

Annex 1:

Q&A:

World Bank Support for Indigenous Peoples' Voice, Inclusion & Well-Being

1. How does the World Bank work with Indigenous Peoples?

The World Bank supports Indigenous Peoples' voice, inclusion, and well-being through a range of interventions. First, with our client countries, we promote their visibility and awareness of key challenges and priorities through upstream analytics, country policy dialogue, and institutional strengthening. Second, when Indigenous Peoples are present within investment project areas or when they have a collective attachment to such areas, and meet the criteria established within our Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS7), the Bank requires that they are consulted and that they benefit from the project while ensuring that any potential adverse impacts are avoided or mitigated. Third, as requested by client governments, we support investment and policy lending to governments to advance Indigenous Peoples' priority policy reforms or investments. Finally, the World Bank supports direct grants to Indigenous Peoples' organizations, mostly through our climate and nature Multi-Donor Trust Funds. Such grants are provided subject to a 'no objection' from the member country concerned.

2. In 2024, how has the World Bank engaged strategically with Indigenous Peoples and supported regional and country level dialogue, evidence and capacity building?

Policy Dialogue

The World Bank engages in direct dialogue with Indigenous Peoples' representatives and organizations at national, regional, and global levels. At a global level, the Bank engages on an ongoing basis with global Indigenous leaders through invitations to speak at high-level events, panels and in bilateral meetings with Senior Bank Management, donors and technical teams at diverse fora.

At the regional level, in 2024, four **dialogues covering Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific** were organized in partnership with IFAD in Kenya, Cambodia, Colombia, and Fiji (Sept–Nov 2024). These dialogues brought together over 150 Indigenous thought leaders from more than 50 countries, creating a strategic space to discuss their specific priorities and challenges, share their experiences with the World Bank, and explore potential opportunities for enhanced collaboration. Key recommendations that emerged from these dialogues include: (i) to create sustained and structured platforms for engagement between the WB and Indigenous Peoples in each region; (ii) support the capacity of Indigenous Peoples to access resources and participate effectively in decision-making processes; (iii) enhance the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples at all stages of project design, implementation, and evaluation and strengthen the implementation of FPIC in practice; and (iv) ensure transparent and accessible Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs).

In **Latin America**, the [Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program \(ASL\)](#) supported the "Dialogues of the Amazon 2024", co-organized with the North Amazon Alliance in Leticia, Colombia. This gathering brought together Indigenous representatives from **Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru** to exchange experiences on territorial protection, share knowledge, and identify common ground to strengthen their collective commitment to safeguarding life and territories. The event resulted in 16 key recommendations under the

theme [“Elements that Enhance Territorial Protection Strategies through Dialogue and Collaboration Between Diverse Knowledge Systems.”](#)

At national levels, significant progress has been made in strengthening engagement with Indigenous Peoples across the Amazon region, particularly in **Peru, Colombia** and **Brazil**.

In **Peru**, in May 2024, an *Amazonian Indigenous Peoples Dialogue Roundtable* was established as a formal, continuous platform for collaboration between the World Bank and Indigenous organizations representing the Peruvian Amazon (AIDSESP, CONAP, ONAMIAP, and ANECAP). The Roundtable aims to align priorities and co-design solutions on bioeconomy, territorial security, and resource management. Results from this collaboration are already showing results such as: (i) identifying technical assistance needs that could be supported by the World Bank; and (ii) connecting Indigenous organizations with various World Bank teams, and in so, enhancing their participation in consultations, events, and initiatives at both national and international levels.

In **Colombia**, in March 2024, the *Mesa Permanente de Concertación Indígena* (MPC) and the World Bank initiated a structured ongoing dialogue. Since then, the World Bank has been proactively engaging with the MPC and jointly developed a capacity-building agenda focused on indigenous economies, climate resilience, and financial inclusion. The dialogue has held several seminars including a knowledge exchange with the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC). In addition, the World Bank and MPC are conducting a stock take and assessment of Indigenous-led business opportunities and value chains needing technical assistance. This agenda is being implemented directly by the MPC through the National Indigenous Organization (ONIC).

Analytics & Technical Assistance

In 2024, at a global level, the Bank has been advancing analytical work with Indigenous consultants across regions to deepen understanding around the key drivers and enablers of Indigenous Peoples’ resilience, and deepening understanding around key risks and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in both the blue and green economies. The initial results of the [Indigenous Peoples Resilience Study](#) were shared at a side event at the 23rd UNPFII, through regional dialogue workshops, and broadly disseminated on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. In addition, the Bank has supported the preparation of four **Regional Profiles of Coastal Indigenous Peoples and Blue Economies** for Asia, Africa, the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. These Profiles produce global knowledge in a space where minimal research has been carried out. For each region the Profiles describe where the coastal Indigenous Peoples are located, their relationships with their marine and coastal environments, the legal frameworks to protect their rights, and the pressures and opportunities they face. These Indigenous Peoples Blue Profiles will be first shared both at the 24th UNPFII and at the United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) in June 2025.

In **Kenya**, the Bank is supporting the government and Indigenous Peoples to jointly develop a national policy and institutional framework to guide the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, or marginalized and vulnerable groups, in national development processes. This process is being jointly led by the Mainyoto Pastoralists Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO), the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), and the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs. It builds upon previous work supported by the Bank to NGEC to prepare a [Scoping Review of marginalized peoples in Kenya](#).

In the **Philippines**, following the public launch of the [No Data No Story: Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines](#) report in May 2024, the World Bank is collaborating with the Philippine Statistics Authority

(PSA), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) to develop government standards and guidelines to systematically include ethnicity indicators in government statistics and standardize the way Indigenous Peoples and ethnic minorities data is collected in national surveys and administrative data, particularly in health and education. PSA has already implemented some of the key policy recommendations from the Bank report and have included ethnicity variables into the 2024 Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) and future poverty measurement surveys, particularly the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES). The Development of these standards and guidelines will be discussed in the context of two workshops that will be organized in 2025.

In **Brazil**, in April 2024, the World Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples expanding the Bank's existing collaboration with the Ministry. Since 2023, the Bank has been supporting the Ministry through the ASA/TF - SPF BR Land Restitution, Peacebuilding (P504533) which works to prevent and reduce the high levels of land-related conflicts and violence against indigenous communities in Brazil, through the development and adoption of protocols for peaceful negotiation and mediation of land conflicts.

Through the Bank's **India** Inclusion platform, approved in 2024, the Bank will support: (i) expenditure reviews of budgets allocated for tribal welfare; (ii) map institutional challenges faced by frontline service providers in tribal areas; and (iii) working with tribal councils, identify local demands and means for development.

In **Cameroon, Gabon, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo**, the Bank is supporting technical assistance and analytics for ongoing land reform to enable Indigenous Peoples to exercise their rights over their historical and legitimate territories. This grant, financed by the Bank's managed [PROGREEN](#) MDTF, contributes to expanding knowledge on Indigenous ancestral forest territories in these four countries and advances dialogue with regional Indigenous networks on proposed processes for securing Indigenous Peoples' land and forest rights in the territories they occupy.

In 2024, the Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program supported the exchange of knowledge and training of Indigenous Peoples in climate resilience, territorial governance, and sustainable livelihoods. This included the Indigenous Women's Tech Camp in **Peru**, where over 50 Indigenous women leaders from **Peru** and **Ecuador** exchanged strategies to safeguard their lands and communities. The camp fostered the formation of a network dedicated to defending rivers, promoting sustainable farming, and developing alternative economies.

3. In practical terms, how does the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) enhance Indigenous peoples' voice and visibility? Are there examples from the past year of how the World Bank is working to enhance the application of ESS7 across different regions and countries?

As part of the ESF, the ESS7 applies to the World Bank's Investment Project Financing (IPF) instrument where Indigenous Peoples are present or have collective attachment to the project area, having first satisfied that the concerned Indigenous Peoples meet the four criteria established in the Standard. ESS7 requires that the development process fosters full respect for the human rights, dignity, aspirations, identity, culture, and natural resource-based livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, and that their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is obtained in those circumstances where FPIC is specifically warranted. This Standard is currently being applied in 33 percent of the Bank's investment portfolio in 57 countries. The number of projects and countries applying ESS7 is growing.

In the past year, concrete examples from West and Central Africa demonstrate how ESS7 can contribute to enhanced visibility, voice and recognition of Indigenous Peoples. The Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) for the **Cameroon [Secondary Education and Skills Development Project](#)** is ensuring that: (i) school fees are paid for 150 Indigenous students; (ii) school uniforms and supplies are distributed to 350 Indigenous students; and (iii) that training is provided to head teachers at schools where Indigenous children are enrolled. The [Emergency Project to Combat the Food Crisis](#) in Cameroon aims to strengthen food and nutrition security and enhance climate resilience for 125 villages with Indigenous Peoples across the Boumba-et-Ngoko, Haut-Nyong, Kadey, and Lom-et-Djérem departments through its IPP.

In the **Republic of Congo**, the IPP for the [Kobikisa Health System Strengthening Project](#) requires that: (i) Indigenous Peoples receive support for obtaining free civil status registration and legal documents; (ii) IP-specific grievance management committees are established and operational in project zones; (iii) free health care is provided for Indigenous Peoples in both accessible and hard-to-reach areas; and (iv) mobile clinics offer free care to Indigenous Peoples in areas without health centers or with difficult access.

In the **Central African Republic**, the IPPs of several projects¹ in human capital, education, social development, health, and energy & extractives have led to enhanced employment opportunities for Indigenous youth, distribution of school furniture in schools within Indigenous communities, provision of school kits to Indigenous children, and distribution of medication and related kits to health centers in Indigenous communities. The IPPs have served as a key mechanism for integrating Indigenous Peoples' voices and priorities into project design, including in education and forestry projects.

In **Lao PDR**, through the application of ESS7, both the [Statistical System Modernization Project](#) and the [Global Partnership for Education \(GPE\) III Project](#) have adopted measures to enhance inclusion of diverse ethnic groups. The Lao Statistics Bureau, in line with the Project's IPP is developing communication guidelines for working with ethnic communities and will deliver cultural awareness training for data enumerators. This will enhance the collection of accurate data of diverse cultural groups and ensure that data collection is carried out in ways that are culturally respectful. The Education Project has collected data on schools with diverse ethnic groups to facilitate the assignment of teachers that are more closely aligned with the cultural makeup of the student body. This decision was made after observing higher levels of drop-outs due to language and cultural mismatches between students and teachers.

In **Ethiopia**, efforts to operationalize ESS7 are advancing through a Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process. The Ethiopia Roads Board is conducting FPIC for the [Horn of Africa Initiatives - Regional Economic Corridor Project](#), a pioneering effort that will establish standards for FPIC implementation and ESS7 application in Ethiopia.

¹ [Central African Republic Human Capital And Women And Girls' Empowerment \(Maingo\) Project \(P171158\)](#)
[Central African Republic - Education Sector Plan Support Project \(P173103\)](#)
[CAR-Agriculture Recovery and Agribusiness Development Support Project \(ARADSP\) \(P165855\)](#)
[CAR Investment and Business Competitiveness for Employment \(P176274\)](#)
[CAR-Electricity Sector Strengthening and Access Project \(P176683\)](#)
[Central African Republic Health Service Delivery & System Strengthening \(SENI-plus\) \(P181561\)](#)
[Additional Financing to the Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Project in Central Africa, Phase IV \(REDISSE IV\) - P176658](#)

In **Brazil**, the application of ESS7 improved the [Proactive, Safe, and Resilient Road Asset Management Program](#) by ensuring culturally appropriate engagement and continuous consultations with Indigenous Peoples, which culminated in the participatory development of a Protocol of Conduct for project workers involved in civil works within Indigenous lands. The measures provided in the Protocol are expected to enhance service delivery, respect for indigenous customs, and sustainable practices throughout the project implementation.

In addition to project-level work, the Bank also supports upstream work to enhance ESS7 application and to build country systems. In many countries, the Bank has supported national screening studies to identify socio-cultural groups that meet ESS7 criteria and has worked with governments to assess and strengthen country systems. For example, in **Somalia** an approach paper was finalized to guide Bank teams on how to apply the Standard in project areas that could present security and other risks to Indigenous Peoples, and identified potential stakeholders and local experts who can assist the Bank in ESS7 implementation. In **Bhutan**, in the absence of a national policy framework to identify Indigenous Peoples, the Bank is conducting project-level assessments to identify socio-cultural groups that meet ESS7 criteria. As recommended by the ESF Overview Assessment for Bhutan, the Bank is advancing a plan to carry out a national study to identify groups meeting ESS7 criteria. This study will also inform the formulation of policies for engaging cultural minorities in public and private-sector initiatives. In **Nepal**, the Bank collaborates with Indigenous Peoples organizations and government bodies to align national policies with global standards such as ESS7, emphasizing direct engagement, policy support, and capacity building to improve environmental and social outcomes.

Finally, over the past year, many efforts have been made to build capacity for the application of ESS7, both internally for WB staff and externally for governments and project implementation units. For example, in the **South Asia Region**, the Bank has facilitated ESS7 assessments as part of the ESF Overview Assessment for several countries, identifying gaps in national frameworks and providing recommendations for policy dialogue, regulatory amendments, institutional strengthening and capacity building. In **Nepal**, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) jointly organized a three-day FPIC training from October 22nd-24th, 2024. Participants included ADB social specialists from the region, World Bank social specialists and consultants in Nepal, relevant Nepalese government officials, and Project Implementation Units of projects funded by development partners.

4. Beyond the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), are there examples from the past year of how World Bank lending has proactively invested in Indigenous Peoples and their priorities?

Beyond the work through ESS7, the World Bank has also been strengthening financing for Indigenous Peoples' priorities, both through policy and investment lending to governments and direct grants to Indigenous Peoples. Below are examples of proactive inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in Bank strategic planning and lending.

In **Latin America**, the [World Bank Country Partnership Framework \(CPF\) 2024–2029 for Brazil](#) was developed through consultations with Indigenous and traditional communities, government agencies, and organizations. Among its key pillars is greater inclusion of the poor and underserved populations, which aims to reduce racial and gender disparities and directly benefit Afro-descendants, Indigenous Peoples, and women facing poverty and exclusion. Additionally, two other CPF objectives are closely aligned with this focus: Objective 2.2: Promote land ownership and sustainable livelihoods among disadvantaged groups, and Objective 3.1: Improve natural resource management to support environmental sustainability.

In **Panama**, the \$80 million [Project supporting the National Plan for the Integral Development of Indigenous Peoples](#), approved in 2018, has made significant progress to strengthen Indigenous authorities' capacities and advancing education, health, and water and sanitation services.

- Strengthening of Indigenous Authorities: Over 2,000 trained leaders, providing technical strategic plan development, regulatory framework review, and territorial governance capacity-building.
- Education: A broad consultation led to the adoption of Law 88 of 2010 on intercultural bilingual education in June 2024, alongside the development of the National Plan for Intercultural Bilingual Education.
- Health: The midwifery training manual was updated, and 200 midwives from Panama's seven Indigenous peoples were trained, establishing a birth monitoring and coordination mechanism.
- Water & Sanitation: A toolkit is being developed to strengthen rural aqueduct administration boards (JAAR) in 150 communities, including system diagnostics, water quality testing, system classification, improvement plans, and stakeholder training. The study and proposal stage for six water and sanitation systems has been completed.
- Infrastructure: Progress includes the construction of educational and health centers, including: two education centers completed, three under construction, and one in the bidding stage; one health center completed, three under construction, and five in the bidding stage; and six water and sanitation systems that have been completed.

In the **Philippines**, the Bank has been collaborating with the Ministry of Health to mainstream the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in health projects, particularly in the context of two of the WB supported health projects: [Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project \(PMNP\)](#) and [Philippines Health System Resilience Project](#). Both projects integrate Indigenous Peoples targeting mechanism within the project design, including specific activities to benefit Indigenous Peoples in the country and enhancing health system to make them more culturally appropriate. As a result, in 2024, the Ministry of Health and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples signed a Memorandum of Understanding to: (i) ensure culturally sensitive facilitation in the implementation of World Bank-funded health projects; (ii) secure and validate FPIC; (c) ensure consultation and capacity-building activities; and (d) share project implementation status.

In **India**, the Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project (P178418) began implementation in 2024 and aims to improve services and economic opportunities in tribal areas. It will invest in road redevelopment and maintenance, education and skill development, agricultural livelihoods, and strengthening local institutions. Also in 2024, the Bank approved the [Enhancing Landscape and Ecosystem Management \(ELEMENT\) Project](#), which will reach more than 400 villages across the states of Tripura and Nagaland, home to forest dependent Tribal communities. The Project adopts an integrated and holistic landscape approach to forest management, aiming to conserve and restore forest cover while enhancing landscape-based forest value chains for economic transformation. This project will leverage Indigenous knowledge and participation to achieve its goals and builds upon the highly successful results achieved under the [Meghalaya Community-led Landscapes Management Project](#).

In **Bangladesh**, three projects are supporting Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods, forestry, and employment opportunities. The [Resilient, Entrepreneurship, and Livelihood Improvement \(RELI\) Project](#) supports rural livelihoods, primarily benefiting women (98% of beneficiaries are women), while promoting resilient and sustainable development. There are 4,923 Indigenous beneficiaries from 156 villages. To ensure

Indigenous Peoples' inclusion, the Project has: (i) mobilized and strengthened community-based organizations; (ii) carried out awareness campaigns and community assessments to identify and target poor and vulnerable communities; (iii) provided specialized training on Alternative Income-Generating Activities tailored to Indigenous Peoples' traditional skills and occupations; (iv) invested in village-level infrastructure, including climate-resilient structures to support Indigenous communities' livelihoods and well-being; and (v) promoted leadership roles for Indigenous Peoples. The [Sustainable Forest and Livelihood \(SUFAL\) Project](#) designed to improve collaborative forest management and increase benefits for forest dependent communities, ensures Indigenous Peoples' inclusion through: (i) the formation of Collaborative Forest Management Committees with dedicated funds to strengthen community involvement; (ii) tailored livelihood training programs; and (iii) direct financial support to 2,907 ethnic community members. Finally, the [Accelerating and Strengthening Skills for Economic Transformation \(ASSET\) Project](#) integrates inclusive employment indicators and innovation funding to prioritize Indigenous Peoples' participation in skills training and economic opportunities.

In **Lao PDR**, the Bank has been working on inclusive education through the Global Partnership for Education III Project. The Bank observed that schools with ethnic children experience significantly lower dropout rates when they have ethnic teachers and recommended collecting ethnically disaggregated data on students and teachers. As of 2024, the Lao government is processing ethnicity data and plans to allocate ethnic teachers based on the ethnic student composition of each school under early childhood education.

In **Colombia**, the *Corazón de la Amazonia* project strengthened conservation governance by training 90 Indigenous researchers in fauna monitoring across 24 Indigenous communities and facilitated a knowledge exchange on biocultural restoration in protected areas linked to Indigenous territories.

5. How is the World Bank supporting direct financing for Indigenous Peoples?

The Bank has managed three Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) that work directly with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in climate and nature finance. The first of these was the [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Capacity Building Program](#) (FCPF-CBP) that supported regional grants to Indigenous Peoples and local community organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean from 2009 to 2022.

Soon after, the [Dedicated Grant Mechanism \(DGM\)](#) was created in 2009 and mobilized \$80 million for [12 country level grants](#) (approximately \$5 million each) and one global grant. The DGMs support sustainable forest management, livelihoods, and security of land tenure. DGM is a unique mechanism of delivering funding directly to the communities, lead in the countries by the National Steering Committees (NSC) (IP&LC representatives) and implemented by the National Executing Agencies (selected by the NSC). The Global DGM, executed by the Conservation International, leads coordination, communication and knowledge exchange among national DGM countries projects. Nine DGMs have finalized and closed, while those in the Republic of Congo, Nepal, Brazil and Guatemala remain under implementation. [A new phase of the DGM](#) is being initiated by the Climate Investment Fund (CIF) for which the Bank is the Trustee. The new phase will support US\$40 million in grants for Indigenous Peoples and local communities in conjunction with national programs in 10 countries, including: **Brazil, Fiji, Kenya** among others.

The [Enhancing Access to Benefits while Lowering Emissions \(EnABLE\)](#) MDTF is financing approximately \$70 million to support Indigenous Peoples and local communities to enhance their access to ERC benefits. In 2024, preparation and implementation of EnABLE country grants (of approx. \$4 million each) were

advanced in **Costa Rica, Lao PDR, Nepal, Fiji, and Viet Nam², Ghana, Mozambique, and Madagascar**. Other beneficiary countries, such as **Cote D'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Republic of Congo** have also initiated consultations and capacity building activities with Indigenous Peoples and are carrying out necessary preparatory work, including the identification of potential implementing partners. During 2024, important participatory processes were carried out with forest-based Indigenous Peoples to co-design ENABLE country grants in both **Costa Rica and Nepal** as **Ghana and Mozambique** started implementation.

All of these direct financing mechanisms have or are working to amplify Indigenous Peoples' voices, change policies, ensure participation in national carbon markets and forest programs, secure land rights, enhance livelihoods, and build IP organizational capacity with sustained results.

The Bank is providing technical assistance to the Secretariat of the [Tropical Forests Forever Facility \(TFFF\)](#). As part of this support, the Bank has been asked to lead a global dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and Local Community organizations from Tropical Forest Countries (TFC) throughout the world to co-design the proposed allocation of a minimum of 20 percent for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The Bank, TFFF Secretariat and the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) are working together to carry out the global dialogue and design the allocation, under the guidance of a Global Steering Committee made of TFC Indigenous and local community representatives. The TFFF will be launched at COP30.

From a strategic perspective, the Bank is currently taking stock of, and mapping: (i) lessons from experience; (ii) demand; (iii) the emerging ecosystem of stakeholders and funds for Indigenous Peoples' direct finance; and (iv) key barriers and capacity building needs where the Bank could add value. This work seeks to inform and enhance the Bank's contributions to Indigenous Peoples' direct finance through leveraging our Institution's role, convening power, country level policy dialogue, and ability to mobilize public and private capital. This stock-take and ecosystem mapping will respond to commitments made through the UNPFII direct financing working group.

² Different from the other countries listed, Vietnam is a Bank-executed grant of \$500,000.