

Questionnaire to UN system

Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental organizations

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2000/22. The Permanent Forum is mandated to provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the ECOSOC and through the Council to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes; to raise awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the UN system; prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues; and promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration.

The Indigenous Peoples Development Branch/Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites UN system agencies, funds and programmes and other intergovernmental organizations to complete the attached questionnaire on any action taken or planned in response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations, the system-wide action plan on rights of indigenous peoples (SWAP), the 2030 Development Agenda and COVID-19 recovery efforts.

The responses will be compiled into a report for the 2023 session of the Permanent Forum. In your responses, please, include information on progress and challenges related to indigenous women, indigenous persons with disabilities, indigenous older persons, and indigenous children and youth.

All responses will be placed on the DESA/DISD website on Indigenous Peoples at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenuspeoples/>

If you have any objections to your response being made available on our website, please inform our office accordingly.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **15 November 2022** to:

Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch
Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Inclusive Social Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Headquarters
New York, USA 10017
Email: indigenous_un@un.org and requesens@un.org

Questionnaire

Please provide information on the following:

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2023 session

i. Please provide information on measures taken since your last update to the Forum on the implementation or planned implementation of the recommendations of the PFII.

UNDP implements a wealth of programmes in countries promoting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), ranging from stand-alone targeted programmes to mainstreaming indigenous people's rights in programmes related to governance, environment and climate change, national planning, and other sectors.

As part of the Business and Human Rights in Asia ([B+HR](#)) programme partnership with the Government of Sweden, UNDP launched a 'Human Rights Due Diligence Training Facilitation Guide and Human Rights Self-Assessment Training Tool' available [here](#). The Guide provides flexible training modules which clarify what is required for companies to conduct human rights due diligence. It is complemented by an online Training Tool featuring 99 potential business-related human rights risks with references to international human rights instruments and relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries ([UN-REDD](#)) is a UN collaborative initiative launched in 2008. It builds on the convening role and technical expertise of UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Operational in 55 countries, UN-REDD has a specific focus on indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, while also encouraging broader multi-stakeholder processes. The Programme supports indigenous peoples through its governance structure and through its stakeholder engagement work plan, which includes consultative design and implementation of guidelines and normative tools, and via support to their capacity building, engagement, and participation.

UNDP is the lead agency for national REDD+ governance, engagement of indigenous peoples, local communities and other relevant stakeholders, and transparent, equitable and accountable management of REDD+ payments. In order to uphold basic human rights and to contribute to the success of REDD+, UNDP's work aims to enable these groups to participate in REDD+ decision-making at local, national, and international levels.

In Colombia, UNDP and UN-REDD continued to support indigenous peoples with digital means for participation in public policy dialogues. The inclusive digital engagement was publicised through a report on the virtual working sessions between government authorities and indigenous peoples since the Covid-19 pandemic started. These digital systems and sessions have underpinned the creation of the National Indigenous Environmental Commission (*Comisión Nacional Ambiental Indígena*, or CNAI), a critical indigenous platform

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to inform and monitor public policy on environmental affairs. UNDP Colombia also provided technical assistance for the design of a National Restoration Program in Indigenous Reservations (resguardos). These community forestry efforts have advanced ensuring coordination across efforts by other agencies and agreeing on next steps for continued support to local efforts.

In Costa Rica, UNDP supported analytical work and institutional arrangements to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples in emerging carbon markets for nature-based and forest-based solutions to the climate crisis. In Peru, UN-REDD provided technical support for the definition of a protocol for include indigenous forest monitoring systems, which was validated by the government (MINAM and SERFOR). Across the LAC region, UNDP and UN-REDD supported South-South exchange on free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and forest affairs between Costa Rica, Ecuador and Suriname.

ii. The theme of the 2023 PFII session is “Indigenous peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”¹. Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

The UNDP Equator Initiative team supported the coordination, promotion, and production of the [Nature for Life Hub 2022](#) a three-day virtual event (28-30 Nov 2022) that curated content across nine sessions that made a compelling case for how to put nature at the heart of the UN SDGs. Throughout the Nature for Life Hub, the calls to action from Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) from around the world were featured prominently, and are captured [here](#):

- Day 1 (28 Nov): [Nature for Development and Climate](#)
- Day 2 (29 Nov): [Financing Nature](#)
- Day 3 (30 Nov): [Creating a Planetary Safety Net](#)

For the Asia-Pacific region, UNDP and UN-REDD have collaborated with the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the Forest Peoples’ Programme (FPP) to analyse linkages and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the National Determined Contributions ([NDCs](#)) of ten countries in the region – the aim is to create baseline analyses that will support monitoring of IPs roles during NDC implementation as well as identify opportunities to strengthen indigenous inclusion. In addition, UNDP announced a further consultancy in the third quarter of 2022 to extend the review of NDCs for indigenous peoples’ engagement at the global level as part of the [UNDP Climate Promise](#) in 2023.

These country and regional analyses are expected inform the works of the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform ([LCIPP](#)) Platform – where UNDP has been sharing with the LCIPP its suite of climate finance programmes offered to Indigenous Peoples at the national, regional, and global levels.

UNDP and UN-REDD have contributed to the works and indigenous participation of the LICPP with regards to forest solutions and climate action, helping channel indigenous knowledge

¹ See Annex 1. Agenda of the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

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into national climate policy processes, such as REDD+ investment plans and NDC reviews. UN-REDD have helped to compile and assess lessons and approaches for the digital participation of IPs in policy/institutional processes, building on the pilot case of Colombia. UNDP and UN-REDD provided guidance to the UK COP26 Presidency on the flagship event 'Forests & People: How REDD+ can support Indigenous and Local Forest communities, and what we have learned so far' available [here](#).

In 2021-2022, the [Forests Declaration Platform](#) (former NYDF), hosted by UNDP, has developed and elaborated an 'IPLC Action Plan' as a response to Indigenous Peoples' requests. In particular, UNDP has collaborated with the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) which includes key indigenous networks such as COICA, AMAN, REPALEAC and AMPB, to acknowledge requests for the platform and engage IPLCs in the 'NYDF refresh' process including two indigenous networks (Foro Indigena Abya Yala and Tebtebba) who were invited to join the 'Endorser Working Group'.

During UNFCCC COP27 (Nov 2022), UNDP supported a series of events in partnership with indigenous peoples. UNDP's Climate and Forests Programme hosted a day-long program of events at the UNDP Pavilion to showcase examples of how countries are tapping into finance to implement their forest and climate commitments. The day's program highlighted key themes including barriers to accessing finance for Indigenous Peoples, innovations in implementing socially inclusive performance-based finance, and opportunities to channel finance to deforestation-free production models. Each event showcased different elements: [how global pledges can turn into forest actions](#), how to channel REDD+ revenues to the grassroots through rapid operational mechanisms and high safeguards provisions, and [how to harness carbon markets for NDCs implementation in Africa](#).

The Pavilion hosted a diverse set of events, encouraging innovative and interactive presentation formats, and created dialogue space for the voices of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and local communities. At the end of the day, the program closed with a reception to celebrate the successful partnership between the [Government of Ecuador](#), the global coffee company Lavazza and Amazonian farmers to produce and trade coffee deforestation-free coffee, with a spinoff underway in the cocoa sector – samples of such highly sustainable produce will be offered, revealing the true aromas of the Paris Agreement.

Indigenous women are the unrecognized protagonists of global climate action. To give tangible examples of the incalculable role of conservation and regeneration that Indigenous women have historically played and continue to lead on a daily basis, the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) co-hosted an COP27 side event with UNDP titled '[The Role of Indigenous Women in the Climate Crisis](#)'. The panelist of the event were Shirley Krenak, from the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB); Fany Kuiru, Coordinator for Women, Children and the Family of the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin (OPIAC); Sara Omi, lawyer defending the Emberá people, President of the Coordinator of Women Territorial Leaders of Mesoamerica; and Aissatou Oumarou, Deputy Coordinator of the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC).

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As a contribution to the Rio Pavilion at COP27, the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) presented its partnership with the HLPF Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) on the 'Right Energy Partnership' (REP) in seven countries (Cameroon, Cambodia, DR Congo, El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, Timor Leste). A short video on the micro-hydro watershed project supported through the REP by SGP in Honduras is available [here](#). As part of the overall collaboration with the GATC, UNDP NYDF has also supported the Voluntary Carbon Market Initiative ([VCMI](#)) in engaging with IPLCs by securing GATC's leader to participate in the Steering Committee and advise on IPLC engagement across VCMI's activities.

UNDP has been supporting the development of the [Global ICCA Consortium](#) since its formation at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in Barcelona in 2008. The Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities ([ICCA-GSI](#)) was formed in 2014 to "broaden the range and quality of diverse governance types in recognizing ICCAs and achieve the Aichi 2020 targets". ICCA-GSI's objective has been to improve the recognition and overall effectiveness for biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and resilience to climate change effects of territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The ICCA-GSI was formed a multi-partnership initiative that is delivered by the UNDP-implemented Small Grants Programme (SGP) and funded by the Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety ([BMUV](#)). Key partners include the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre ([UNEP WCMC](#)), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Global Programme on Protected Areas ([IUCN GPAP](#)), the [ICCA Consortium](#) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity ([CBD](#)).

As part of its partnership with the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMUV IKI), the GEF Small Grants Programme supported the Global ICCA Consortium to produce its Flagship [Territories for Life: 2021 Report](#) as a contribution to the negotiation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ([GBF](#)), adopted by the CBD COP15 in Montreal in [Dec 2022](#). The report includes: (i) a synthesis report; (ii) recommendations inclusive of those for CBD post-2020 GBF; (iii) 17 case studies; (iv) 5-6 national/sub-regional analysis, and (v) a global analysis led by UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) on the spatial estimation of ICCAs. The report is based on many years of documenting within specific territories, consolidates the state of knowledge in Territories of Life and use evidence-based to inform decision-making processes.

The report complements and builds on a second '[IPLC Lands and Territories](#)' technical report which incorporates key findings from a collaborative review conducted by WWF, UNDP, UNEP WCMC, the global ICCA Consortium and 10 other contributing organisations. The spatial analysis builds on the earlier Garnett (2018) analysis of the global area of lands conserved by IPs and LCs, and collects a large dataset on lands and territories conserved by IPs and LCs at the global level.

Some of the main findings of the joint advocacy report include that: (i) IPLC lands with a high degree of intact ecosystem represent approx. 32% of land globally, of which 13% overlap with Protected Areas; (ii) 64% of the IPs and LCs lands are in good ecological

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condition/unmodified; (iii) in some cases, human modification may also be beneficial to environmental conservation; (iv) 36% of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) overlap with IPLC conserved lands; (v) based on the ecoregion analysis, over 75% are covered by IPs and LCs in 91 ecoregions; (vi) on biomes, over 50% of biomes overlap with 30% of IPLCs; and (vii) in 80% of IPLCs, there is external development.

During 2022, UNDP also supported the [1st Africa Parks Congress](#) (July 2022). More than 2,400 participants from 53 African and 27 other countries participated in the inaugural IUCN Africa Protected and Conserved Areas Congress ([APAC](#)) in Kigali, Rwanda, from 18-23 July 2022. Under the theme “For People and Nature” the Congress identified priority actions to strengthen Africa’s protected and conserved areas (PCAs) in a just, equitable and fair manner, including by deepening the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. UNDP supported a 2-day pre-Congress Africa Regional meeting of the ICCA Consortium (14-15 July) facilitating the participation of indigenous peoples in Africa in the [IPLCs pre-Congress](#) meeting (16-17 July) together with the main Congress. IPs and LCs were involved across a range of plenary sessions and side events, including proposed text and language which was incorporated into the final [Kigali Call to Action](#).

iii. Please provide information on efforts to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in the international decades declared by the General Assembly, such as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development,” the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and other relevant international decades and processes

Over the course of 2022, UNDP supported preparations and organization of the ‘2nd High Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Sustainable Development’ (2018-2028) held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan ([6-9 June 2022](#)). UNDP supported the Government of Tajikistan and the Netherlands (joint co-hosts) in the organization of the meeting. In addition, UNDP supported the participation of NGOs and indigenous peoples representing Central Asia local mountainous communities and conserved territories in the [Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forum](#), specifically on the inclusive approaches to water in ecosystems, land, agriculture, and knowledge development.

The conference concluded with the [Declaration from Dushanbe to New York](#), which consolidates critical views of the stakeholders on key actions and partnerships necessary to take the water sector agenda forward globally and provide valuable inputs to the preparation of the UN [2023 Water Decade Conference](#) in New York. The outcomes of the Conference will be presented to the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

B. System-Wide Action Plan to achieve the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Background

As per the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), a [system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) was adopted in November 2015 and launched by the Secretary-General at the UN Permanent Forum in May 2016.

In August 2020, the United Nations Executive Committee agreed on the need for accelerated and collective action to strengthen the implementation of the SWAP on indigenous peoples. In November 2020, the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination issued a [Call to Action: Building an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Future with Indigenous Peoples](#). Its goal is to ensure collaborative and coherent UN system action to support the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples with a focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP².

i. The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made on the SWAP implementation as part of its discussion on the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples during its 2023 session. Please provide an analysis of actions taken by your agency, fund and/or programme on the six key elements of the SWAP, since your last update to the Forum³.

UNDP contributes to the IASG SWAP efforts for harmonized and system-wide messaging and awareness raising on the UNDRIP, contributing to system wide advocacy and social media as well as widely sharing stories on indigenous peoples, especially on International Day for Indigenous Peoples. See for example [GEF Small Grants Programme: 25 Years of Engagement with Indigenous People](#) summarizing a broad suite of partnerships and delivery mechanisms engaging indigenous peoples at national, regional and global levels.

Over the course of 2021-2022, DPPA, UNDP, OHCHR, DESA, ILO, UNEP, UN Women and RCOs in the LAC region convened and agreed to produce a series of seminars for UNCTs, to build harmonized and coherent approaches for promoting Indigenous Peoples' rights based on a common understanding of the UN Declaration, ILO Convention 169 and other relevant international instruments and to strengthen the SWAP, while also supporting the implementation of the EC recommendations to map existing resources and activities currently devoted to Indigenous Peoples at the country and regional level, and to support the building of institutions for Indigenous Peoples' participation and consultation. UNDP,

² Reporting on the activities to implement the CEB Call to Action is through task groups and should not be included in the responses to this questionnaire.

³ The six key elements of the SWAP are: 1) Raise awareness of the UNDRIP; 2) Support the implementation of the UNDRIP, particularly at the country level; 3) Support the realization of indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; 4) Map existing standards and guidelines, capacity, training materials and resources within the UN system, international financial institutions and the members of the IASG for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP; 5) Develop the capacity of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel; and 6) Advance the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes.

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DESA, OHCHR and ILO further agreed to provide strengthened and integrated support to UNCTs and RCs in the implementation of socioeconomic response plans, including through supporting the collection of disaggregated data (gender, age, diversity) and increased data-sharing as recommended by the EC, to ensure the full inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, including indigenous women and girls.

For the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples held on 9 Aug 2022, the Youth Co:Lab, an initiative co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, highlighted contributions that young Indigenous Peoples across Asia and the Pacific are making through social entrepreneurship to address the challenges of their communities. The [campaign](#) included blogs, videos, a quiz and a social media campaign, and included a [webinar](#) to launch a series of video stories by Indigenous Peoples (youthcolab.org). To continuously highlight and promote the contributions of young Indigenous peoples for the realization of the SDGs, a [repository](#) of human-centred stories was created on the Youth Co:Lab website to which new content is added on a rolling basis.

The Youth Co:Lab also supported an annual conference of Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP) which gathered 69 young people from 11 countries. The current situation, opportunities, and challenges that the indigenous youth face was presented and reflected on. The conference concluded with a strategic plan and a Governing Article for the AIYP, as well as the selection of the new council members for the period between 2022 and 2025. Similarly, the Youth Co:Lab organized a Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Youth Social Entrepreneurship with 45 experienced and aspiring entrepreneurs, consisting of 20 teams, to elaborate pitch presentations to present their ideas for social enterprises so as to earn new partners and potential investors.

Thirdly, Youth Co:Lab launched the [YECAP Indigenous Fellowship](#) as a six-month regional youth-led Programme in partnership with AIYP and offered by the convening partners of the YECAP, to train Indigenous young leaders across Asia to ensure the demands of the Indigenous youth communities for climate action. In Nov 2022, the 20+ fellows gathered in person for a 3-day training to share insights and ways to combat the effects of climate change and learn about the [toolkit](#) for Young Environment Human Rights Defenders.

UNDP Thailand has further engaged in a project on preventing violent extremism (PVE) with Indigenous communities. The UNDP CO issued grants to the Council of Indigenous People of Thailand to organise an online seminar series and apply a 'whole-of-society' approach to promote a draft Law on the protection of the rights of ethnic minorities. The project aimed to improve the public's understanding of the emerging legislation. Numerous events were organised at the national level in Bangkok in Aug 2022 with ethnic minorities, academic and members of parliament to provide a better understanding on the impact of the new law on people's lives.

Since the creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNDP has been closely engaging with the UNPFII and following up on its recommendations in accordance with its mandate. This summary encompasses UNDP's progress towards recommendations made by the Permanent Forum, implementation of the UN SWAP for ensuring a coherent approach to

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achieving the ends of the UNDRIP and mainstreaming the principles and standards contained therein.

UNDP cooperates with and supports governments and indigenous peoples at country level on national action plans, strategies and other measures that aim to achieve the UNDRIP; promotes integration of the SDGs with and for Indigenous Peoples from both its global and country level work; engages and supports the Permanent Forum's indigenous media zone; and contributes to advocacy and communication with and for indigenous peoples through its programmes (GEF Small Grants Programme, Equator Initiative, Youth Co-Lab, Business and Human Rights, UNDP-GANHRI partnership, UN-REDD, Declaration on Forests, BES-Net and others); and works jointly with other UN entities technically and financially in supporting the implementation of the SWAP.

As part of the joint [UN Call to Action on Human Rights](#) (C2A) announced by the Secretary General in 2020, UNDP has been actively engaged with the C2A stream on the 'Rights of Future Generations' (Sarah Rattray, Governance; Noella Richard, Youth; Ann-Cathrin Pedersen, Environmental Governance Programme; Terence Hay-Edie; NCE Local Action/GEF Small Grants Programme), with respect to: (a) preparation of a common UN narrative framework on the human right to a healthy environment ([R2HE](#)), approved by the UN Human Rights Council Decision [HRC 48/13](#) on 8 Oct 2021, and adopted by the [UN General Assembly resolution](#) on 28 July 2022; (b) opportunities for Joint Programming between UN agencies; and (c) collaboration with OHCHR and UNEP on the rights of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs). Within the mandate of the C2A, UNDP supported UN DCO with the roll-out of a series of webinars in early 2022 with UN Resident Coordinators with respect to the CEB decision on the SWAP, as well as with [OHCHR](#) and [UNEP draft guidance](#) on reprisals against EHRDs.

UNDP applies Social and Environmental Standards (SES) which are mandatory for all UNDP projects.⁴ The application of social and environmental safeguards and related grievance mechanisms provide tools to navigate through this complexity and ensure that integrated development solutions are identified early on and that programming does not result in inadvertent harm or conflict. The SES are comprised of several elements: overarching policy and principles; project-level standards; and the policy delivery process. The project-level standards further support implementation of UNDP's commitments to promote respect for human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability and relate to areas such as sustainable natural resource management, displacement and resettlement, cultural heritage, and Indigenous Peoples. Over the course of 2022, UNDP has continued to apply the relevant SES standards and policies through the available mediation, stakeholder response, grievance, and other mechanisms.

Please also include an executive summary (500-word limit).

Executive Summary: UNDP contribution to six elements of the SWAP

⁴ UNDP SES at <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/social-and-environmental-sustainability-in-undp/SES.html>

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SWAP six key elements		UNDP contributions (select)
1	Raise awareness of the UNDRIP	Business and Human Rights (B+HR), Youth Co:Lab, Equator Initiative
2	Implementation of the UNDRIP	UNDP participation in UN Call to Action on Human Rights (C2A), UNDP-GANHRI, SES mechanisms
3	Support the realization of IPs rights in the implementation/review of the 2030 SDGs	COVID-19 socioeconomic response and recovery plans (SERPs), GEF Small Grants Programme, UN-REDD, ICCA GSI
4	Map existing standards and guidelines, capacity, training materials	UN-REDD, BES-Net, Business and Human Rights (B+HR), Equator Initiative, GEF Small Grants Programme, ICCA GSI
5	Develop the capacity of States, indigenous peoples, civil society, and UN personnel	GEF Small Grants Programme, ICCA GSI, UNDP-GANHRI, UN-REDD, Business and Human Rights (B+HR), BES-Net, Youth Co:Lab
6	Participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes	Equator Initiative, Declaration on Forests, UN-REDD, BES-Net, Youth Co:Lab

C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

i. Please describe any activities your entity has organized since the last reporting period to accelerate progress across a range of SDGs, demonstrating the interlinkages across goals and targets and if applicable, providing examples of translating global goals into local actions. In your response, please consider referring to SDGs relevant to the theme of the 2023 session of the Forum.

ii. Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2022 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a VNR process at the national, regional, or global level.

Over the course of 2022, UNDP has continued its engagement with Indigenous Peoples⁵ grounded in an overall vision to assist countries to achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and reduction of inequalities and exclusion. This involves the three main areas of UNDP's work, consisting of developing sustainable development pathways; strengthening inclusive and effective democratic governance and peacebuilding; and building resilience, particularly from conflicts and natural disasters. In addition, UNDP's work on Indigenous Peoples is guided and shaped by the international human rights standards and principles, and particularly the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).



[UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#)

Engagement with Indigenous Peoples has been a focus area within UNDP's mission to mainstream a human rights-based approach into its development policies and programmes, its global advocacy efforts to fight discrimination and support marginalized minorities, as well as in its long-standing engagement with civil society. UNDP greatly values the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to humanity's cultural diversity and heritage, climate change solutions and shares their concerns about economic and social disadvantages and

⁵ UNDP affirms that there is no one universally accepted definition of indigenous peoples. The term "indigenous peoples" refers to distinct collectives, regardless of the local, national and regional terms applied to them, who satisfy any of the more commonly accepted definitions of indigenous peoples. Depending on the national context, indigenous peoples are referred to as "tribal people", "first peoples", "scheduled tribes", "pastoralists", "hill peoples" and also "ethnic groups/minorities".

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weak political representation. UNDP's current [Strategic Plan 2022–2025](#) includes six 'signature solutions' and three 'enablers' for partner countries including addressing poverty and inequality; strengthening governance; support to nature, climate and energy needs; access to finance; as well as strengthening tenure, water and land rights, with an understanding of the differentiated impacts, access and contributions of women and men, disabled persons, and indigenous communities.⁶

As a trusted multilateral partner serving in 177 countries and territories around the world, UNDP is uniquely positioned to help advocate for the creation of civic space for the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples at the local, national, regional, and international levels to ensure that their voices are heard and that they contribute to policy-making and monitor policy implementation. Thus, guaranteeing access to opportunities and supporting an enabling environment, in which Indigenous Peoples are empowered and can develop their full potential to lead dignified lives in harmony with their world vision, are at the core of UNDP's work.

The UN's Framework for COVID-19 Response has a clear entry point for the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), particularly in monitoring the risks of human rights violations, acting as a bridge between excluded populations and the state, and providing rights-based advice to governments— discussed as part of the Tripartite Review Meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions ([GANHRI](#)), UNDP and OHCHR. The revised voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews (VNRs) discussed at the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in 2021 and 2022 emphasize the important role of NHRIs to effectively engage stakeholders in the VNR process and the 2030 Agenda implementation. UNDP has worked in over 100 countries supporting NHRIs, including with respect to indigenous peoples and EHRDs.

The UNDP Equator Initiative and 'Nature for Development' team has compiled a large number of communication materials, training courses, podcasts, and webinar presentations with respect to IPLCs and nature-based solutions (NbS). Some of these include inter alia: (i) webinar 'Can Drones Help to Conserve the Planets' Natural Resources? available [here](#); (ii) webinar 'Supporting Indigenous peoples in defending nature and traditions with geospatial technologies' available [here](#); and (iii) 'Local Nature-based Solutions and Livelihoods: Spotlighting Indigenous Voices and Knowledge' available [here](#).

With respect to diversifying engagement with Indigenous Peoples, the UNDP Equator Initiative (EI) team has worked with experienced Indigenous facilitators from the Tribal Link Foundation to jointly produce a course entitled 'Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations: Project Access Online' and organized a variety of 2022 UNPFII trainings and associated side events. Building on the pilot phase of the [Indigenous Peoples Fellowship Initiative](#) which engaged 4 global and 7 national IP Fellows, the GEF Small Grants Programme is developing the second phase of the programme to be implemented as part of its 7th Operational Phase (OP7) running from 2020-2024.

Through the 'Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network' ([BES-Net](#)), also supported by the BMUV IKI and SwedBio, UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO have been supporting countries in

⁶ UNDP Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025.

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conducting national ecosystem assessments (NEAs) to empower the full consideration of the value of nature in national policy-making. With reference to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' ([IPBES](#)) 'Guide on the production of assessments', BES-Net's NEA support applies the multiple evidence base (MEB) approach to acknowledge and embrace not only scientific knowledge systems but also indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) systems in target countries to promote cross-fertilization among a diversity of knowledge systems, contributing to the co-production of knowledge and co-creation of new evidence on BES.

At present, a total of 12 countries have benefited from the UNDP BES-Net NEA support, with countries at different stages of the assessment namely: (a) Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, and Viet Nam (at the final validation/launch of the assessment); (b) Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia and Grenada (at the assessment evaluation stage). In addition, the Dominican Republic, Malawi, and Thailand are at the stage of initial scoping of the assessment. In the respective countries, tailored support has been provided towards the participatory mapping of the ILK holders in various key ecosystems; designing and application of the community-based ILK research tools; training of indigenous peoples and local communities on data collection methods and tools; facilitation of the dialogues between scientific and ILK knowledge holders and among the policy, science and practice communities.

In Oct 2022, the Bes-Net NEA Initiative and the country partners were able to meet in-person for a global workshop. Hosted in Cambridge, UK, the [NEA Initiative Global Workshop](#) was held from 24-28 Oct 2022, delivered in partnership with UNDP and UNESCO. UNEP-WCMC behind the NEA Initiative was pleased to welcome 8 country teams (Botswana, Malawi, Thailand, the Dominican Republic, Cambodia, Grenada, Azerbaijan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina), as well as international experts and practitioners such as Tranche I countries representatives (Colombia, Cameroon, and Vietnam).

D. COVID-19 pandemic

i. Please provide information on action taken by your agency, fund and/or programme since your last update to the Forum, to address building back better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of Agenda 2030 for indigenous peoples.

With respect to COVID-19, UNDP has formulated a comprehensive '[Roadmap for Humanity](#)' as part of the socio-economic recovery response, including a '[Nature Offer](#)' within the context of the global planetary crisis. In 2021, the [UNDP Human Development Report](#) focused on the topic of the 'Anthropocene', re-examining how the relationship between people and the planet must be at the heart of 'building forward better' from the pandemic, as it is at the heart of the 2030 SDGs.

In 2022, the UNDP HDR entitled '[Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World](#)' focused on the topic of the "global polycrisis" with layers of uncertainty which are stacking up and interacting to unsettle life in unprecedented ways. 2021 and 2022 have seen devastating social and economic impacts for billions of people around the world due to COVID-19 and global conflicts, as well as food and energy shortages and increasingly extreme weather events.

For the first time in the 32 years that UNDP has been calculating the Human Development Index (HDI) as a measure of a nation's health, education, and standard of living, the HDI has declined globally for two years in a row. By late 2022, the HDI had fallen back to 2016 levels, reversing much of the progress towards the SDGs. The reversal is nearly universal as over 90 percent of countries registered a decline in their HDI score in either 2020 or 2021, and more than 40 percent declined in both years, signaling that the global polycrisis crisis is still deepening for many.

As one of a series of inter-connected shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing structural inequalities and pervasive discrimination against Indigenous Peoples. In many regions, environmental destruction has continued to affect Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories, and social conflicts linked to economic development activities, particularly natural resources extraction, have contributed to increasing attacks against environmental and indigenous human rights defenders (EHRDs), including violence, criminalization and hate speech.

As part of its role on SDG integration, UNDP has advocated for the UN to leverage resilience strategies and traditional knowledge in programming interventions, while noting the need for international financial institutions (IFIs) to engage in the requisite consultations, including through the development of social frameworks that are inclusive of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. To this end, UNDP has examined the means to strengthen its engagements with IFIs, including in data exchanges and creating consensus on programming priorities. It has also been recommended that UNCT capacities on indigenous rights and risk assessments be strengthened to ensure a mapping of existing resources, an effective mainstreaming of Indigenous Peoples rights, strengthened mechanisms for consultations in order to obtain FPIC and implementation of policies that support the agency of Indigenous Peoples at relevant fora and levels.

Questionnaire to UN system

In Latin America, noting that almost 32% of employed indigenous adults have no formal education (compared to 13% of non-indigenous adults), Indigenous Peoples are 31% more likely to work in the informal economy (85% of indigenous women work in the informal sector), thereby having reduced access to formal social protection schemes and healthcare. Moreover, Indigenous Peoples are among the hardest hit by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, an exacerbation of pre-existing poverties, accompanied by reduced fiscal space leading policy-makers in some instances to de-prioritize social protection interventions. In this context, UNDP notes that is likely that inequalities and social tensions along ethnic lines may continue to grow, while women and indigenous peoples will continue to feel the impact of the pandemic on their livelihoods.

Noting the interlinked crises and risks across the LAC region, UNDP committed to assist the UN to take action to prevent the escalation of tensions and mitigate the risk of violence against Indigenous Peoples. In this vein, UNDP supports the UN-wide call (CEB Statement) on governments to guarantee Indigenous Peoples' collective right to participate in decision-making and to be consulted, in line with the UNDRIP and ILO Convention No. 169 and to ensure that situations, where FPIC is required but not achieved, are addressed in line with international obligations and commitments.

In LAC, Asia-Pacific, Africa and other regions, UNDP is working with other UN agencies to empower indigenous peoples to reduce the risk of conflict resulting from COVID-19 and mitigate an escalation of tensions through inclusive integrated solutions that address health, development, climate, and land-related challenges. As part of the joint UN [Call to Action on Human Rights](#) (C2A), the UN is expected to develop partnerships and dialogue mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples organizations. Coordinated and led by UNDP on behalf of the UN system, COVID-19 socioeconomic response and recovery plans (SERPs) have been required to differentiate and incorporate Indigenous Peoples' needs, alongside UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), adapting vulnerability criteria to access development financing as inclusive of Indigenous Peoples' needs.

Since 2020, the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMUV) has extended its partnership with the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) for Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) including [COVID-19 response](#) needs in 45 countries. Building on the Phase 1 partnership for ICCAs in 26 countries (\$12M) running from 2013-2022, Phase 2 (\$17.1M) was provided to include support to ICCAs in 45 countries at the global level – with 12 participating countries in LAC; 18 in Africa and the Middle East; 3 in Europe/CIS; and 14 in Asia and the Pacific.

As of Dec 2022, approximately \$9M in rapid response funds have been committed for the implementation of CSO-led small grants in the 45 countries. In total, [357 projects](#) have been implemented as a response to COVID-19 under eight thematic areas namely: (i) food production systems (agroecology and agroforestry); (ii) communication and lessons sharing through culturally appropriate means; (iii) transmission of traditional medical knowledge; (iv) territorial mapping and demarcation; (v) sustainable and well-governed wildlife consumption; (vi) deployment of traditional knowledge of fire management; (vii) prevention of zoonoses and future pandemics; and (viii) local bio-circular economy based on reciprocity.

Questionnaire to UN system

Over the course of 2023, UNDP will closely monitor the timely implementation of the civil society projects, including with respect to the South-South global knowledge sharing of lessons learned as part of the socio-economic response to COVID-19.

ANNEX 1

Agenda of the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Twentieth-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **17 to 28 April 2023**

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “Indigenous peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”.
4. Discussion on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum (economic and social development, culture, environment, education, health, and human rights), with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. Dialogues:
 - (a) Dialogue with indigenous peoples;
 - (b) Dialogue with Member States;
 - (c) Dialogue with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes;
 - (d) Human rights dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - (e) Regional dialogues;
 - (f) Dialogue on indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities;
 - (g) Thematic dialogues;
6. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council, the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and emerging issues.
7. Provisional agenda of the twenty-third session of the Permanent Forum.
8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-second session.