



Process to assess principles, standards and modalities for supporting indigenous peoples' tenure rights and forest guardianship

Minutes of the first Reference Group meeting June 29, 2022

Participants:

Indigenous peoples Asia:

- Shree Kumar Maharjan, Deputy Secretary-General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) (replacing Gam Shimray in this meeting)
- Rukka Sombolinggi, Secretary-General, Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN), Indonesia. Member of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC).
- Peter Kallang, SAVE Rivers Network, ICCA Consortium, Malaysia
- Chandra Tripura, Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum (BIPF), Bangladesh

Indigenous peoples Africa:

- Agnes Leina, Executive Director, Illaramatak Community Concerns, Kenya
- Maimouna Umarou, women's coordinator of SURA-MAMA, Mbororo Community Development Organization, Cameroon,
- Kenneth Turyamubona, Executive Director of Batwa Community Development Organization and Chairperson of Batwa Pygmies Indigenous Land rights and Advocates Committee, Uganda
- Joseph Itongwa, Executive Director of l'Alliance Nationale d'Appui et de Promotion des Aires et Territoires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (ANAPAC RDC) and sub-regional coordinator of Réseau des Populations Autochtones et Locales pour la gestion durable des Ecosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique centrale (REPALEAC). Member of GATC.

Indigenous peoples Latin America:

- Tuntiak Katan, Vice Coordinator of the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) and General Coordinator of GATC
- Benito Calixto Guzmán, General Coordinator of the Andean Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations (CAOI)
- Dolores de Jesús Cabnal Coc, Indigenous Women Network on Biodiversity from Latin America and the Caribbean (RMIB-LAC)
- Jesús Amadeo Martínez, Main Councilor, Indigenous Council of Central America (CICA)

Donor group:

- Casey Box, the Christensen Fund
- Kevin Curry, the Ford Foundation



- Kai Carter, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Jenny Lopez, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UKAID
- Caleb Stevens, USAID

Charapa Consult:

- Birgitte Feiring, Albert Barume, Misha Wolsgaard-Iversen and Elisa Canqui

Objective and agenda

The main objective of the meeting was to formally establish the Reference Group and to discuss and approve the Inception Report, which outlines scope, methodology and timeline of the assessment process. The Agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. Round of introductions.
2. Selection of co-convenors of the Reference Group and moderator of the meeting
3. Brief introduction to the Pledge to support Tenure Rights and Forest Guardianship of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and the related assessment process
4. Discussion and approval of Inception Report, including methodology and process action plan

Selection of co-convenors

The co-convenors will work with the consultants to:

- Prepare the Reference Group meeting (agenda, materials etc.)
- Assist in outreach to and consultations with members of the Reference Group, in particular within their region/constituency
- Address any concerns and needs that may arise in the process

It was decided to appoint an indigenous co-convenor per region and one co-convenor from the donor group. The following co-convenors were selected:

- Gam Shimray (Asia)
- Jesús Amadeo Martínez (Latin America)
- Casey Box, (donor group)
- Given busy schedules, the African members will still consider whether Maimouna Umarou or Joseph Itongwa is best placed to serve as co-convenor.

Comments to the assessment process

The consultants provided a brief introduction to the assessment process, and the approach, methodology timeframe etc., as outlined in the Inception Report. The Reference Group provided the following comments for the consultants to consider in the process:

Framing

- The assessment must depart from the premise that indigenous peoples manage crucial territories and forests. Hence, in the context of climate crisis, indigenous peoples are donors of life.



Consequently, indigenous peoples are not 'recipients' or 'beneficiaries' but rather strategic partners and allies in the protection of the world's biodiversity and environment.

- Indigenous peoples' contributions to combating the climate crisis should not only be recognised in international declarations but also reflected in terms of funding, which should be directed at establishing the enabling conditions that allow indigenous peoples to provide those contributions.

Focus and priorities

- The Pledge is focusing on tropical and subtropical forests, but some types of forests are invisible to donors. Moreover, biomes are inter-related and cannot be separated (e.g. highland and lowland forests are interconnected). Donors need to acknowledge this and have a more holistic approach to funding.
- The exclusive focus on countries that are eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) is a concern.
- Donors must be responsive to indigenous peoples' needs and priorities – which has not always been the case. Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) must be considered in the process.
- It is critical to include indigenous peoples who may have been excluded previously, such as those living in remote areas.

Funding mechanisms and management of funds

- Some donor requirements are impossible for indigenous organisations to fulfill. There is a need to bridge these two extremely different worlds, that share the same dream: to save Mother Earth.
- There is a perception among donors that indigenous peoples cannot manage funds. Indigenous peoples must demonstrate that they have the capacities. Where necessary, funds should be allocated to strengthen capacities.
- There is a need to establish funding mechanisms - by and for indigenous peoples - to provide direct access to funding. Such mechanisms should be established at the global and/or regional levels and cater for the specificities of each region.
- The assessment should include a review of previous and existing funding mechanisms and learn from these.
- Existing channels of bilateral and philanthropic donors should be improved and provide more flexibility. Accountability should focus on results and not only receipts.

Inclusion

- It is important that the process is inclusive of youth, women and persons with disability. These groups face particular challenges and it requires additional considerations to bring them on board, leaving no one behind.

Accountability and coordination

- Communication and transparency are paramount in the assessment process and for establishing accountability towards communities. The consultants must provide Reference Group members with the necessary information and materials to facilitate their communication and accountability towards their constituents.



- The assessment must provide conceptual clarity and elaborate more on what is meant by principles and standards. It could, for example, be useful to provide a glossary of concepts and categorise different types of funding mechanisms.
- It is important to communicate clearly about the assessment process (including its focus and scope) and coordinate with other groups that are discussing fundings mechanisms and modalities (e.g. GATC and the indigenous caucus under the Convention on Biological Diversity).

Operation of the Reference Group

- The operation of the Reference Group is currently aligned with and limited to the timeframe of the assessment process undertaken by Charapa Consult (concluding in September 2022). Before the conclusion of the assessment process, the Reference Group will discuss if and how to proceed, beyond the timeframe of the assessment process.

Next steps

Additional specific comments to the Inception report and questionnaire can be sent to Birgitte at bfeiring@gmail.com

The consultants, in close collaboration with the Reference Group members will proceed with the regional workshops, data collection through the on-line questionnaires and outreach through international and regional events and online focus group discussions.

Next Reference Group meeting will be organized once all regional workshops have been conducted. Tentative date is 12th August.