



Summary Report of the
Regional Consultation on Ways Forward: FAO and Indigenous Peoples
19-20 November 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

At the last May 2013 session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) held in New York, during a joint meeting between the UN agencies and Indigenous Peoples' Representatives, the newly elected member of the Forum representing Asia, Ms. Joan Carling, (Secretary General of the regional organization Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact), expressed to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) their interest in meeting with the FAO's regional office's senior staff and management. Previously the Asian Indigenous Peoples Caucus had undertaken similar meetings with other UN agencies in the region. The intention of this Consultation would be to initiate a dialogue and identify common areas of interest and work.

The Consultation's objectives were:

- i) To up-date present status on the information dissemination and implementation of the FAO policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples;
- ii) To share knowledge and exchange view on indigenous people and issues relating to the work of FAO;
- iii) To identify areas of FAO/Indigenous Peoples collaboration in the region, including areas or options for concerted actions/efforts such as the implementation of the voluntary Guidelines on land tenure; and
- iv) To promote multi-stakeholder dialogue and networking at all levels (local-national- regional and international) in promoting of the rights of Asia Indigenous People and identify gaps and areas requiring improvements.

The Consultation outputs produced were:

- i) A mechanism to ensure dialogue in the region between Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholder;
- ii) A common work plan for collaboration in the region; and
- iii) Joint activities in relation to the International Year of Family Farming.

The Regional Consultation on Ways Forward: FAO and Indigenous Peoples was jointly organized by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO RAP) and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) in Bangkok, Thailand on 19-20 November 2013. The two-day consultation was attended by 30 participants with 10 representatives from FAO and FAO RAP, 4 representatives from AIPP, 10 representatives from 10 countries in Asia (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand), and 6 government representatives from 6 countries in Asia (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand). The indigenous representative from Bangladesh is also a current expert member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

Key Conclusion and Recommendations

The Consultation discussed and identified key issues faced by indigenous peoples in the region. They were:

- i) The non-recognition of the legal status of indigenous peoples with inherent collective rights is a fundamental and underlying cause of the systematic violation of their human rights, their systemic discrimination and marginalization;
- ii) Economic and commercial pressures resulting to land grabbing, evictions, displacements, hunger, social problems, cultural and social dis-integration, conflicts, etc.
 - a) Construction of dams, mineral extraction, plantations in indigenous territories;
- iii) Land demarcation for national parks, conservation areas, military reservation/ training grounds;
- iv) Lack of protection of traditional knowledge and biodiversity;
- v) Promotion of unsustainable commercial agriculture, mono-cropping instead of supporting self-reliant economies;
 - a) Labeling of the traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples as drivers of deforestation such as shifting cultivation;
 - b) Decrease in the use of traditional seeds over the proliferation and promotion of high yielding variety seeds which are not as resilient and require heavy input as compared to the traditional seeds; and
 - c) Land use conversions for commercially viable agricultural products leading to the change in their nutritional diet and health problems for affected indigenous peoples;
- vi) Lack of full and effective participation of IPs and protection of their collective rights in the formulation of climate change measures for mitigation and adaptation;
- vii) Lack of provision for direct support including financial and technological support to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacities including disaster response and management of indigenous peoples.

At the end of the Consultation, the participants agreed to the joint recommendation on ways forward of FAO, Governments and Indigenous People as follows:

- i) Organize a Side Event during the UNPFII/ WCIP Meeting on good practices on land tenure relating to food security, livelihoods, among others as a multi-stakeholders event;
- ii) FAO to support facilitation of dialogues with indigenous peoples and governments at the national level with flexibility in using existing country mechanisms;

- iii) Develop specific programmes jointly with indigenous peoples targeting the poorest of the poor and most remote indigenous peoples relating to poverty reduction, food security, malnutrition and to mobilize and secure funds from different sources for its implementation;
- iv) Request the government of Myanmar to host a dialogue between indigenous peoples and ASEAN in the context of “one community” of ASEAN;
- v) Work together for the inclusion of indigenous peoples data fields in the conduct of census at the local /national level and data dis-aggregation on socio-economic indicators on indigenous peoples towards developing targeted programmes etc-find different ways and means to do this i.e. community mapping;
- vi) Conduct participatory assessment with indigenous peoples at different levels and programmes as appropriate of past and existing programmes on food security /poverty reduction in terms of impacts etc.;
- vii) FAO to collaborate with other UN agencies in monitoring the implementation of IP policies and safeguard policies of different UN institutions in relation to indigenous peoples;
- viii) Set up clear, transparent and accessible mechanisms and processes with consideration to required resources concerning community collective land rights title applications and to document good practices on land tenure and land titling for ownership as per existing rules and regulations and customary practices;
- ix) Conduct case studies on good practices, including on shifting cultivation relating to food security, biodiversity and resource management and to have a multi-stakeholders workshop to also address the challenges, in relation to existing policies, where they exist;
- x) FAO to support the internal meetings and consultations of indigenous peoples amongst themselves prior to and after the conduct of multi-stakeholders consultations with FAO and governments at the national level;
- xi) AIPP to coordinate among indigenous peoples’ organizations in the region and with FAO towards enhanced cooperation and partnership; and
- xii) Indigenous peoples organizations in the region to provide inputs and support in the conduct of activities, case studies, mapping exercises of FAO and their governments in relation to indigenous peoples.

Summary Report of the Regional Consultation on Ways Forward: FAO and Indigenous Peoples

Day1: 19 November 2013

Welcome Remark by FAO

Mr Hiroyuki KONUMA, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, officially opened the Consultation and welcomed the participants. He mentioned that the consultation is the first time for FAO to have a meeting with indigenous peoples in the region and committed the FAO RAP to work more closely with indigenous peoples. He noted that the consultation could pave the way for institutional engagement such as having a regional dialogue with indigenous peoples and he hopes to receive concrete proposals from indigenous peoples to make use of FAO expertise and explore joint endeavors in promoting common goals.

Session 1: Overview of FAO-RAP's New Strategic Objectives and Priorities for the Region as Endorsed by the Region's Member Countries:

The FAO Strategic Objectives and Regional Priorities in Asia and the Pacific were presented, which can be summarized below:

Strategic Objectives:

- i) Contribute to eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- ii) Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner
- iii) Reduce rural poverty
- iv) Enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels
- v) Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

Regional Priorities:

- i) Strengthening food and nutritional security
- ii) Fostering agricultural production and rural development
- iii) Enhancing equitable, productive and sustainable natural resource management and utilization
- iv) Improving capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies
- v) Coping with the impact of climate change on agriculture and food and nutritional security

Session 2: Presentation of Indigenous Peoples on their Key Issues and Concerns

The indigenous participants in the Consultation presented and identified key issues they are facing as follows:

- i) The non-recognition of the legal status of indigenous peoples with inherent collective rights is a fundamental and underlying cause of the systematic violation of their human rights, their systemic discrimination and marginalization;
- ii) Economic and commercial pressures resulting to land grabbing, evictions, displacements, hunger, social problems, cultural and social dis-integration, conflicts etc.
 - a. Construction of dams, mineral extraction, plantations in indigenous territories;
- iii) Land demarcation for national parks, conservation areas, military reservation/ training grounds;
- iv) Lack of protection of traditional knowledge and biodiversity;
- v) Promotion of unsustainable commercial agriculture, mono-cropping instead of supporting self-reliant economies;
 - a) Labelling of the traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples as drivers of deforestation such as shifting cultivation;
 - b) Decrease in the use of traditional seeds over the proliferation and promotion of high yielding variety seeds which are not as resilient and require heavy input as compared to the traditional seeds; and
 - c) Land use conversions for commercially viable agricultural products leading to the change in their nutritional diet and health problems for affected indigenous peoples;
- vi) Lack of full and effective participation of IPs and protection of their collective rights in the formulation of climate change measures for mitigation and adaptation; and
- vii) Lack of provision for direct support including financial and technological support to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacities including disaster response and management of indigenous peoples.

Session 3: FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework to guide FAO's work on indigenous peoples' issues. It has been developed in close consultation with representatives of indigenous peoples, FAO staff, UN agencies and numerous other partners. At the same time, its content is based on international legal instruments such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007).

Core Principles: The following principles have been identified as the core rights and values to which indigenous peoples are entitled:

- Self-determination;
- Development with identity;
- Free, prior and informed consent;
- Participation and inclusion;
- Rights over land and other natural resources;
- Cultural rights;

- Collective rights; and
- Gender equality.

Priority areas of work: The policy summarizes and groups indigenous peoples' priorities regarding food, agriculture and related issues into themes that correspond with FAO's main topics of work. Outlined below, these themes are derived from activities that already exist and as such offer the most feasible areas for strengthened work on indigenous peoples' issues:

- Natural resources, environment and genetic resources;
- Climate change and bioenergy;
- Land and territories;
- Food security, nutrition and the right to food;
- Communication and knowledge systems;
- Cultural and biological diversity; and
- Economic opportunity for sustainable livelihoods.

Session 4: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests was presented, which could be summarized below:

General Principles:

- Recognize and respect legitimate holders of tenure rights, and their rights;
- Safeguard legitimate tenure rights against threats;
- Promote and facilitate the enjoyment of legitimate tenure rights;
- Provide access to justice to deal with infringements; and
- Prevent tenure disputes, conflicts, and opportunities for corruption.

Relevance for Indigenous Peoples:

- The VG recognise the social, cultural, spiritual, economic and environmental values of lands, fisheries and forests held under tenure systems of indigenous peoples and other communities with customary tenure. (9.1)
- The VG recognise that that smallholder producers and their organisations provide a major share of agricultural investments that contribute significantly to food security and encourage States to support such investments. (12.2)
- The VG encourage the States to promote a wide range of production and investment models that do not result in the large scale transfer of tenure rights. (12.6)
- Based on the centrality of legitimate tenure rights for sustainable livelihoods.
- Encourage States to recognize, respect and protect all tenure rights holders and their rights, including Indigenous and customary tenure rights and tenure rights systems (such as collective rights).

Session 5: FAO/Indigenous Peoples' Collaboration

In this session, representatives from FAO-RAP provided inputs into the work of the FAO-RAP which would be relevant for indigenous peoples such as the following:

1. Zero Hunger Challenge
2. Save Food Asia-Pacific Campaign

Session 6: Ways Forward: Indigenous Peoples' Proposed Areas of Support to FAO

With the view to foster cooperation and partnership between indigenous peoples and FAO in the region, the Indigenous participants identified key proposed areas of support for consideration by FAO as follows:

- i) Translation of relevant FAO Policies: As a start, indigenous peoples can identify 3-4 FAO policies/documents for translation: Bahasa- Indonesia, Burmese, Khmer, Hindi, Thai, Lao of 2 documents namely the 1) FAO Policy on indigenous and Tribal Peoples and 2) Voluntary Guideline on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests;
- ii) Regional Dialogue of Indigenous Peoples and FAO every two years, if possible;
- iii) Designation of a focal person/ dedicated staff for indigenous peoples at FAO regional office;
- iv) Awareness raising and capacity building of FAO personnel at the national level on the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples;
- v) Awareness raising and capacity building of indigenous peoples to engage with FAO including in the Zero Hunger Campaign, Save Food Campaign, the implementation and monitoring of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. In particular with respect to the VGGT FAO is encouraged to widely disseminate and apply the technical guide on FPIC and land acquisition and to involve IP representatives in the forthcoming national awareness workshops;
- vi) Designation of indigenous peoples' focal persons at the regional and national levels for its engagement with FAO;
- vii) Revitalize the UN inter-agency coordination/support group at the regional level for a more sustained cooperation amongst the agencies and with indigenous peoples representatives;
- viii) Conduct multi-stakeholders' thematic workshops relating to the implementation of FAO Policies and priority themes such as on to Good practices, lessons learned, emerging issues and trends, gaps and challenges, etc.;

- ix) Conduct joint case studies, research and documentation for publication and dissemination on key issues of indigenous peoples relating to FAO's scope of work;
- x) Institutionalize Indigenous Peoples Representation in relevant FAO Bodies at all levels regional and national levels; and in relevant FAO conferences and meetings;
- xi) Initiate National workshops with FAO, governments, relevant UN agencies on food security and other related issues that can be agreed upon;
- xii) Facilitate support to community-based projects relating to food security such as the establishment of seed banks, water systems, exchanges on good practices on food security and nutrition, skills development and capacity building etc.;
- xiii) Identify FAO publications on indigenous peoples that can be of use to indigenous communities; and
- xiv) Coordinate with civil society organizations (CSOs) especially those engaging with FAO for cooperation and collaboration on common objectives and goals.

Day 2: 20 November 2013

Session 7: Dialogue between the Governments and the Indigenous Peoples

The Government Representatives from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines provided the participants with insights on government initiatives and programs as follows:

Bangladesh: The Government is committed to have a more targeted approach for the small ethnic communities in order to improve the status of small ethnic communities

Government initiatives towards ethnic minorities: Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) was the zone of conflict for long two decades from 1976 to 1997. The two decades long conflict officially came to an end after a signing of CHT Accord in 2nd December 1997 between the government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS). The signing of the accord has ensured the possibility of peace and stability, and paved the way for undertaking developmental initiatives in the region. The accord also stipulated a specific administrative structure for the region, handing over significant authority to local representative bodies. Moreover, the office of the Chairperson of the Regional and District Councils has been legally reserved exclusively for small ethnic people".

In the post-CHT Accord period, massive development efforts began to undertake for the socioeconomic development of the CHT region. Many organizations, from NGOs to government institutions such as Hill District Councils (HDCs) and the CHT Development Board (CHTDB), and a number of international development partners

such as ADB, UNDP, FAO have been involved in implementation of various projects ranging from community development to economic and infrastructure development

Indonesia: The Government of Indonesia has introduced KAT for the settlement indigenous peoples. For these settlements, the government provides life assurance, guidance and basic social infrastructure such as settlement houses, social halls, street environment and clean water. Also included in this program is the development of infrastructure businesses in the form of land preparation, seed aid and relief work equipment.

India: The Government of India, while not using the term indigenous peoples has recognized scheduled tribes thru the Ministry of Tribal Affairs which was established in 199 and became operational in 2001. The ministry requires states to come up with plans and programs for scheduled areas. Along with this plans, states are required to allocate proportion of state fund for the development needs of scheduled tribes.

Myanmar: With the opening up of the Government of Myanmar, it has ushered in a new Civilian government with the military government handing over the power to civilian government in peace. This has led to entering into the legal fold of armed groups including those from the ethnic nationalities. Along with this, the new government is now gearing towards the development of border areas and ethnic nationalities such as the establishment of technical schools for ethnic nationalities in border areas.

Philippines: The Philippines has a progressive law- the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997. This monumental law of the country outlines the rights and responsibilities of indigenous cultural communities/ indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs).

With IPRA, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) was created to serve as the primary government agency through which ICCs/IPs can seek government assistance. It is also the medium through which such assistance may be extended. As such, NCIP is the authorized agency to represent the ICCs/IPs in government functions.

The NCIP seeks to engage indigenous peoples on various fronts thru the following programs: (1) Ancestral Domain/Land Management, (2) Rights and Gender, (3) Capacity Building, and (4) Research, Information and Communication. Projects can be identified that are aligned to these programs

Session 8: Ways Forward, Joint Recommendation of FAO, Governments and Indigenous Peoples

At the end of the Consultation, the participants agreed to the joint recommendation on ways forward of FAO, Governments and Indigenous People as follows:

1. Organize a Side Event during the UNPFII/ WCIP Meeting on good practices on land tenure relating to food security, livelihoods, among others as a multi-stakeholders event;

2. FAO to support facilitation of dialogues with indigenous peoples and governments at the national level with flexibility in using existing country mechanisms;
3. Develop specific programmes jointly with indigenous peoples targeting the poorest of the poor and most remote indigenous peoples relating to poverty reduction, food security, malnutrition and to mobilize and secure funds from different sources for its implementation;
4. Request the government of Myanmar to host a dialogue between indigenous peoples and ASEAN in the context of “one community” of ASEAN;
5. Work together for the inclusion of indigenous peoples data fields in the conduct of census at the local /national level and data dis-aggregation on socio-economic indicators on indigenous peoples towards developing targeted programmes etc- find different ways and means to do this i.e. community mapping;
6. Conduct participatory assessment with indigenous peoples at different levels and programmes as appropriate of past and existing programmes on food security /poverty reduction in terms of impacts etc.;
7. FAO to collaborate with other UN agencies in monitoring the implementation of IP policies and safeguard policies of different UN institutions in relation to indigenous peoples;
8. Set up clear, transparent and accessible mechanisms and processes with consideration to required resources concerning community collective land rights title applications and to document good practices on land tenure and land titling for ownership as per existing rules and regulations and customary practices;
9. Conduct case studies on good practices, including on shifting cultivation relating to food security, biodiversity and resource management and to have a multi-stakeholders workshop to also address the challenges, in relation to existing policies, where they is so exist;
10. FAO to support the internal meetings and consultations of indigenous peoples amongst themselves prior to and after the conduct of multi-stakeholders consultations with FAO and governments at the national level;
11. AIPP to coordinate among indigenous peoples’ organizations in the region and with FAO towards enhanced cooperation and partnership;
12. Indigenous peoples organizations in the region to provide inputs and support in the conduct of activities, case studies, mapping exercises of FAO and their governments in relation to indigenous peoples.

Programme and Agenda of the Consultation

Regional Consultation on Ways Forward: FAO and Indigenous Peoples 19-20 November 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

Provisional Annotated Agenda and Timetable

Day One: 19 November 2013 (Tuesday) (Indigenous peoples (IPs) organizations participants only)

Time	Agenda	Person-in-charge
8:30-9:00	Registration	
9:00-9:30	Opening Ritual Official Opening a) Opening Remark by ADG/RR, FAO RAP b) FAO RAP Video Presentation c) Welcome remarks by AIPP Session Moderator Introduction of Participants Presentation of the Meeting Objectives and Expected Outcomes Presentation of the Programme and House Rules/Logistics	AIPP Suriyan Suriyan AIPP AIPP/Yon Yon/AIPP Yon/AIPP
9:30-10:00	Session Moderator Session 1: Presentation by FAO a) Overview of FAO's Strategic Objectives and Priority Areas of Work in the Region b) Questions and Answers: Discussion	AIPP Quereshi
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break	
10:15-12:00	Session Moderator Session 2: Indigenous Peoples in Asia a) Key issues: Challenges and opportunities b) Country examples – A few country examples will be pre-determined by AIPP in consultation with other IPs organizations. c) Discussion	Daniele AIPP (Francesca/Yon)
12:00-1:30	Lunch Break	
1:30-2:30	Session 3: Presentation by FAO FAO and Indigenous Peoples a) FAO's Indigenous Peoples' Policy	AIPP Yon

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) FAO's work with indigenous peoples c) Questions and Answers: Discussion 	Yon
2:30-3:00	<p>Session Moderator</p> <p>Session 4: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests</p>	<p>Yon or AIPP</p> <p>Francesca</p>
3:00-3:20	Coffee Break	
3:20-5:00	<p>Session Moderators</p> <p>Session 5: FAO/Indigenous Peoples' Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Possible entry points for FAO/IP collaboration b) Activities and opportunities for engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero Hunger Challenge Save Food Asia-Pacific Campaign c) Recommendations d) Discussion 	<p>Yon and AIPP</p> <p>Yon</p> <p>Broca/Naoki</p> <p>Rosa</p> <p>Francesca</p>
5:00-5:30	<p>Session Moderators</p> <p>Session 6: Ways Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Conclusions b) Briefing of the dialogue with governments for Day Two 	Yon and AIPP
6:00-8:00	Welcoming Reception	

Day Two: 20 November 2013 (Wednesday) (Government and IPs organizations participants)

Time	Agenda	Person-in-charge
9:00-9:30	<p>Session Moderator</p> <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Recap of Day One (Presentation should include conclusions and recommendations) b) Overview of Day Two: Programme 	<p>Daniele</p> <p>AIPP</p> <p>Yon</p>

9:30-10:30	<p>Session 7: Dialogue between the Governments and the Indigenous Peoples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Overview: objectives – to be deleted as this is already included in the overview of Day Two b) Activities and opportunities for engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Presentation by governments –5-min presentation each outlining: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. i) current status of issues and country’s initiatives on IPs, c. ii) challenges and gaps in addressing IPs’ issues, and d. iii) suggested collaboration and way forward. e. Presentation by indigenous peoples organizations – A brief intervention by each of IPs organizations c) Discussion 	<p>Government representatives</p> <p>IPs organizations</p>
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45-12:00	Session 7: Dialogue between the Governments and the Indigenous Peoples (continued)	
12:00-2:30	Lunch Break (including preparation of the summary of conclusion and recommendations)	
2:30-3:00	<p>Session 8: Ways Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Collaboration with indigenous peoples and their organizations b) Multi-stakeholder mechanisms for dialogue in the region c) “Summary conclusion and recommendations” 	AIPP
3:00-3:15	Coffee Break	
3:15-4:45	Session 8: Ways Forward (continued)	
4:45-5:00	Closing Remark by ADG/RR, FAO RAP	Suriyan

**Regional Consultation on Ways Forward: FAO and Indigenous Peoples
19-20 November 2013, Bangkok, Thailand**

List Of Participants

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