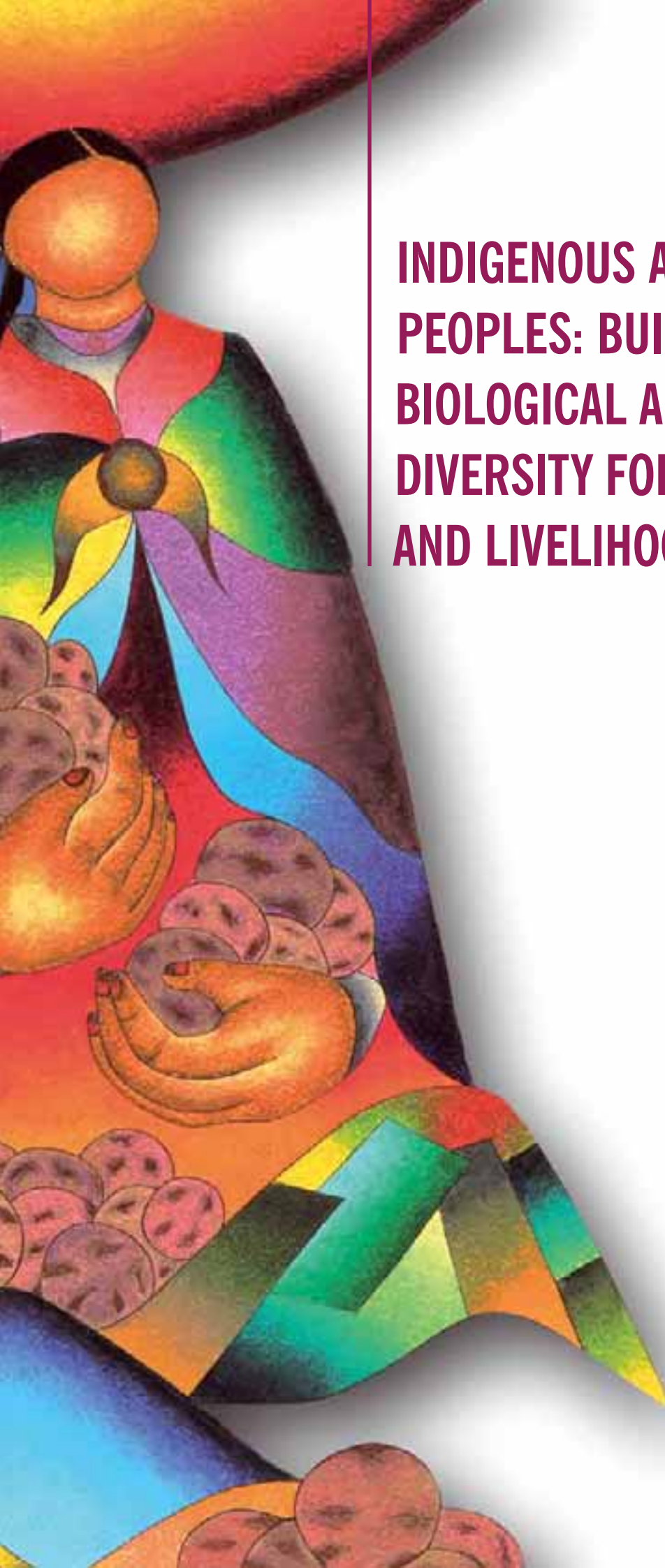


**INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL
PEOPLES: BUILDING ON
BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL
DIVERSITY FOR FOOD
AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY**





**INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL
PEOPLES: BUILDING ON
BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL
DIVERSITY FOR FOOD
AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY**





The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of FAO.

All rights reserved. Reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product for educational or other non-commercial purposes are authorized without any prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of material in this information product for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without written permission of the copyright holders.

Applications for such permission should be addressed to:

Chief

Electronic Publishing Policy and Support Branch

Communication Division

FAO

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

or by e-mail to: copyright@fao.org

Photos: © FAO

Cover artwork by artist Roberto Mamani Mamani entitled “Vendiendo papas y lunas”

© FAO 2009

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	IV
FOREWORD	V
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	VII
I. INTRODUCTION	1
II. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT	3
Who are indigenous peoples?	3
The situation of indigenous peoples worldwide	4
Core principles of indigenous peoples' identity and advocacy	11
III. THE INTERNATIONAL NORMATIVE, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK	17
IV. FAO AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES	21
Why is it important to engage indigenous peoples in development work?	21
How cultural and biological diversity can support FAO's efforts for food and livelihood security	22
FAO's current work on indigenous peoples' issues	24
V. CHALLENGES AND CONSIDERATIONS	43
Climate change and disaster management	43
Biofuel production and changing food prices	45
Extractive industries	45
VI. A SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT	47
Mechanisms for greater engagement with indigenous issues	49
VII. CONCLUSIONS AND THE WAY FORWARD	51
REFERENCES	53
Websites	56
ANNEX	58
Sharing knowledge through art	58



ACRONYMS

CGRFA	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CIDOB	Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia
CINE	Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment
CULT	Savings and Credit Union of Thailand
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAORAP	FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
GIAHS	Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems
IASG	Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IITC	International Indian Treaty Council
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
K-Net	Keewaytinook Okimakanak Organization
LinKS	Local, indigenous Knowledge Systems project
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDG-F	Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
TECA	Technology for Agriculture
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
WTO	World Trade Organization

FOREWORD



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) seeks to improve the conditions of people who suffer from food insecurity. Poverty, socio-political difficulties and environmental degradation are only some of the many issues which influence peoples' ability to secure an adequate livelihood. FAO's focus is on rural areas since most of the world's poor live in marginal rural environments and are dependent on agriculture for their daily needs.¹ Indigenous peoples are an undeniable part of this discussion. As mostly rural residents, they are greatly affected by economic hardships and the loss of biological diversity. At the same time, they have historically suffered from political-economic marginalization, social prejudice, or even indifference on the part of dominant social actors, all of which have contributed to significant adversity and cultural erosion. Together, biological and cultural diversity underpin indigenous peoples' livelihoods, and their passing is a serious matter. At the same time, the loss of indigenous culture will bring with it the disappearance of important knowledge about the environment. Biological and cultural wealth is in many ways integral for food and livelihood security, and it is in this vein that FAO's work on indigenous issues is acquiring greater attention.

This publication has been prepared by FAO to acknowledge the importance of working with indigenous peoples and to raise more awareness about their needs and claims. It discusses the main issues which affect indigenous peoples and outlines some of FAO's efforts to respond to their development concerns as expressed through both human and environmental dimensions. Although it puts much emphasis on the difficult conditions in which many indigenous peoples live, it also draws attention to the resourcefulness and ingenuity which characterize indigenous individuals and communities. The art-work displayed in these pages accompanies the text as a simple but effective way to demonstrate how important the link between cultural and biological diversity is, and how deeply it is reflected through indigenous peoples' every-day life.

At the international level, the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly in September 2007 is an extremely valuable achievement for the protection of indigenous peoples. FAO takes the Declaration very seriously and is determined to address it to the best of its ability. FAO's work on indigenous issues is indeed part of a wider movement which is committed to bettering the lives of indigenous populations around the world. In collaboration with other agencies, governments, and institutions such as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, FAO contributes its technical and policy expertise in the areas most related to its mandate. As members of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, for example, FAO and others are

¹ Agriculture is considered in its broadest sense, including crop production, forestry, fisheries, livestock, and other dimensions of food security and rural development.

part of an institutional support mechanism which aims to facilitate dialogue between indigenous representatives and the international community. Joint efforts of this kind offer the most promising way to achieve rural development and hunger alleviation goals.

By clarifying key issues and opportunities in FAO's engagement with indigenous peoples, we hope that this publication will generate more understanding so that FAO staff and others are in a better position to address indigenous peoples' development challenges and improve food and livelihood security more generally.



Hafez Ghanem

Assistant Director General,
Economic and Social Development Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



FAO would like to thank a number of people whose contributions made this publication possible. Much of the information was drawn from a document developed by a number of FAO staff and collaborators, including Carol Kalafatic, Iliana Hernández Salazar, Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, Diego Colatei and David Boerma.

Individual members of FAO's working group on indigenous issues provided substantial technical input, under the overall coordination of the FAO focal point on indigenous issues, Regina Laub.

Lead author Stefania Battistelli was responsible for the document in its present form.

Finally, FAO is grateful to the indigenous artists who were willing to share the works that are present throughout the document. Displaying these artistic pieces gives the publication an additional dimension by portraying elements of indigenous life more directly. The link between cultural and biological diversity is thus visibly apparent, allowing readers to see more clearly the richness which is intrinsic to indigenous peoples' cultures and expressions.





*I do not think the measure of
a civilization
is how tall its buildings
of concrete are,
but rather how well its people
have learned to relate
to their environment and fellow man.*

Sun Bear, Chippewa Tribe





A human being is part of the whole, which we call the "Universe": a part limited in time and space.

He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separate from the rest, a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness.

This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and affection for a few persons nearest us.

Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its astonishing beauty.

Albert Einstein, Ideas and Opinions



Counselling artist Saul Williams