

A COMMUNITY RIGHT TO DECIDE The Free, Prior and Informed Consent Process (FPIC) in FAO

FPIC is a specific right that pertains to Indigenous Peoples and is recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage. Furthermore, FPIC enables them to negotiate the conditions under which the project will be designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated. This is also embedded within the universal right to self-determination.

Free: consent given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation or manipulation. A process that is self-directed by the community from whom consent is being sought, unencumbered by coercion, expectations or timelines that are externally imposed.

Prior: consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities

Informed: nature of the engagement and type of information that should be provided prior to seeking consent and also as part of the ongoing consent process

Consent: collective decision made by the rights-holders and reached through the customary decision-making processes of the affected Indigenous Peoples or communities.

FPIC pillars – the International legal framework:

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

International Labor Organization Convention 169 (ILO 169)

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

FAO and FPIC: In line with the international legal framework, FAO has developed a Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples that ensures the organization makes all due efforts to respect, include and promote indigenous issues in relevant work. The core principles of the policy are: self-determination; the respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices that contribute to sustainable and equitable development; and Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The policy is operationally reflected on FAO Environmental and Social Guidelines and the Guide to the Project Cycle which guide all field operations.

The work of FAO on FPIC

FPIC Achievements (2010-15)

FAO Policy on Indigenous & Tribal Peoples
Global consultation workshop: FAO and partners
Environmental and Social Management Guidelines
FAO Guide to the Project Cycle

FPIC On-going actions (2016)

Alignment of FAO processes with HBRA (respect FPIC)
Development of practical Manual for FPIC implementation
Development of capacity building program for FAO and partners

FPIC Challenges and way forward (2016-17)

Capacity building of FAO project personnel through face to face and online training
Training of FAO partners and provision of technical support
Mainstreaming FPIC into national policies

FPIC can make a difference between positive outcomes for all stakeholders in a project or stalemate

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Learn more at <http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/en/>