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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 inter-governmental 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) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The responses will be compiled into a report for the 2025 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.¹

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

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 2024** 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

Subject: Response to SWAP questionnaire

¹ Indigenous should be capitalized when referring to cultures, communities, lands, languages, etc., of Indigenous Peoples, e.g.: Indigenous culture in Ecuador, Indigenous languages are dying out. If referring to flora or fauna, lower case should be used. See UN Editorial Manual for further guidance: <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/editorial-manual/updates>

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Please also include an **executive summary** of your inputs to the 3 main questions below (strict **500-word** limit) which will be used for our compilation report submitted to the 2025 session of the PFII.

UNDP reaffirms the need for a coordinated approach, harmonized work-plan and indicators, and joint actions across the UN system on the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Indigenous Peoples. UNDP continues to support a coalition of UN agencies, Foundations, and international bilateral donor agencies to review options for the preparation of a policy marker and common reporting parameters to track finance to be provided to Indigenous Peoples.

The work on tracking finance to Indigenous Peoples has been organized in conjunction with the UN Iner-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples (IASG) Working Group on Finance (composed of IFAD, GCF Secretariat, GEF Secretariat, UNDP and the World Bank); the Path to Scale network; Charapa Consult; the Forest Tenure Funders Group; and the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. The recommendations from an international workshop held in Paris held in Nov 2023 were presented at the UNPFII in April 2024, including a dashboard to track finance to IPs and LCs, a classification typology of funds, and examination of the operational and programmatic roles of intermediaries.

At the CBD COP16 held in Cali, Colombia (Oct 2024), a meeting was organized between UNDP Senior Management and representatives of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity with respect to the 'Tri-COP' agenda in relation to nature, climate and land. UNDP agreed to collaborate with IIFB and Indigenous Peoples representative institutions to support a joint 'Roadmap' including strategic entry points such as the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku; UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh; UNPFII in 2025; GCF global consultations with Indigenous Peoples to be held in Malaysia mid-2025, culminating in the COP30 to be held in Belém, Brazil.

In 2024, the UNDP Equator Initiative supported the coordination, promotion, and production of the Nature for Life Hub 2024 a four-day virtual [event](#), including the 15th Equator Prize ceremony, which brought together nature champions, Indigenous Peoples, mobilizers, leaders, dreamers, and doers to ignite global action for realizing the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and SDGs. The Global ICCA Support Initiative delivered by the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme launched a new [report](#) on its Covid-19 response phase implemented in 45 countries. UNDP actively supported and participated in an international conference, sponsored by the UK government in Wilton Park in Sept 2024, which has developed a new set of principles for inclusive, locally-led, gender responsive biodiversity action (available [here](#)).

UNDP is dedicated to empowering Indigenous youth, recognizing their vital role in advancing sustainable development and preserving cultural heritage. UNDP's work includes initiatives that enhance Indigenous youth participation in decision-making processes, particularly in areas such as Youth Entrepreneurship, Youth and Climate Action, and 21st Century and Digital Skills. By providing targeted support and resources, we encourage Indigenous youth to develop innovative solutions that address their communities' unique challenges, while fostering their entrepreneurial spirit and equipping them with the skills needed for a rapidly changing world.

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UNDP welcomes the offer from the three mechanisms (the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Chairs of the UNPFII and EMRIP) to continue to assist UN bodies with the objective of recognizing, respecting, and promoting the realization of the distinct individual and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Please provide information on the following:

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and input to the 2025 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.

In 2022, the UNPFII requested the collaboration of ILO, IFAD, and UNDP to prepare a study on the implementation of socioeconomic development programmes and creative industries for Indigenous Peoples. During the UNPFII in April 2024, UNDP, ILO and IFAD, organized a side event, including additional support from WIPO, to present a set of joint case studies and good practices in support to Indigenous entrepreneurship and creative industries. During the workshop, the three UN agencies shared their experiences through the IFAD Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility ([IPAF](#)); the WIPO Training, Mentoring and Matchmaking Program on Intellectual Property for Women Entrepreneurs from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (see [here](#) for more information); ILO's normative support to Indigenous workers and their rights; as well as UNDP support to Indigenous territorial trademarks, such as '[Kuxtal](#)' developed with Mayan Indigenous networks in the Yucatan Peninsula. The inter-UN collaboration is expected to produce a report summarizing the case studies in the context of green jobs, climate action, and the just energy transition.

ii. 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.

As part of its collaboration with the [Forests Declaration Platform](#) (former NYDF), UNDP has maintained and extended its work with the Voluntary Carbon Market Initiative ([VCMI](#)) to engage with Indigenous Peoples across VCMI's activities, including the organization of joint side events during NYCW (Sept 2024); CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia (Oct 2024); as well as during the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan (Nov 2024). In partnership with the Governments of Norway and Peru as co-leads of the Forests & Climate Leaders Partnership ([FCLP](#)), UNDP's Climate & Forest team has supported the platform to support Indigenous Peoples and local communities in forest climate action, including through the launch of a self-paced on-line course to scale up efforts for nature-based sustainable development (see [here](#)). Similarly, UNDP has hosted the Biodiversity Credits Alliance ([BCA](#)) including help towards the creation of a Communities Advisory Panel (CAP) including the voice of Indigenous Peoples from all seven socio-cultural regions, which was presented at the CBD COP16 in Colombia.

In 2024, the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) renewed its collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) as part of the Indigenous

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Peoples ‘Right Energy Partnership’ ([REP](#)) in seven countries (Cameroon, Cambodia, DR Congo, El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, Timor Leste). During the UNPFII in 2024, the REP and Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI) co-organized a side event with UNDP and international foundations, alongside a three-day workshop entitled ‘Indigenous Peoples and the Just Transition: Possibilities and Challenges in Co-ownership Models and Partnerships to Advance Human Rights & Shared Prosperity’ (12-14 April 2024). The workshop explored potential for Indigenous self-determined development and the just transition to renewable energy. Discussions focused on cases throughout renewable energy value chains, ranging from the extraction of transition minerals to renewable energy development.

The REP carried out in 2023 an independent assessment of the partnership projects with SGP in the form of a series of case studies. Based on the country visits and case studies, a summary report was developed of results achieved during Phase 1 of the SGP REP partnership (2019-2022), including lessons learned and eight ‘proposed ways forward’ for Phase 2 launched in mid-2023. An expanded version of the report was launched at the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 15 Nov 2024.

At the CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia, a meeting was organized between the UNDP Assistant Secretary-General and BPPS Director (Marcos Neto) and Indigenous Peoples representatives. Participants agreed to collaborate on a joint ‘Roadmap’ in preparation for the UNFCCC COP30 in Belém, Brazil, aligned with the priorities of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendants Peoples and local communities. The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group ([IPAG](#)) Chair, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), further discussed a new generation of ‘Indigenous Peoples Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans’ ([IP-BSAPs](#)), as first developed in the Philippines. UNDP is currently considering the expanded uptake of IP-BSAPs as part of the GEF-8 update process for NBSAPs (led by UNDP and UNEP), in coordination with the UNDP Climate Promise support to increase ambitions of UNFCCC Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and UNCCD ‘Tri-COP’ planning and integration.

The meeting agreed to map out strategic entry points including the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku (Nov 2024); UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh (Dec 2024); UNPFII in New York (April 2025); GCF global consultation meeting with IPs in Malaysia (Q2 2025), culminating in the ‘COP30 for Indigenous Peoples’ in Belém (Q4 2025).

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 (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.

The UNDP-implemented Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network ([BES-Net](#)) has been working continuously with Indigenous Peoples in selected countries as a contribution to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, working in close coordination with UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO.

As part of the support in developing comprehensive national ecosystem assessments ([NEAs](#)) in [Botswana](#), the [Dominican Republic](#), [Malawi](#) and [Thailand](#), BES-Net has assisted the country teams in engaging with Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge holders and

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incorporating the information and data provided by Indigenous Peoples, ethnic groups, and local communities, concerning the unique cultural and intrinsic values of nature; as well as trends and drivers of change of the ecosystem health, into the assessment reports.

In [Colombia](#), in partnership with the [UNDP Climate Promise](#) initiative, BES-Net offers micro-grants to the selected Indigenous Peoples organizations to support their localized climate-smart biodiversity conservation efforts. In Kenya, the project has also supported the documentation of the Ogiek Indigenous People's pollinator-friendly land and resource management practices and their effort in the inter-generational knowledge transfer, and their meaningful participation in policy-science-practice dialogues and county plannings/actions on ecosystem management.

As reported in previous years, UNDP has been implementing the Global Support Initiative to territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities ([ICCA-GSI](#)) which 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. Phase 2 of the ICCA GSI (\$25M) focused on support to 50 countries at the global level, was launched at the [CBD COP15](#) held in Montreal in Dec 2022

The ICCA-GSI was formed a multi-partnership initiative that is delivered by the UNDP-implemented GEF 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 ([IUCN](#)), the [ICCA Consortium](#) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity ([CBD](#)).

As part of its partnership with the German BMUV, the programme has supported the Global ICCA Consortium to produce its flagship 'Territories for Life: 2021 Report' (available [here](#)) as a contribution to the negotiation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ([GBF](#)) adopted at the CBD COP15. At the CBD COP16 held in Cali, Colombia, UNDP and the ICCA Consortium organized a series of follow-up events to describe progress in support to Indigenous Peoples (Oct 2024). Three new reports were launched at CBD COP16 (a) on Vitality of Governance for Territories of Life (see launch [here](#)); (b) on the ICCA GSI Covid-19 response phase (2020-2023) implemented in 45 countries (available [here](#)), and (c) IUCN WCPA good practice guidelines on situations of overlap between ICCAs and protected areas (available [here](#)).

Similarly, in Sept 2024, UNDP actively supported and participated in an international conference, sponsored by the UK government in [Wilton Park](#), on the topic of social inclusion across the inter-linked climate and nature crises. The conference addressed a persistent concern that women, girls, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, who tend to be the ones most heavily impacted by climate change and biodiversity loss, also continue to be excluded from mitigation programmes and actions, marginalizing their voice and agency, with associated risks of exacerbating rather than addressing social inequalities.

As an outcome from the Wilton Park conference, a set of local action principles (which draw on the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation, LLA, available [here](#)) were developed focusing on the need for coordinated actions to strengthen the gender equality and social inclusion

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dimensions of the transformative changes required to implement the KM-GBF and tackle the biodiversity crisis. The principles entitled '[Principles for inclusive, locally-led, gender responsive biodiversity action](#)' were launched at a [side event](#) held at the GEF Pavillion at the CBD COP16 on 28 Oct 2024.

iv. 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.*

UNDP responded in Oct 2023 to the joint letter submitted by the Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, referring to the 2022 UNPFII recommendation.

In its response to the three mechanisms, UNDP noted that through its Policy of Engagement on Indigenous Peoples (2001), the organization recognizes the distinct identity, status, rights, and jurisdictions of Indigenous Peoples. Under its Social and Environmental Standards (2015, 2021) policy and procedures³, UNDP applies a rigorous screening, assessment and management framework to identify and safeguard the distinct rights of Indigenous Peoples as part of its programming directions and project implementation -- including the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

The invisibility of Indigenous Peoples in official data and statistics remains a major obstacle for understanding and addressing their situation. Where data or estimations exist, they speak loudly about discrimination and marginalization, but also point to the crucial contribution of Indigenous Peoples' to achieve the UN sustainable development goals at a global scale. In this context, UNDP has been supporting efforts to develop a fit-for-purpose 'marker' system, working with UN DESA, the International Aid Transparency Initiative ([IATI](#)) and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC), to better monitor and disaggregate programming in support to Indigenous Peoples, as distinct from other marginalized and vulnerable populations.

The rights, needs and interests of other groups, including those of local communities, peasants, minorities, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly are addressed in UNDP programming through the application of provisions and mechanisms under the UNDP SES Policy and approaches to inclusive stakeholder engagement.

In Feb 2024, UNDP participated on-line in the global meeting convened by the three mechanisms, and hosted by FAO, from 26-28 Feb 2024. In this regard, UNDP has developed internal guidance on referring to the distinct rights of Indigenous Peoples, and not conflating the rights of Indigenous Peoples with local communities. In June 2024, UNDP supported the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) in the organization of a workshop held in Bogota, Colombia, pertaining to the rights of Afro-Descendent Populations (ADPs) who have distinct territories and homelands in over 11 countries across the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

² E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11

³ See UNDP's [Social and Environmental Standards](#); [Social and Environmental Screening Procedure](#); [Guidance on Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples](#); [Guidance on FPIC](#).

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The rights of IPs, ADPs and LCs were further discussed during the ‘Traditional Knowledge Summit ([TRUA](#)) organized by the IIFB, held in Bogota (Aug 2024). During the CBD COP16 held in Cali (Oct 2024), states parties adopted a decision to establish a Permanent Subsidiary body on Article 8j pertaining to the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to replace the former Working Group. The CBD COP16 also adopted a decision to formally recognize the rights of Afro-Descendent Populations, with particular emphasis on the situation in Brazil, Colombia and across the LAC region. In this context, UNDP has been actively supporting ADPs through the national TICCA network in Colombia (composed of Indigenous Peoples, ADPs and campesino communities), as well as across countries in the LAC region.

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 SWAP⁴.

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 2025 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 Forum⁵.

In Nov 2023, UNDP helped to convene a technical workshop on options for the preparation of a policy marker system for Indigenous Peoples, jointly organized with the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC), Charapa Consult, and OECD in Paris. The workshop recommendations (see report [here](#)) were presented during (i) a follow-up workshop organized with support from Charapa Consult held at the Ford Foundation on 18 April 2024 entitled ‘Framework for reporting and tracking of funding that advances Indigenous Peoples’ rights

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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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and well-being' including criteria for the classification of funds, and draft common reporting parameters (CRPs); (ii) during the UNPFII plenary Agenda Item 5 held on 17 April 2024; (iii) as part of the closed dialogue with UNPFII members on 23 April 2024; as well as (iv) during side events during the UNGA New York Climate Week (Sept 2024).

Follow-up to the Paris workshop continues to address the intertwined problems of (a) too little funding being allocated to support the crucial role of Indigenous Peoples, and local communities with regards to climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development,⁶ and (b) too little information being available to inform decision-making and efficient strategies about allocations, transfer modalities and funds reaching Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The 'Paris Roadmap' articulates a proposed approach for overcoming these gaps, including the need for a 'common framework' to ensure validity, aggregation and comparability, and data on funding flows to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The Framework to be developed across the UN system and multi-lateral agencies should include common classifications, terms and standards, to be agreed and applied across the multiple actors within the data ecosystem.

The classification and description pertaining to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, respectively, should be specific to these distinct groups, and developed by their representative institutions, with respect for the fundamental right to self-identification. To significantly address the underfunding of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, donors need to scale up funding, help mobilize additional donors, and provide funding in the most efficient and impactful way, with a particular focus on direct access modalities, where the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) was cited as one example.

To improve traceability, the 'Paris Roadmap' recommended that donors also tag and report on their funding allocations to Indigenous Peoples and local communities against the classifications, terms and standards of the common framework. Donors should collaborate and coordinate with the institutions established to collate and publish data on donor allocations for development finance, such as (a) the OECD; (b) the International Aid Transparency Initiative ([IATI](#)) hosted by UNDP; and (c) [CANDID](#) (which has a particular focus on US philanthropic foundations), in order to build systematic tracking and monitoring into their statistical systems, based on the classifications, terms and standards of the common framework. Participants also noted it would be worth exploring the IATI "follow the money approach", which could yield important information about relationships between different actors, intermediaries and "layers" of access to funds.

The OECD-DAC should include a policy marker on Indigenous Peoples into its statistical system, which will require coordination and collaboration with the OECD-DAC Working Party on Statistics. Within the UN-system, the Inter-agency Support Group (IASG) is expected to play a crucial role in furthering a common approach to tracking, by including a specific indicator on funding to Indigenous Peoples into the forthcoming indicator framework for the implementation of the UN System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) for implementation of the UNDRIP.

For institutions with safeguards pertaining to Indigenous Peoples, the 'Paris Roadmap' suggested that work should be done to explore the potential of using the activation of these safeguards as an entry point for assessing budgetary allocations. Methods for collecting,

⁶ See Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN) '[Falling Short](#)' report 2021.

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analyzing, aggregating and communicating data can build on the experiences, methodologies, mechanisms and platforms already developed by Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities (such as the [Indigenous Navigator](#) tool). Methods for data collection may include Indigenous-led funding mechanisms and platforms such as [AYNI](#) Indigenous Women's Fund, Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund ([IPAS](#)), [Nusantara](#) Fund, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity ([IIFB](#)), Global ICCA Consortium, the UNFCCC LCIPP, as well as the Indigenous Peoples Major Group (IPMG) on the SDGs.

During NYCW in Sept 2024, members of the Forest Tenure Funders Group ([FTFG](#)) presented the application of the 'common reporting parameters' (CRPs) during a workshop held together with the Shandia Platform, GATC, RRI, participating UN agencies, and Foundations. The FTFG and [Path to Scale](#) network also convened a series of meetings during NYCW, including with the UAE COP28 Climate Champion, H.E. Razan Mubarak, to discuss the renewal of the COP16 'Glasgow Pledge' to provide \$1.7B in funding to forest-based Indigenous Peoples and local communities, which is due to expire in 2025.

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 2025 session of the Forum, including SDGs 5, 7, 10, 13 and 16.

In 2024, the UNDP Equator Initiative supported the coordination, promotion, and production of the [Nature for Life Hub 2024](#) a four-day virtual event (30 Sept-3 Oct 2024), including the 15th Equator Prize ceremony, which brought together nature champions, mobilizers, leaders, dreamers, and doers to ignite global action for safeguarding nature and realizing the ambitious goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and SDGs. The calls to action from Indigenous Peoples and local communities from around the world were featured prominently, and are captured [here](#):

Day 1 (30 Sept): [Nature Revolution: Shifting Gears in Policy and Practice](#)
Day 2 (1 Oct): [Rewriting the rules: Investing in a nature-positive economy](#)
Day 3 (2 Oct): [Restoring balance: Reimagining our relationship with nature](#)
Day 4 (3 Oct): [Equator Prize award ceremony](#)

The prestigious Equator Prize Award Ceremony celebrated 11 exceptional nature-based solutions spearheaded by Indigenous Peoples and local communities from around the globe. Under the theme of 'Nature for Climate Action,' the Award Ceremony was presented by the Chair of the UNPFII, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, and featured winners in the categories of Nature for Climate Mitigation, Nature for a Just Transition, and Nature for Climate Adaptation and Resilience. An in-person Equator Prize ceremony was also organized at the CBD COP16 in Colombia on Sat 26 Oct 2024, which marked the culmination of the [Nature-Culture Summit](#) held in conjunction with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, UNESCO, IUCN and other UN agencies and partners.

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ii. Please describe any activities your entity organized in support of the 2024 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.

UNDP is dedicated to empowering Indigenous youth, recognizing their vital role in advancing sustainable development and preserving cultural heritage. UNDP's work includes initiatives that enhance Indigenous youth participation in decision-making processes, particularly in areas such as Youth Entrepreneurship, Youth and Climate Action, and 21st Century and Digital Skills. By providing targeted support and resources, we encourage Indigenous youth to develop innovative solutions that address their communities' unique challenges, while fostering their entrepreneurial spirit and equipping them with the skills needed for a rapidly changing world. Additionally, UNDP emphasizes integrating Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into these focus areas, ensuring that Indigenous youth's contributions are recognized and celebrated as essential to achieving the SDGs.

The Youth Empowerment in Climate Action Platform ([YECAP](#)), with support from Sweden, provides a platform and safe space for young climate advocates across Asia and the Pacific, including those from vulnerable and marginalized communities, to lead impactful climate initiatives. Since 2023, with partners such as the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and Hewlett Packard (HP), YECAP has strengthened Indigenous youth networks, enabling meaningful participation in climate advocacy, governance, and decision-making at local, national, regional, and global levels.

The HP-supported Movers training programme, in partnership with AIPP, empowers Indigenous youth across the Asia-Pacific by enhancing digital literacy, climate knowledge, and leadership skills. During a seven-month fellowship, 20 fellows from Bangladesh and the Philippines have trained 60 facilitators and led workshops for 1,000 participants. In collaboration with AIPP and with support from the Asia Indigenous Youth Platform (AIYP), YECAP is enhancing the legal awareness of Indigenous youth on their rights, including the UNDRIP, International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) guidelines. The training is being implemented with youth in Cambodia, the Philippines, and Nepal.

Indigenous Fellowship Programme: in partnership with the AIYP, YECAP has launched a six-month Indigenous youth-led Fellowship Programme to train young leaders across Asia, ensuring that the climate action demands of Indigenous youth communities are meaningfully addressed. Learn more: [YECAP Indigenous Fellowship](#).

Sabba Rani Maharjan, Executive Council Member of AIYP and YECAP Indigenous Fellow, represented the Asia Indigenous Youth Caucus at the 23rd UNPFII in April 2024, where she presented a joint statement that highlighted three key recommendations: the inclusion of Indigenous youth in decision-making processes, the prioritization of Indigenous land rights recognition and protection, and the urgent call for the UN and member states to acknowledge the self-governance systems of Indigenous Peoples. More information available here : [Asia-Pacific Youth Leading Climate Resilience and Solutions for Indigenous Peoples Empowerment](#).

In celebration of International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2024, a webinar entitled "Celebrate Indigenous Voices: Youth as Agents of Positive Change" in the Asia-Pacific was organized, featuring a dynamic discussion on topics such as Indigenous youth

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livelihoods, entrepreneurial journeys, and private sector support for diversity, equity, and inclusion. Watch the webinar [here](#).

[Youth Co:Lab](#), co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, has also partnered with the Wade Institute to deliver the ‘Dream Venture Masterclasses’ which are dedicated to equipping Indigenous Australians with the connections, capabilities, and access to capital needed to become investment-ready. More information is available here : [Equipping young Indigenous Australians to be investor-ready Recap](#)

Another Youth Co:Lab report titled ‘From Margins to Mainstreams: Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship in the Asia-Pacific Region’ consulted with young entrepreneurs from marginalized backgrounds, including Indigenous youth, and the includes a series of case studies, highlighting their unique challenges and opportunities in entrepreneurship while offering insights for a more inclusive ecosystem. The report produced by the Youth Co:Lab, co-led by UNDP and the Citi Foundation, in partnership with the World Bank and UN Volunteers (UNV), was launched in Oct 2024.

Similarly, an [Inclusive Youth Entrepreneurship Guidebook](#) was created for Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs) in Asia and the Pacific, and aims to help ESOs promote and advance inclusive entrepreneurship through their programmes. The guidebook showcases best practices from the ecosystem on how ESOs empower young people from diverse groups, such as women, Indigenous Peoples, minorities, and persons with disabilities, among others, to have equal opportunities to succeed in their entrepreneurial endeavours. More information available [here](#).

Reminder: Please also include an executive summary of your inputs to the 3 main questions above (strict 500-word limit) which will be used for our compilation report submitted to the 2025 session of the PFII.

ANNEX 1

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

The Twentieth-fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place from **21 April – 2 May 2025**.

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Discussion on the theme “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”.
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

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United Nations Declaration on the Rights of 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; annual review of progress on the implementation of general recommendation No. 39 (2022);

(e) Interregional, intergenerational and global dialogue;

(f) Dialogue on Indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities;

(g) Thematic dialogue on the financing of Indigenous Peoples' work and participation across the multilateral and regional system.

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-fifth session of the Permanent Forum.

8. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its twenty-fourth session.