



**Response by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
Areas of Work Relevant to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

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

November 2024

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) explores collaboration with the United Nations, United Nations agencies, and intergovernmental organizations on actions that advance the IDB's commitment to the development with identity of Indigenous Peoples throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. These commitments are articulated in the Environmental and Social Policy Framework, the Indigenous Peoples Policy (OP-765), the Gender and Diversity Action Plan, and the Gender and Diversity Sector Framework Document.

The sections below highlight recent Inter-American Development Bank projects, activities, and policies as requested in the Questionnaire by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues for United Nations agencies, funds, programs and organizations.

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2024 session.

- *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.*
- *The theme of the 2025 PFII session is "Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges." Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.*
- *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 (2021-2030), the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development" (2018-2028), the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022 - 2032) and other relevant international decades and processes, including CEDAW General recommendation 39 on Indigenous women and girls*
- *Has your entity responded to the 2022 UNPFII recommendation² paragraph 85... The Permanent Forum urges all United Nations entities and States parties to treaties concerning the environment, biodiversity, and the climate to eliminate the use of the term "local communities" in conjunction with indigenous peoples, so that the term "indigenous peoples and local communities" would be abolished.*

Projects: (This is a sample of 105 active projects in the database for the Amazon region)

PE-G1017 Strengthening and Implementation of the Indigenous Economy Program for AIDSESP and community initiatives (ECOIN).

This project promotes nature-based productive activities to contribute to the economic development of Indigenous Peoples, protecting their cultural identity and the environmental integrity of the Peruvian Amazon. The specific objectives are: a) promote the implementation of sustainable productive projects



under the Indigenous economic approach in nine Amazonian regions; b) support the execution of Life Plans, for economic development, food sovereignty and territorial protection, c) promote the creation of an incubator for Indigenous businesses; and, d) strengthen the Indigenous economy within the framework of the national and regional governance of the AIDSESP structure.

EC-T1479 Support to the Ecuador Strategy against Deforestation in the Amazon.

This project aims to strengthen strategies and actions that Ecuador is implementing to prevent deforestation in the Amazon region. Specifically, the project reinforces Implementation Plans for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in coordination with the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE). Additionally, it supports the implementation of Life Plans in Shuar Indigenous Peoples territories.

CO-T1723 INDII Fund - Indigenous Fund Capitalized by Natural Capital Token in The Colombian Amazon.

This project aims to establish an Indigenous fund capitalized by the sale of INDII3 tokens (NFTs). The INDII3 tokens represent a distinct unit of Amazonian territory under Indigenous protection. The beneficiaries are the Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon region (Amazonas, Caquetá, Guainía, Guaviare, Putumayo, and Vaupés) who are preserving their forests.

RG-T4155 Incubator of Indigenous Bioeconomy Companies for the Amazon Region.

This project aims to enhance the income of Indigenous Peoples from the Amazon regions of Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru by fostering a participatory model for incubating Indigenous bio-businesses. Key activities strengthening the business capacities of Indigenous enterprises, identifying a Pipeline of Indigenous Businesses, and providing financing to 15 Indigenous companies producing environmentally sustainable and marketable products.

EC-T1485 COICA 80x25 - Institutional Strengthening.

The objective of this project is to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) to further its organizational mission, particularly in addressing the challenges of sustainable and inclusive development, and the conservation of natural capital in the Amazon. The institutional strengthening activities include support in technical areas, administration, and financial management. COICA represents over 511 Indigenous Peoples and regional Indigenous organizations across nine Amazonian countries.

EC-T1502 Promoting Quality Education in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

The aim of this project is to assist the Ecuadorian government in conducting diagnostics and identifying strategies and policies to enhance education in the Amazon, focusing on three critical areas: school infrastructure, quality of teaching staff, and curricular adaptation (particularly in Indigenous bilingual intercultural schools).

BR-T1509 Bio-Cities of the Amazon in Brazil: Solutions for a Sustainable Future.

The aim of this project is to develop urban development models for Amazonian cities with the goal of safeguarding their biodiversity, halting rapid urban expansion, deforestation, and attracting investments related to the bioeconomy. The project emphasizes ecological urban design that integrates the perspectives of Indigenous and Afro-descendant populations, utilizing nature-based solutions.



RG-T4176 Strengthening the Participation and Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and Traditional Communities (PIACT) in the Amazon Initiative.

This project aims to generate up-to-date information and knowledge about the Amazon region and its key stakeholders, particularly Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and traditional communities. This initiative seeks to contribute to the design, planning, execution, and monitoring of the Bank's operations in the Amazon by employing methodologies that foster consultation, participation, and inclusion.

Activities (Sustainable Development):

Amazon Initiative/Amazon Forever.

In 2021, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) established the Amazon Initiative (now the Amazon Regional Program: Amazon Forever) in response to the request from the eight Amazonian countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Peru, and Venezuela) to promote climate action and resilient recovery in line with the IDB Group's Vision 2025. The program mobilizes both public and private resources to develop and implement sustainable and inclusive models of development based on the human capital, natural wealth, and cultural heritage of the Amazon region. The initiative's overarching pillars include human capital, sustainable agriculture, livestock and forest management, bioeconomy, infrastructure, and sustainable cities, institutional strengthening, forest conservation, gender, and diversity.

One of the key primary objectives of the Amazon Initiative is to foster the development of Indigenous Peoples while maintaining their cultural identity.

To finance the Program's activities, the IDB operates with three funds:

- **IDB: Seed/Transitory Ordinary Capital Strategic Development Program for Sustainable Development in the Amazon**
- **Green Climate Fund (GCF): Amazon Bioeconomy Fund**
- **Trust Fund: Multidonor Bioeconomy Fund & Amazon Forest Fund**

IDB: Seed/Transitory OC-SDP for the Amazon

The fund's objective is to secure a project portfolio for technical support to clients and for the design, preparation, and execution of IDB operations, particularly during the initial implementation years of the Initiative.

GCF: Amazon Bioeconomy Fund

The fund aims to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and enhance the resilience of value chains and selected ecosystems in the Amazon region by enabling conditions to increase financial flows toward Amazonian bio-businesses. The program will contribute to climate change mitigation, population resilience, and adaptation, value chains, and ecosystem sustainability, thereby fostering sustainable development. The Fund has a Gender and Diversity Plan to mainstream these issues in projects and has established a special fund (investment grant) for indigenous peoples.

Trust Fund: Multidonor Bioeconomy Fund & Amazon Forest Fund

The specific objectives of the Fund are to promote: a) sustainable and inclusive development, b) sustainable and resilient landscapes, c) positive value chains in the Amazon, and d) sustainability in commodity supply chains. The fund encompasses activities aimed at mainstreaming gender and Indigenous Peoples' issues.



Activities (Sustainable Development/Project Facility)

Indigenous Peoples, overall, encounter challenges in accessing climate funds. To change this reality, the IDB, through the Amazon Forever Program, is establishing a Project Facility (a team inside IDB) to ensure exclusive and direct access for Indigenous Peoples to financial resources for sustainable development activities.

This "Project Facility for Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and Traditional Community Organizations" aims to:

- Contribute to the conservation and inclusive development of the Amazon.
- Increase direct financing by enhancing resource management and mobilization capacities.
- Strengthen organizational capacities to design and execute projects directly.
- Establish a project proposal support team.
- Work directly with organizations on project design, financing, implementation, and evaluation. Key areas for funding include bioeconomy, institutional strengthening, information generation and management, land management and conservation, value-added partnerships for collective ventures, and environmental and social risk management.

Additionally, IDB has committed 10 million to go to projects for indigenous communities that are designed by Indigenous organizations and when possible, executed by Indigenous organizations. This program is called *Fondo Amazonia para la Vida* and was launched in partnership with COICA and the national organization COICA represents.

The fund was launched in December 2023, during COP 28 (Dubai, UAE), in coordination with COICA and other international allies.

Activities (Conservation and Bioeconomy)

In June 2023, the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) —an organization representing 511 indigenous peoples from eight Amazonian countries— spearheaded the First International Forum on Bioeconomy and Amazonian Peoples in Belém, Brazil, with the support of the IDB's Amazonia Siempre Regional Program. The forum brought together Indigenous leaders, international conservation and development organizations, and public sector authorities from the eight Amazonian countries to discuss the principles guiding Indigenous economies and options for mainstreaming their outcomes in the public policy discourse in the Amazon region. The IDB also funded the participation of Indigenous leaders in the First Forum on Bioeconomy and their subsequent involvement in the Amazon Summit – IV Meeting of Heads of State of the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (August 2023). During this Summit, Indigenous Peoples presented proposals addressing the environmental and social crisis in the Amazon.

- *Has your entity responded to the 2022 UNPFII recommendation1 paragraph 85... The Permanent Forum urges all United Nations entities and States parties to treaties concerning the environment, biodiversity and the climate to eliminate the use of the term “local communities” in conjunction with indigenous peoples, so that the term “indigenous peoples and local communities” would be abolished. If yes, please explain your response in further detail.*

The IDB recognizes the unique yet diverse conditions of Indigenous Peoples and, more importantly, affirms their distinctive rights, encompassing both collective and individual rights.



The IDB has a Gender and Diversity Sector Framework emphasizing the development with the identity of Indigenous Peoples and their distinctive rights. Additionally, the IDB Environmental and Social Policy Framework, ratified in 2020, emphasizes Indigenous Peoples as distinct peoples protected by a framework of specific rights.¹ Consequently, it includes an Environmental and Social Performance Standard (Performance Standard 7).²

As there is no policy framework specifically for Afro-descendants or traditional or local communities, for the purpose of the Performance Standard, "traditional peoples are also treated as indigenous peoples." Examples of traditional peoples include quilombolas, palenques, caboclos, riberinhos, marisqueiros, collectors, fishermen, among others. We acknowledge that local communities may not necessarily be rooted in specific cultural traditions or historical ways of life; however, due to their interaction with the local environment, they play pivotal roles in environmental, biodiversity, and climate change issues. Local communities can include traditional peoples. Nonetheless, given the vast diversity of peoples and communities, our work gives special attention to Indigenous Peoples to ensure that we do not compromise or limit the nature and scope of their distinctive rights. The IDB collaborates with a wide range of peoples including Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, traditional, and local peoples, always respecting their self-identification and preferred terminology. Consequently, in our documents and projects, the IDB refers specifically to the peoples we engage with, avoiding generalizations. We are dedicated to promoting development while upholding identity and affirming the distinctive collective and individual rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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.

¹ In September 2020, the Executive Board of the Inter-American Development Bank approved a new Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF) which became effective October 2021. The ESPF includes Standard 7 "Indigenous Peoples," which respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples and guides the Bank's operations.

² The Standard is fully consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 169. The IDB requires Borrowers to foster respect for Indigenous Peoples and to comply with national law, including treaty obligations.

ESPS 7 seeks to avoid, minimize, and compensate negative impacts, but also promote sustainable development benefits and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in a culturally appropriate manner. The objectives of the standard are to recognize the unique development with identity priorities of Indigenous Peoples. The standard: i) ensures respect for the human and collective rights, dignity, aspirations, culture, and livelihoods of IPs, ii) avoids adverse impacts of IDB financed projects on IPs, iii) promotes sustainable development benefits and opportunities for IPs in a culturally appropriate manner, iv) ensures culturally appropriate engagement of IPs and v) ensures the FPIC of the Project-Affected Communities of Indigenous Peoples.

The IDB has developed Guidelines for ESPS 7 and an online course is available to the public. The Bank is developing operational resources to support its specialists and government executing agencies in the implementation of the ESPF in project preparation and supervision adapted to the needs of Indigenous Peoples in each country to meet the requirements of ESPS 7.



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.

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 2024 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 Forum.*

C. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- *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 2024 session of the Forum.*

Given the nature of the IDB as a multilateral development bank, the majority of activities are aligned with the objectives of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In particular, the Amazonia Siempre Program contributes significantly to the following objectives related to Indigenous Peoples:

- SDG 1: No poverty
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 15: Life on Land.