



"Ancestria" by Newton Mori Julca - Chirapaq

# Report on the work of the FAO Indigenous Peoples team

2017

Partnerships and South-South  
Cooperation Division,  
Advocacy Unit (DPSA)



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### *Background*

Since the creation of the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team in DPSA in June 2014, the strategy of the team has been to position an agenda of work within FAO, rooted in the 2007 UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to set in motion the implementation of the 2010 FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

The work of the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team is the result of constant interactions and discussions with indigenous peoples representatives. Two important caucuses have taken place in FAO headquarters to discuss joint collaborations and strategic areas of work:

- In February 2015, with representatives from the 7 sociocultural regions to define a FAO-indigenous peoples joint workplan; and
- In April 2017 with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) to set up the work with indigenous youth and discuss a new pillar of work.

The joint workplan emanating from the 2015 meeting between indigenous representatives and FAO was structured around 6 pillars of work (Advocacy and capacity development; Coordination; Free Prior and Informed Consent; Voluntary Guidelines on Land and voluntary Guidelines on Fisheries; Indigenous Food systems; and Food Security Indicators).

Resulting from the discussions with indigenous youth in April 2017, a new relevant pillar was outlined related to intergenerational exchange and traditional knowledge within climate change and resilience.

While for the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team 2015-2016 was a period of intense advocacy and strategic work within FAO to create an identity that would raise attention to the need for the Organization to work with Indigenous Peoples, 2016-2017 has been a period of transition towards a more programmatic approach through the FAO Strategic Programmes teams.

To this end, in 2017 the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team developed a programme of work for the period 2017-2019, linking the 2015 workplan with the FAO Strategic Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2017, in addition to scaling up the technical assistance to staff in HQ and decentralised offices, particularly in the context of the implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), efforts were directed at mobilising resources within the organisation and outside to accompany the implementation of the programme of work. A summary of the main results in 2017 can be seen in the infographic below.



## 2017 AT A GLANCE: FAO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TEAM

### FPIC

>100 FAO STAFF TRAINED IN 3 REGIONS IN 6 MONTHS

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT MATERIAL DEVELOPED

MANUAL IN 6 LANGUAGES

MORE THAN 50 PROJECTS SCREENED

### INDIGENOUS FOOD SYSTEMS

RESOURCES FOR FIELD RESEARCH AND EXPERT SEMINAR IN 2018 SECURED

### COORDINATION

18 INDIGENOUS INTERNS RECRUITED AT HQ AND DECENTRALISED OFFICE LOCATIONS

### ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

FAO-GLOBAL INDIGENOUS YOUTH CAUCUS MEETING

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN DEVELOPED

### INDICATORS

RESOURCES FOR STUDY ON FOOD SECURITY STATUS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SECURED

### VGGT

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN **INDIA, INDONESIA, CENTRAL AMERICA**

7 EXPERTS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FAO, GOVERNMENTS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

FUNDS SECURED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 2017-2019 PROGRAMME THROUGH PARTNERS

**USD 1063075**

Resources



- Yet to be secured
- Funds secured

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## Pillar 1: Advocacy and Capacity Development

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The FAO Indigenous Peoples Team has continued the implementation of its advocacy strategy, as a critical step to raise the voices of indigenous peoples worldwide. This year, particular attention has been given to mainstreaming the work with indigenous youth throughout the Organization, as well as, enhancing the commitment with indigenous women. Both these groups are fundamental in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 1.1. External Advocacy

#### 1.1.1. International Women's Day

*March 8, FAO Headquarters, Rome*

*Photo exhibit: "I am a leader: indigenous, woman and producer"*

Access the exhibition [here](#).

To mark the celebration of International Women's Day, the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team featured at FAO HQ the photographic exhibition “I am a leader: indigenous, woman and producer”. This exhibition showcases the testimonies of indigenous women from Panama and the challenges they face to preserve their culture and food systems. The photos and testimonies were collected under the framework of the Leadership School of Indigenous Women in Human Rights and Food and Nutrition Security, which has been implemented in seven countries in Asia and Latin America, in partnership with the International Forum of Indigenous Women (IIWF/FIMI).

#### 1.1.2. Meeting between FAO and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC)

*April 5 - 8, FAO Headquarters, Rome*



FAO Indigenous Peoples Team hosted for the first time a meeting with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC), with fifteen participants across seven world regions visiting FAO HQ to discuss partnerships between FAO and indigenous youth worldwide. This meeting provided an opportunity for indigenous youth representatives to discuss with FAO about their challenges and opportunities, and

promote the integration of indigenous youth in FAO's areas of work.

In addition, the GIYC representatives met with more than 19 Permanent Representatives to discuss challenges faced by indigenous youth in the context of food security and agriculture. The meeting resulted in the “Rome Statement”, which includes recommendations to Member States and United Nations Agencies regarding UNDRIP and the Sustainable Development Goals. Access the Rome Statement [here](#).



### *1.1.3. Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*

24 April to 5 May, UN Headquarters, New York

The FAO Indigenous Peoples Team co-organized a two side events during the UNPFII:

- [Indigenous Women's Empowerment: Challenges and Achievements](#)

Co-organized by FAO and International Indigenous Women's Forum (IIWF-FIMI), this event highlighted the importance of the empowerment of indigenous women worldwide in order to achieve gender equality and overcome gender and ethnic-based discrimination. The event also provided a space to discuss the challenges that still remain and share successful experiences. The event was chaired by the newly appointed chair of the UNPFII, Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine.

- [Indigenous Youth perspective on the Tenth Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

The event was co-organized with the Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe (FILAC), the Panamerican Health Organization, the World Health Organization, the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Red de Jóvenes indígenas de Centroamérica y México. It provided an opportunity to discuss the specific challenges that indigenous youth face to preserve their livelihoods and traditional knowledge as pressure mounts over their lands and territories and they are forced to migrate to urban areas to seek better employment and education. The event also discussed how these situations are often linked to the high levels of suicide and self-harm among indigenous youth.

FAO also made the following statements during the plenary session of the Permanent Forum:

- [Agenda Item 3: Follow up on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum: a\) Empowerment of Indigenous Women, b\) Indigenous Youth](#)
- [Agenda Item 8: Tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: measures taken to implement the Declaration](#)

In addition, the “Rome Statement on the Contribution of Indigenous Youth towards a World without Hunger”, which was finalized at the FAO preparatory meeting of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus in April 2017 was read by indigenous youth present during the plenary session of the Sixteenth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII16).

### *1.1.4. Sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61)*

March 8, UN Headquarters, New York

*Side event: “Indigenous and Rural Women’s Economic Empowerment and Food Security”.*

FAO contributed to the panel discussion with a synopsis of the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and an overview of FAO’s initiatives supporting indigenous women. These



include the Leadership Schools for Indigenous Women that FAO has implemented in Bolivia, El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, India and the Philippines. The objective of the school is to support women's empowerment and foster gender equality in indigenous communities. This side event was organized by the Permanent Mission of Spain, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Asociación de Familias y Mujeres del Mundo Rural (AFAMMER).

*March 15, UN Headquarters, New York*

*Side event: Empowering rural and indigenous women to achieve food security and nutrition*

This side event was jointly organized by UN-Women and the gender focal points in FAO, IFAD, WFP and OHCHR. The event reviewed how CEDAW and the General Recommendation 34 on the right of rural women can promote gender equality in agriculture and rural development and guide efforts towards the achievement of the SDGS. It provided a platform for government representatives, indigenous women leaders and the UN to share their experiences related to women's empowerment. One of the participants of the first edition of the Leadership School for Indigenous Women from the Philippines shared her experience in the school and the impacts it had for her work in the community.

#### *1.1.5. Leadership School for Indigenous Women*

The second edition of the Leadership School for indigenous women was implemented during 2016 and 2017 in El Salvador, Panama and Paraguay, with the participation of around 20 indigenous women per country.

The programme resulted in a unique opportunity to increase the participants' knowledge on food security and nutrition and human rights, providing them with tools to raise awareness with different actors and advocate to improve indigenous peoples' conditions at country level.

In addition, the programme allowed to strengthen local indigenous women's organizations and the network among them, and to improve the collaboration of FAO with national organizations in the different countries involved.

In fact, with the technical support of the FAO Indigenous Peoples team and the accompaniment by the FAO offices in the different countries, the participants prepared advocacy plans related to specific situations in their communities. Among all the plans prepared, two were selected in each country and have received small funds in order to be implemented during 2018.

The third edition of the leadership school for indigenous women will be implemented during 2018.

#### *1.1.6. Fourteenth Session of the FAO Conference*

July 2017, FAO Headquarters, Rome

*Side event: "Leaving no one behind: Achieving gender equality for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture". [Webcast](#)*



On the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference, the Organization held a special event focused on the important role that indigenous and rural women play for the achievement of food security for all and the Sustainable Development Goals.

This event touched upon three critical items: the crucial role that rural women play in ending

hunger and poverty; the need for policies and programmes to accelerate rural women's economic empowerment; and the importance of promoting transformative approaches to tackle the underlying causes of gender inequality in rural areas.

The FAO Indigenous Peoples team supported the participation of Jessica Vega Ortega, representative of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, and only indigenous panellist. From the Mixteca People, Jessica brought into the discussion the indigenous perspective, stressing the multiple discrimination indigenous young women face across the world, especially when it comes to land rights and political participation.

#### *1.1.7. Forty-fourth Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)*

*Plenary sessions: October 9-13, FAO, Rome, Italy*

On the occasion of the Committee on World Food Security, FAO invited Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine, the Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and a delegation of seven Global Indigenous Youth Caucus Representatives. During plenary sessions, Ms Wallet Aboubakrine brought into focus important matters faced by indigenous peoples worldwide such as forced displacement, rural to urban youth migration and conflicts over lands and natural resources among others. Likewise, she stressed the important role that traditional knowledge can play in informing more sustainable food production systems, especially when combined with new technologies, and reiterated the need for more research on this topic.

*October 13, FAO, Rome, Italy*

*Side event: "An intergenerational knowledge exchange: indigenous forest management and food security in the context of climate change-Indigenous youth and elders present mechanisms for sustainable forestry and climate change adaptation".*



The side-event was organized in partnership with the Government of Norway and the Government of Panama, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC), the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC), the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), the Mesoamerican

Alliance of People and Forests (AMPB), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – UNREDD. This side-event provided an opportunity for dialogue for indigenous representatives, UN Agencies, Country Representatives, Academic Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and indigenous issues experts.

This dialogue was particularly timely following the issuance this year of the High Level Panel of Experts report on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition, which was one of the focus areas during the CFS discussions. In this context, the discussion during the side event revolved around the importance of preserving the traditional knowledge that indigenous peoples have been keeping for generations as custodians of forests, as well as the practices for climate change adaptation and mitigation that they have developed, which can provide significant lessons in the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 2 – Zero Hunger.

#### *1.1.8. Make indigenous women visible campaign and High Level Forum on the Empowerment of indigenous women to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean*



With the aim of supporting the recognition of indigenous women as key allies in the achievement of Zero Hunger, FAO has designed a global advocacy campaign entitled: "[Make indigenous women visible, empower them](#)". To highlight the launch of this advocacy campaign, FAO designed and implemented a digital strategy through FAO corporate Facebook and Twitter accounts, disseminating FAO's global messages and encouraging their adaptation to local contexts.

The main communication products developed under this digital strategy are:

- Video "A day in the life of Telvina". By showing the daily routine of Telvina, an indigenous women living in the Emberá community in Panama, the video highlights the involvement of women in different parts of the food production process, from agriculture to food preparation.  
<https://www.facebook.com/UNFAO/videos/10155869720583586/>
- Cards and GIFs with the messages of the campaign.  
<https://twitter.com/FAOKnowledge/status/912352595204804609>

The advocacy campaign was to be launched during the High Level Forum (HLF) on the Empowerment of indigenous women to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was to be held in September. Unfortunately, the Forum was postponed to 2018 due to the earthquake that hit Mexico on September 19.

The Forum is an initiative funded by the Government of Mexico, with technical assistance from FAO Mexico and the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team. The event, postponed to January



2018, will gather high-level participants from Governments, Indigenous Peoples Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and Academia from more than 10 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss how to advance public policies of poverty reduction and rural development specifically targeting indigenous women.

#### 1.1.9. Media outreach

- [Mujeres indígenas Mayangna, motores de desarrollo en Nicaragua](#), ONU Radio, February 28
- [FAO advierte que las mujeres de América Latina son cada vez más pobres](#), Gestión, March 8
- [Scandinavia's Sami struggle with suicide, worsened by climate change](#), Thompson Reuters, April 7
- [Roma: Caucus Global de Jóvenes Indígenas se reúne con la FAO](#), Fondo Indigena, April
- [La FAO subraya el papel "central" de las indígenas en la lucha contra el hambre](#), EL Diario.es, April 4
- [Falta mucho para garantizar los derechos indígenas](#), Inter Press Service, April 25
- [Jóvenes indígenas piden normas para respetar igualdad de género en herencias](#), Agencia Efe, July 5
- [ONU promueve pesca sostenible artesanal en zonas indígenas en Centroamérica](#), Agencia Efe, 1 September
- [FAO urge empoderar a mujeres indígenas para erradicar el hambre](#), Economia Hoy, September 14
- [Indígenas panameñas piden visibilizar rol social de la mujer](#), Prensa Latina, September 8
- [Exposición fotográfica visibiliza la labor de las líderes indígenas de Panamá](#), La Estrella, September 28
- [Mejorar los medios de subsistencia de las mujeres indígenas en Nicaragua](#), FAO In Action

#### 1.1.10. Videos

- [FAO and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus working together to achieve Zero hunger](#). Highlights of the meeting between FAO and the GIYC.
- [Aprendizajes compartidos \(Shared learning\)](#). Indigenous peoples from different countries (Peru- Latin America, D.R. Congo- Africa and Thailand- Asia) share some of their main issued related to tenure of, respectively, land, forests, and fisheries. They explain, in simple words, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, linking them with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- [Un día en la vida de Telvina](#). Developed as part of the advocacy campaign on indigenous women, it shows the daily routine of an indigenous women from Panama.



- [Empoderar a las mujeres indígenas para erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición en ALC.](#) Developed for the HLF Empower indigenous women to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- [FAO and Ekta Parishad. Supporting the recognition of land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in India.](#) In this interview, Ramesh Sharma, campaigns coordinator of Ekta Parishad, gives more details about the ongoing work of the Indian Organization and FAO.

## 1.2. Internal Advocacy

### 1.2.1. Intranet Articles

[Indigenous peoples' arts](#), numerous indigenous artists participated in FAO's contest by submitting their artwork – meet the winners and see their work.

[Photo exhibit](#), I am a leader, woman, indigenous and producer.

[Hosting at home](#), FAO staff welcome Indigenous youth representatives into their homes for the duration of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus taking place at headquarters for the first time this week

[Learning from indigenous youth](#), Indigenous youth from around the world convene at headquarters to share their perspective in the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus

[For, with and by indigenous peoples](#), A successful cultural and knowledge exchange with indigenous youth

[Free, Prior and Informed Consent](#), A new capacity development programme on FPIC to promote a sustainable and equitable development by respecting, including and promoting indigenous peoples' rights.

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## Pillar 2: Coordination

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### 2.1 Inter Agency Support Group of the United Nations

*June 20-22, 2017, Ecuador*

*Annual meeting 2017*

The Inter Agency Support Group of the United Nations (IASG) groups together twice a year the Indigenous Peoples' focal points from all UN agencies. The main role of the IASG is not only to mainstream the work of indigenous peoples inside the different UN organizations but also to provide support to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNFPII).

One of the challenges identified by the IASG in 2016 was the need to enhance the scope of application in priority countries in support of country teams. As such, the 2017 annual meeting in Ecuador enabled the IASG to interact with the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country team. Notably, an appeal was made to incorporate indigenous peoples as one of the main areas of work in the country UNDAF, which is currently being drafted.

## 2.2 FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples

The indigenous Peoples team chairs and coordinates the FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (IDWG). The IDWG is composed of technical experts from forestry, seeds, livestock, statistics, gender, partnerships, investment, legal and fisheries. This body serves both as a network as well as a coordination body that enables FAO units to work with OPCA in the implementation of the 2010 FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. During 2017, the IDWG was convened 3 times.

## 2.3 Support coordination between CSM and UNFPII

In 2017, the Indigenous Peoples team supported the establishment of a dialogue between the CFS Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and the UNFPII through:

- Ensuring the participation of the UNFPII Chair in the CFS.
- Facilitating meetings between the UNFPII Chair and the CSM.
- Organizing a side event during the CFS, having the Chair of the UNFPII as panellist.

## 2.4 Indigenous Internship Programme

The FAO Indigenous Peoples Team, in coordination with headquarters, regional and national offices and units, developed an internship programme specifically targeting indigenous youth. The call for application offered 17 internships in FAO HQ, but also in FAO regional offices in Asia and the Pacific, Central America and the Caribbean and Africa.

As of December 2017, there are 18 indigenous interns working in the Organization, 9 in FAO HQ and 9 in the following country offices: Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama and Paraguay. These interns are both being trained and contributing to FAO's work related to indigenous peoples, specifically regarding issues such as: farmer field schools, horticulture, pastoralist knowledge hub, nutrition, fisheries, forestry, gender equality and Women's empowerment, to name a few.

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### *Pillar 3: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)*



Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is a right that pertains to indigenous peoples throughout the world allowing them to give or withhold consent to any activity that may influence their territories, livelihoods and customs. FPIC has also emerged as an international

human rights standard that is linked to the collective rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and to their lands, territories and other properties.



FAO has aligned its core guiding documents with the principle of free, prior and informed consent and is in the process of ensuring that all personnel developing and implementing projects know how to effectively apply FPIC.

### 3.1 Finalization of the FPIC capacity development material and of the manual in all UN official languages

Following the launch in October 2016 of the [Manual on Free, Prior and Informed Consent \(FPIC\)](#), during 2017 the manual was translated and published in all six [UN official languages](#): Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

In addition, the following capacity development material were developed:

- Awareness [video](#) on FPIC (with subtitles in English, Spanish, French and Arabic);
- Awareness session;
- Curriculum and modules for Face-to-Face training, including case studies;
- E-learning course on FPIC.

### 3.2 Delivery of training and capacity development sessions

In 2017, the following training and capacity development sessions were delivered:

Location	Participants	Type of session	Date
RAP, Bangladesh	FAO staff (programme and project staff)	Face-to-Face training	June 2017
RAP, Bangladesh	UN agencies, Donor agencies, NGOs	Awareness session	June 2017
RAP, Nepal	FAO staff (programme and project staff)	Face-to-Face training	June 2017
RAP, Nepal	UN agencies, Donor agencies, NGOs	Awareness session	June 2017
RLC, Ecuador	FAO staff	Awareness session	June 2017
RAP, Myanmar	FAO staff (programme and project staff)	Face-to-Face training	July 2017
RAP, Thailand	FAO staff (LTOs)	Awareness session	July 2017
RAP, Thailand	FAO staff from regional office (LTOs and FLOs) and staff from country offices (FAORs, programme staff)	Awareness session in the context of the Environmental and Social Management training	July 2017
RAF, Ghana (Skype)	FAO staff from regional office (LTOs and FLOs) and staff from country offices (FAORs, programme staff)	Awareness session (Skype)	August 2017
RAF, Ghana	FAO staff from regional office (LTOs and FLOs) and staff from country offices (FAORs, programme staff)	Face-to-Face training	December 2017
RAP, Philippines (Skype)	FAO staff	Awareness session (Skype)	September 2017



<b>RAF, Uganda</b>	FAO staff involved in GEF project, Ministries staff, Local government officials, academia, research institutes and civil society	Face-to-Face training	November 2017
<b>RLC, Panama</b>	FAO staff from RLC, SLM and country offices from Central and South America	Face-to-Face training	November 2017

### 3.3 Participation in PPRC to provide feedback and technical assistance to project formulators and budget holders in relation to indigenous peoples and FPIC

The FAO Indigenous Peoples' team is being involved in the development, appraisal and implementation of project proposals affecting indigenous peoples through the new project cycle of 2015. So far, the team has provided technical assistance to a number of project formulators based in HQ and at decentralised office level – the request for similar assistance, which may involve also missions to country offices, is expected to increase in future. As part of the PPRC review of projects with a global coverage, from February 2017 until the end of the year, nearly 50 projects were screened for sustainability against criterion 2.3 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

In particular, in 2017 the team has increased its assistance to Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects through coordination with the FAO GEF team and direct assistance to projects in Burundi, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, India, Kenya, Peru, Uganda, to name a few.

In 2018, it is expected a stronger engagement of the FAO Indigenous Peoples team in GEF as well as in Green Climate Fund (GCF) projects to ensure the compliance with FPIC.

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### *Pillar 4: Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT)*

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#### 4.1 Supporting the use of the Forest Rights Act and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) among indigenous peoples' organizations and local governments in India.

- a. Following-up on the recommendations emerged during a capacity development programme on the VGGT implemented in India in 2016, FAO, in partnership with the Indian organizations *Ekta Parishad* and *Prayog Samaj Sevi Sanstha* has developed a series of awareness-raising and capacity development material on the VGGT and the Indian Forestry Rights Act with a specific focus on indigenous peoples (*Adivasis* in India).

The materials include a kit targeting community leaders and one for local authorities, and they are composed by posters, leaflets, cartoon booklets and videos. They were all developed with the objective of giving simple information on the relevant legislation and applicable procedures to secure Adivasis' lands and forests at local level. At the same time, the VGGT have been translated in 4 indigenous languages used in India.



- b. Again, following-up on a recommendation emerged during the capacity development programme on the VGGT in India, a network of lawyers, lawmakers, judges, universities, and organizations working in supporting the rights of Adivasi and other marginalized communities was created to support tenure rights of land and forests of indigenous peoples in India.

This started with a first meeting of nearly 30 participants including senior advocates from supreme court, various high courts, law research organizations, State's institutions, educational institutes and civil society organizations, which was convened in the Nalsar university of law in January 2017. The main objective of such network is to influence the legislation, support the implementation of the local legislation on land rights, and assist indigenous peoples in the resolution of concrete cases. In addition, the network of research institutions, advocates, lawyers is supporting national, state and grass roots level activities like research and advocacy etc.

#### 4.2 Capacity development material on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) for and with indigenous peoples

- a. Following the capacity development programme on the VGGT for and with Indigenous Peoples implemented in Central America during 2016, the Centro para la Autonomía y el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas (CADPI) and FAO have been developing training material specifically designed for indigenous peoples, which is currently being collated into a manual.
- b. A video to explain, in simple words, the VGGT linking them to the UNDRIP and covering topics such as FPIC was produced in collaboration with ONAMIAP, an indigenous organization based in Peru. The video showcases indigenous peoples from different countries (Peru- Latin America, D.R. Congo- Africa and Thailand- Asia) who share some of their main issues related to tenure of, respectively, land, forests, and fisheries. The video is accompanied by a didactical guide, which can be used during meetings or capacity development workshops. The video is available [here](#).

#### 4.3 The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest (VGGT) 5<sup>th</sup> year Technical Anniversary Forum

5 - 6 October 2017 FAO

The FAO Indigenous Peoples Team contributed in the 2 days technical anniversary forum in commemoration of the endorsement of the VGGT by the Committee on World Food Security in May 2012. In particular, a session on “Community-based governance and Tenure of Indigenous Peoples and other Communities with customary tenure systems” was co-organized with the International Land Coalition (ILC), bringing together more than 70 participants.

Thanks to the advocacy work of the team, Indigenous peoples’ perspectives were also included in other two sessions, one on “Tenure, VGGT, Climate change and sustainable soil



management”, and “Tenure in fisheries: making the VGGT work for fisheries stakeholders”. The main recommendations emerged during these sessions were included in a declaration read during a High- Level event on the occasion of the 5th Anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure organized during the session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). A more extensive report is currently being developed to ensure all lessons learnt and recommendations are widely shared.

**4.4 Technical advice to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia in the roll out of the Presidential commitment to allocate of 12.7 million hectares of forest land to indigenous peoples and local communities by 2019.**

This technical support initiated in coordination with the FAO Representation in Jakarta, the Land tenure team and FAO-RAP looks into aspects of territorial management and land reform, as well as social forestry and forestry management.

The work will continue throughout 2018 and will include Analysis of Pre & Post Recognition of Masyarakat Adat (Indigenous Peoples) rights’ to their Customary Forest in Indonesia”, which will be carried out in collaboration with the organization “Rimbawan Muda Indonesia”.

**4.5 Promoting the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) with and for Indigenous Peoples in Central America**  
*September 2017*

In 2016, FAO partnered with the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) to implement a specific capacity development programme on the SSF Guidelines in relation to indigenous peoples. Between 2016 and 2017, several meetings were organized with the participation of FILAC, indigenous independent experts, FAO office for Mesoamerica, the policies, economics and institutions branch of the fisheries and aquaculture department and the Indigenous Peoples Team, to develop the methodology and plan the course. The latter took place in September 2017 in Panama City and involved more than 30 indigenous representatives involved in small-scale fisheries either directly or for policy and advocacy work, and representatives of the Governments s of Central American countries.

With the knowledge acquired during the course, which included insights on sustainable fishing practices, the participants reflected around the status of small-scale fisheries related to indigenous peoples in their countries, identifying challenges and opportunities. Indigenous representatives and governments’ representatives for each country jointly designed detailed work plans.

The FAO Indigenous Peoples Team provided technical assistance during the whole process, giving specific guidance on how to use the SSF Guidelines in advocacy processes at national and regional level and in the development of the plans, some of which will be implemented during 2018.



#### 4.6. Regional package on community-based forest monitoring and management in Latin America

The FAO Indigenous Peoples Team provided technical support to the FAO REDD+ team to strengthen the technical capacities of local actors, in particular indigenous technicians, on community-based forest monitoring in indigenous territories, towards a more sustainable landscape management in the context of climate change mitigation as well as towards an increased governance of tenure.

The activities of the regional “package” were implemented both at regional level, in particular through south-south cooperation exchanges, as well as at more specific country/subnational level. These activities will continue throughout 2018.

#### 4.7 Contribution to the Final Evaluation of the Global Programme to Support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (2012 – 2016)

The FAO Indigenous Peoples Team contributed to the evaluation carried out by the FAO Evaluation office, supporting on the analysis of the extent to which indigenous peoples participated in the VGGT programme, and of how their needs were considered in the design and implementation at various levels, providing specific recommendations for future programmes.

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#### *Pillar 5: Indigenous Food Systems*

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In 2016, indigenous food systems received prominence in the review process of FAO's Strategic Programme. Building on this, in 2017 the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team along the Strategic Programme Teams started the preparatory work for implementing research and field work at regional level, while involving a various range of stakeholders.

To this end, FAO and Bioversity International signed a Letter of Agreement entitled "Research and field work to inform the debate on indigenous food systems through development of knowledge material". This initiative aims to reduce rural poverty by informing the overall food systems and climate change adaptation debate through analytical and field activities in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Traditionally, indigenous food systems are low in energy resource intake, preserve the natural resource base and are diversified, which all can be considered as sustainability characteristics.

A task force comprising FAO, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty, as well as Indigenous organizations, local partners and other stakeholders, will be supporting the activities. In addition, a particular focus has been stressed to ensure direct involvement of indigenous communities and local indigenous organizations in the implementation of the Letter of agreement, through subcontracting.

The research activities will deliver two outputs. First, the profiling of five indigenous food systems compiled in a report, and the preparation of a study on climate resilience of



indigenous food systems for climate change adaptation. Second, the compilation and analysis of specific labelling and protection schemes developed by indigenous communities and the development of the Terms of Reference as preparatory work for the establishment of a network of indigenous agrifood producers.

From 5 to 11 December 2017, Edmond Dounias - the Representative of the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) for Indonesia and Timor Leste and Senior Research Associate to CIFOR – visited FAO HQ in Rome to support the development of the methodologies to be followed for the research activities and to identify indigenous communities and local partners to work with. During his visit, the entire task force convened for a series of meetings to jointly achieve these ends.

An additional LoA has been signed with the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) to organize a Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems in FAO in 2018, which will showcase the results of the profiling of indigenous food systems portrayed by Bioversity International.

#### *Pillar 6: Food security indicators*

Indigenous peoples can play a critical role in the overall achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Their traditional knowledge can contribute to increasing ecosystems' resilience and adapt to the negative effects of climate change, preserve biodiversity and promote sustainable food systems, to name but a few. Pursuant to the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of “leaving no one behind” indigenous peoples should be included in the planning and implementation of policies on economic growth and development.

In order to do this, it is important to provide member countries and development practitioners with up to date information about indigenous peoples' food insecurity and challenges in the context of agriculture and climate change impact to their livelihoods.

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) methodology is an important tool to allow indigenous peoples to collect their own data and should be further explored in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Statistician.

In this context, in 2015 the Indigenous peoples' team together with the Voices of the Hungry project in the Statistics Division organized a workshop with 15 indigenous representatives from Latin America to exchange knowledge about food security and new methods to measure it. In addition, specific focus on indigenous peoples' agricultural and adaptation practices could be included as appropriate in the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA).

To this end, in 2017 the FAO Indigenous Peoples team prepared a Letter of Agreement with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) to undertake “Research work to analyse the status of food security and nutrition of indigenous communities for the production of an Indigenous Peoples' focused global report” during 2018. Through field



work in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the agreement will result in seven case studies, a global-level analysis of data in order to improve the understanding of the relationship between Indigenous Peoples, food security, nutrition and agriculture, and an analysis of the status of food security and nutrition in four of the seven indigenous socio-cultural regions.

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#### *Pillar 7: Climate change adaptation, resilience and indigenous peoples*

The decision to include an additional Pillar to the FAO plan of work with indigenous peoples stems from a series of events.

Since the COP 21 Paris Agreement, UNFCCC and Indigenous Peoples Organizations have been increasingly working together to ensure that climate change mitigation involves indigenous communities already affected by Climate change. In fact, climate change adaptation can greatly benefit from the traditional knowledge that Indigenous peoples have developed by living in environments where the climatic window of opportunity for generating food is narrow. Despite on and off involvement of indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC discussions, today there is overall acceptance that they are a fundamental player and that while not having contributed to climate change they are suffering its consequences. This was further re-established in November 2017, when COP 23 endorsed a [decision](#) on the Local communities and indigenous peoples platform.

The importance of traditional knowledge as key to climate change adaptation and resilience emerged during the meeting between FAO and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus in April 2017. To this end, FAO in partnership with governments, indigenous peoples organisations, experts and the Permanent Forum, organized a side-event on the importance of traditional knowledge during the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security.