/LC representatives to convene at milestone events and meetings during 2015 to make their views known, learn about relevant global processes that impact their interests, and communicate to their constituents (*see relevant events below*)

- Organize and support side events in the lead up to COP21 at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other appropriate venues to advance this initiative³

b) *National Policy Dialogues in Select Countries*

- Support a series of workshops in select countries where IP/LCs develop and define their positions and policy concerns. Where relevant, appropriate national-level IP organizations would be supported to carry these out.
- In conjunction with the above activity and in partnership with GEF Small Grants Programme, support national-level policy dialogues, between IP/LCs and their government representatives (in particular UNFCCC delegation leads), with a view to incorporating indigenous and local climate policy concerns into country negotiating positions for COP 21. These national dialogues would also help ensure that IP/LC concerns are reflected in political commitments made by forest countries at COP 21, by eliciting multi-stakeholder partnerships and commitments on issues of relevance to the IP/LC agenda.
- Catalyse a number of examples to be showcased at COP 21, of successful partnerships among governments, private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities coming together to realise their New York Declaration commitments at the country level.
- Approx. 8 countries will be selected based on the likelihood of high-level commitments being developed for COP 21 in the context of the New York Declaration on Forests and the Lima Challenge

c) *Regional Consultations on Key Issues*

- Support the participatory development of IP/LC position papers by supporting IP/LC leaders around the world to consult with their constituents and each other through a series of regional consultations, raising awareness of the international climate change process and identifying key issues and concerns of indigenous peoples and local communities. The findings from these consultations will be reported back through an official COP 21 side event, or through IP/LC declarations and calls for action that could be delivered at the Equator Prize 2015 Awards Ceremony and other fora.
- Broader consultations on climate change issues could potentially include a component to gather inputs on a potential global funding mechanism for indigenous peoples, which itself could be a major announcement highlighted at COP 21

d) *Capacity Building for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities*

- Support a series of capacity-building workshops for IP/LCs in the run up to COP 21 (to take place in conjunction with national and regional workshops or relevant global events) covering key topics in the climate change agenda and their relevance to IP/LCs
- Train IP/LC leaders on advocacy and negotiation (training to take place in Paris during or immediately prior to COP 21).

³ A side event at the UNPFII was held on 30 April 2015 to consult on and raise awareness of his initiative. Video of the event available at: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/briefing-consultation-on-indigenous-peoples-engagement-in-unfccc-cop-21>

- Support an on-site briefing at COP 21 for IP/LCs on major issues in the negotiations and their implications for IP/LCs (to take place in Paris during or immediately prior to COP 21).
- A GEF Small Grants Programme IP Fellowship will support a select group of women, youth or grassroots IP leaders by providing training and capacity building for them to successfully represent and advocate on behalf of their constituencies at COP 21.

II. Ensuring Visibility and Engagement of IP/LCs at COP 21 (30 November – 13 December 2015)

a) Dedicated Spaces for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at COP 21

- A dedicated side event, meeting, networking and exhibition space for IP/LC representatives, inside the COP 21 Blue Zone and in close proximity to the negotiations, to run for the duration of COP 21. This space should be approx. 250 sq. m. and will require full audio-visual and translation capacities to ensure effective communication among all participants.
- An Indigenous People and Local Communities Pavilion in COP 21's dedicated civil society venue, delivered in partnership with other interested groups, to serve as a networking, side event and exhibition space for unaccredited IP/LC participants and to provide the opportunity to interact with the public. The Pavilion should be approx. 1000 sq. m. and will require full audio-visual and translation capacities to ensure effective communication among all participants.
- Attention will be paid to ensuring strong coordination between programming of the internal and external IP/LC spaces.

b) High profile side events and policy dialogues

- Support IP/LC-led side events on priority indigenous and local issues, with high level participation of governments, multilateral and private sector.
- Ensure strong IP/LC visibility and representation at high profile side events led by other entities (e.g. Global Landscapes Forum).
- Support a 2-3 day dialogue between IP/LCs and governments (both individual delegations and with groups of countries) directly in advance of COP 21.
- Building on the UN and UNDP's track-record of convening outcome-oriented multistakeholder discussions and commitment events, deliver a series of high-level policy dialogues where governments, private sector, civil society organizations, IP/LCs, multilaterals and others can address themes of relevance to IP/LCs (e.g. land and resource rights, FPIC, self-determination, recognition of indigenous territories). Such events will also serve as platforms for the launch of political commitments, pledges, and financial contributions to advance IP/LC issues
- A local NGO may be contracted to support IPs/LCs in facilitating and managing the dedicated IP spaces.

c) Support IP/LC travel to COP 21

- Provide financial and logistical support to facilitate the attendance of 100-200 indigenous peoples' and local community representatives, with a particular emphasis on representatives from forest countries.

- Participants to be selected by their regions, with the goal of achieving gender balance and strong representation of youth and grassroots.
- IP/LC participants whose travel to Paris is funded under this initiative will be expected to report back to their constituents after COP 21.

d) Mobilize major commitments for COP 21 and provide high profile platforms for announcements

- Building on established networks and expertise of the UN, UNDP, the extensive UN-REDD, FCPF and GEF network of experts throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, UNDP and partners will coordinate an extensive advocacy and mobilization effort to identify major commitments and partnerships of relevance to COP 21 and the indigenous agenda, to be announced at COP21⁴.
- High-profile platforms provided by this initiative (including side events, high, level policy dialogues and Equator Prize 2015) will be leveraged to incentivize countries, private sector, multilaterals and others to develop ambitious commitments and ground-breaking partnerships that advance the goals of the New York Declaration on Forests, the Lima Challenge and issues of relevance to the indigenous agenda.
- While the UN, UNDP and partners will coordinate this mobilization effort, external facilitation support will be required to drive this effort in a focused way.
- The same high-profile platforms will also be provided for IP-led announcements

e) Equator Prize 2015: A major public event to attract global attention (7 December 2015 - tbc)

- The Equator Prize award ceremony has become “the Academy Awards of sustainable development”, and will be held this year at a prominent venue in Paris (e.g. the Paris Opera House, Le Louvre, Le Palais des Congres or similar), coinciding with COP 21.
- The Equator Prize 2015 will honor 20 outstanding local and indigenous community initiatives from around the world that are reducing poverty, protecting nature, and strengthening resilience in the face of climate change.
- Prize categories will place special emphasis on IP/LCs that are protecting, restoring and sustainably managing forests; promoting sustainable agriculture and food security; advancing community-based adaptation to climate change; protecting and securing rights to communal

⁴ Potential announcements could include the following (illustrative only):

IP/LC led announcements: Launch of the results of an IP-led mapping exercise showing the status of IP rights and titling around the world; Launch of a report on persecution of indigenous activists; Launch of a publication on the status of ILO-169 implementation etc.; follow up on indigenous peoples’ commitment made at the Climate Summit to protect 400 million ha of forests.

Political/policy commitments: Governments of Peru, Indonesia, DRC and Colombia delivering on land titling milestones.

Pledges from donor countries: Announcement of a global funding mechanism for IPs with concrete pledges from donor countries and other partners.

Partnerships: Announcements of new/continued support to the Equator Initiative partnership, as a part of countries’ commitments to support and empower indigenous and local communities

lands, territories and natural resources; and forging innovative partnerships for sustainable development.

- The event will feature statements/commitments on issues of priority to indigenous peoples, and the stage will be used to recognize governments, private sector entities, and cross-sector partnerships that are putting in place concrete policies, finance mechanisms and funding commitments to empower indigenous peoples in the fight against climate change.
- The multi-stakeholder dialogue and policy panels described above will feed into the event by surfacing the most compelling announcements, commitments, and partnerships in land tenure reform, restoration of ancestral territories, climate finance, self-determination, free prior and informed consent, and other thematic areas.

III. Supporting Follow-up Activities to Promote Ongoing Dialogue and Communicate Key COP 21 Outcomes to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities around the World

a) *Communicate COP 21 Outcomes to IP/LCs around the world*

- Encourage and support IP/LC participants at COP 21 to report back to their constituencies on their experiences and perspectives.
- Support the production of briefings on key outcomes of COP 21 in indigenous and local languages.

b) *Support follow-up activities by indigenous peoples and local communities after COP 21*

- Support the Co-chairs and Global Steering Committee of the IIPFCC to plan follow-up to COP 21
- Facilitate follow up meetings between IP/LCs and their governments in order to build on dialogues established at COP 21.
- Facilitate continued IP/LC engagement after COP 21 by supporting national-level workshops for IP/LCs and their partners to follow up on the outcomes of COP 21 negotiations and related issues.

IV. Communications

a) *Highlight IP/LC issues and engagement to the global public throughout 2015*

- In partnership with like-minded initiatives, engage a specialized communications agency to generate high-profile media stories covering issues of priority to IP/LCs and the climate change agenda.
- Build relationships with prominent journalists and media outlets to secure high-profile media coverage of indigenous and local issues.
- Facilitate site visits for journalists to understand directly the challenges climate changes poses for IP/LCs and how they are a key part of the solution.

b) *Highlight IP/LC issues and engagement to global public and COP 21 participants during COP 21*

- In partnership with like-minded initiatives, execute a high profile global communications campaign in Paris during COP 21 to promote and ensure the visibility of IP/LC issues, and IP/LC engagement in COP 21, through use of billboards, posters, videos etc.
- Facilitate press briefing for journalists on IP/LC issues at COP 21.
- Facilitate joint press conferences of IP/LC representatives alongside governments.

c) *Support communications to IP/LCs at the grassroots*

- Support a related national and regional communications and messaging effort to deliver messaging on COP 21 and climate change to stakeholders in both developed and developing countries.
- Support indigenous journalists and reporters to attend COP 21 and report on issues of relevance to their constituencies.

MILESTONE EVENTS

Component I – Supporting indigenous peoples and local communities to prepare for effective engagement in COP 21 - will be executed in synergy with existing processes, taking advantages of an existing calendar of events to bring IP/LC leaders together, and build their visibility in advance of COP.

Potential events to coordinate with include:

- June 1-11, 2015: **UNFCCC SBSTTA**, Bonn, Germany
- June 29, 2015: **UN President of General Assembly (PGA) climate event**, UN HQ, New York
- July 13-16, 2015: 3rd Financing for Development conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Sept 7-11, **XIV World Forestry Congress**, Durban, South Africa
- Sept 25-27, 2015: UN General Assembly / **Post 2015/SDG Summit** in New York
- Nov-Dec 2015: COP 21: **Action Day**, 5 or 6 Dec; **Global Landscapes Forum**, 5-6 Dec; Equator Prize Award Ceremony, 7 Dec 2015

COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

UNDP will deliver this initiative in close partnership with the Global Steering Committee of the IIPFCC and its Co-chairs, which function as the primary representative body of IPs participating in the UNFCCC and has global representation. The Global Steering Committee consists of 3 Co-chairs as well as up to two representatives each from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Russia and Eastern Europe, North America, the Pacific, and the Arctic. The Committee is supported by two liaisons to the UNFCCC Secretariat and by two technical team members.

The Co-chairs and members of the Global Steering Committee (or a sub-group thereof) or their delegates, will play a global coordinating role for the overall initiative, using the mechanisms of the Global Steering Committee to ensure that the interests of all regions are represented and advanced.

The Global Steering Committee will identify a regional focal point or institution for each region (Africa; Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; Russia and Eastern Europe; North America; the Pacific; the Arctic) to handle logistics and coordination of preparatory and follow-up activities in that region, and to coordinate the travel of participants from that region to COP 21. These regional coordinators will be located within regional institutions to ensure accountability, and they (or their institution) will be compensated by the initiative.

UNDP will work closely with the Global Steering Committee and regional focal points to advance activities in each region and globally, and will convene regular conference calls with the Global Steering Committee, regional focal points, and other partners to help ensure coordination and delivery.

A representative (or representatives) of the IIPFCC Global Steering Committee will also join the organization committee of the Forests action area for COP 21 to ensure that the indigenous peoples voice is represented there and help ensure coordination between this initiative and the broader effort to display results under key themes for COP 21.

A UN team comprised of staff members and consultants with decades of experience in stakeholder engagement and indigenous and local issues and relationships with key indigenous and local community leaders is already in place and will provide overall coordination, management, event production, substantive guidance on programming and policy linkages, and support to the mobilization of major commitments on indigenous issues etc. This team will be responsible for the overall delivery of this programme of work.