



# THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

## Conservation and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Thematic Discussion

Conference Room 6

Wednesday, 01 May 2019, 10 AM – 1 PM

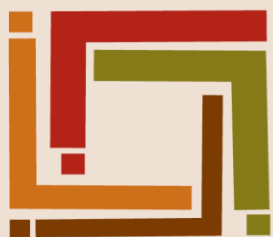
It is estimated that indigenous peoples own or occupy approximately one quarter of the Earth's surface and that their lands intersect with 40 per cent of all terrestrial protected areas. Some estimates suggest that 50 per cent of protected areas worldwide have been established on the traditional territories of indigenous peoples. A proportion that is even higher in the Americas, where over 90 per cent of conservation areas in Central America are on indigenous territories. Nevertheless, there is a disturbing high number of human and indigenous peoples' rights violations in the name of conservation. International organization and governments are displacing, violating and criminalizing indigenous peoples with the aim of conserving nature and wildlife. In order to end such violations and develop appropriate conservation measures, indigenous peoples must be equal partners throughout processes affecting their lands and homes.

23-25 January 2019 the Indigenous Peoples in Development Branch within the Division of Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized an international expert group meeting. The theme was "Conservation and the rights of indigenous peoples" as recommended by the Permanent Forum at its 2018 annual session and took place in Nairobi, Kenya.

The aim of the thematic discussion during the 18th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is to shed a light on the most pressing challenges with conservation and indigenous peoples' rights, following up to the expert group meeting held in January. The discussion will be initiated by Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues followed by a distinguished panel of experts on conservation and indigenous peoples' rights. The discussion should also aim at considering the recommendations in the report of the expert group meeting.

The thematic discussion will begin with introductory remarks from the Permanent Forum members on the expert group meeting on conservation and indigenous peoples' rights. After the introductory remarks, there will be a panel of speakers from among representatives of indigenous peoples and conservation agencies to set the scene and open discussions among the participants. Each panellist will, in 7 minutes, share on the opportunities and/or challenges to the rights of indigenous peoples in conservation initiatives in policies and practice. They will be asked to suggest particular strategic measures that can be taken to ensure respect for the rights of indigenous rights as per the UN Declaration in the context of conservation. This can include concrete comments on the recommendations from the expert group meeting. The Permanent Forum members will then invite interventions and comments from the participants along the lines of the aim of the thematic discussion.





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The discussion will be conducted in an interactive manner. This requires that interventions are brief and address a specific issue in order to allow time and opportunity for indigenous peoples, Member States and other stakeholders to engage in an interactive exchange.

## References:

Report from the International Expert Group Meeting on the Theme “Conservation and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” E/C.19/2019/7

Report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of indigenous peoples (A/71/229)

Study to examine conservation and indigenous peoples’ human rights by Brian Keane and Elifuraha Laltaika E/C.19/2018/9

