



Inputs from UNIDO on Indigenous Peoples

UNIDO, as a Specialized Agency on Industrial Development in the UN operationalizes an Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies and Procedures as part of its technical cooperation project compliance and project assurance process.

Indigenous People constitutes one of the Operational Safeguards (OS4) of the UNIDO Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Procedures (ESSPP). As such, projects are screened early on for the presence of indigenous people in the project area, who are identified through criteria that reflect their social and cultural distinctiveness. Such criteria may include: self-identification and identification by others as indigenous people; collective attachment to land; presence of customary institutions; indigenous language; and, primarily subsistence-oriented agricultural production.

All proposed projects that involve indigenous people are to be categorized as Category A projects. The project development team is responsible for overseeing the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies that need to be undertaken and competent professionals will be retained to assist in specific issues related to indigenous people. These studies will identify and assess the potential opportunities for, risks to, and impact (direct, indirect, cumulative and pre-mitigation) on indigenous people.

During project implementation, management conditions will be applied, and these will be monitored during implementation of the project. UNIDO ensures that the project development team recruits independent and experienced social science experts to undertake such monitoring as is required by the ESIA.

UNIDO thus ensures that, consistent with the rights and responsibilities set forth in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other international law relating to indigenous peoples, projects are designed and implemented in such a way that fosters full respect for indigenous people and their dignity, human rights, and cultural uniqueness so that they (a) receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits; and (b) do not suffer adverse effects during the development process.

UNIDO in general also ensures that its projects and programmes consider other *interacting forms of discrimination*. Through frameworks such as the UNIDO Gender Strategy 2019-2023 ensures that our projects and programmes respond to women and men's different and intersecting needs, *taking into account age, disability, gender identities, race, ethnicity, language, religion, education, economic status, social norms, etc.*