

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

UN ENVIRONMENT

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was established by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 2000/22. The Permanent Forum is mandated to provide expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to 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 with the UN system; and prepare and disseminate information on indigenous issues.

The Permanent Forum's report of the seventeenth session of 2018 includes a number of recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to UN system agencies, funds and programmes (attached).

The report can be found at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/06/Report-on-ForumEnglish.pdf>

The 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 and other relevant issues.

The responses will be compiled into two separate reports for the April 2018 session of the Permanent Forum: (a) Update on the promotion and application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and (b) Implementation of the System Wide Action Plan on Indigenous Peoples.

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

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

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **29 December 2018** to:

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Social Policy and Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Room: S-2954
United Nations Headquarters
New York, USA 10017
Telephone: 917-367-5100
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The seventeenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters from **22 April – 3 May 2019**.

Provisional Agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.
4. Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
5. Discussion on the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages
6. Dialogue with indigenous peoples: collective rights to lands, territories and resources
7. Dialogue with Member States.
8. Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.
9. Discussion on the theme “Traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection”.
10. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
11. Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
12. Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples:
 - (a) Implementation of national action plans, strategies and other measures;
 - (b) Ways to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations;
 - (c) Implementation of the United Nations system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples.
13. Regional dialogues between indigenous peoples and Member States.
14. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
15. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session.
16. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its eighteenth session.

Questionnaire

Please provide information on the following:

A. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

With respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency, fund and/or programme:¹

- i. Please provide information on measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your organization.

UN Environment champions landscape approaches to promote integrated ecosystem management, which is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) is key for healthy, functioning ecosystems. It is central to achieving the environmental targets in the Sustainable Development Goals. ILM serves to integrate different land uses, for example, agriculture, natural and planted forests, agroforestry, formally conserved areas, sacred groves, community conserved areas etc. in a negotiated manner between the different disciplines. ILM is also key to addressing multiple social and economic targets that depend on the benefits ecosystems provide, including the importance of ecosystem restoration.

Examples of two of its new programmes and one new project are:

_ **“The Case for Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) for Healthy and Productive Ecosystems and Improved Livelihoods and to Better Cope with Environmentally Degrading Practices: Understanding the Evidence, Promoting the Policy Case and Enhancing Capacities for ILM (Short title: “ILM Evidence and Policy Change”)**” aims at increasing the level of knowledge, awareness, institutional, professional and financial capacities of participating countries and different stakeholders to promote ILM for healthy, productive, restored ecosystems and improved livelihoods with an emphasis on local communities’ participation.

_ **“Landscapes, Wildlife and People”** programme, which anticipated development impact² it is aiming to contribute towards is : “human development drivers and incentives increasingly favor wildlife-compatible land-use and development choices”, and its anticipated environmental impact³: “landscapes of importance for wildlife conservation and human livelihoods are being conserved and sustainably utilized”.

_ **“Africa’s coexistence landscapes: securing their future for people, elephants and other wildlife”** project aims to make a significant contribution towards: “future security and well-being of people, elephants and other wildlife in key African coexistence landscapes is secured”.

¹ See attached document entitled ‘Recommendations addressed to the UN Agencies’ to facilitate your responses.

² the fundamental and durable change in the condition of people

³ the fundamental and durable change in the condition of the environment

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UN Environment through its programmes, projects and partnerships such as with CIFOR and the Global Landscape Forum's partners⁴, respond to the following recommendations from the last report: 10, 24, 28 :

In addition and in relation to recommendation 27. *“The Permanent Forum requests the Global Environment Facility, as well as other funding mechanisms, to prioritize support for conservation approaches that are led or co-managed by indigenous peoples”*, UN Environment aligns all GEF projects with the decisions adopted by the Conference of the parties to the convention on biological diversity, XII/12. Article 8(j) and related provisions, A. *Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions and mechanisms to promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention*⁵, as well as with XII/18. Article 8(j) and related provisions, MO'OTZ KUXTAL⁶ VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES⁷ for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities⁸ for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge.

Two examples of new GEF projects are:

_ Effective National Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol and Valorization of Botanical Plants (Medicinal, Cosmetic and Nutraceutical) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)⁹, whose objective is to strengthen national capacities, including on legislation and regulatory frameworks, for the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and human wellbeing in the Democratic Republic of Congo¹⁰.

_ Institutional Capacity Strengthening for Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing in Uganda¹¹, whose objective is to strengthen institutional capacity for effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and to conduct an effective awareness campaign on ABS in Uganda

Furthermore, during the GLF in Bonn June 2019, UN Environment plans to co-organize a session on “Addressing the growing threats of retaliation, violence and criminalization to indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth claiming their rights” together with Indigenous and/or afro-descent representatives. Thus, responding to the following recommendation:

⁴ UN Environment is one of the founding partners of the Global Landscape Forum

⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-12-en.pdf>

⁶ Meaning “roots of life” in the Maya language

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-18-en.pdf>

⁸ The use and interpretation of the term “indigenous peoples and local communities” in these Guidelines should refer to decision XII/12 F, paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c).

⁹ https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/09-19-17_PIF_Request_Document_0.pdf

¹⁰ Please refer to component 2. “Awareness raising on the Nagoya Protocol / DRC ABS system and capacity building for relevant stakeholders in DRC”, and 3. “Conservation and valorisation of medicinal, nutraceutical and cosmetic plants (Botanicals)”

¹¹ https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/project_documents/GEF_6_Uganda_ABS_PIF_03.10.2017.pdf

42. *The Permanent Forum recommends that agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in collaboration with indigenous peoples' organizations, monitor the high levels of global violence and threats directed at indigenous women human rights defenders. The Forum calls for an immediate halt to the criminalization, incarceration, intimidation, coercion and assassination of, and death threats to, all indigenous human and environmental rights defenders.*

In relation to recommendation 17. *The Permanent Forum urges all agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to incorporate the recognition of the collective rights of indigenous peoples to lands, territories and resources into their policies and programmes at the country level and to report to the Forum on progress made at its eighteenth session; all the Organization's projects need to comply with its Environmental, Social and Economic principles and the Safeguard standards (directly: Safeguard Standard 1, 4, 5, 7 and 9)¹².*

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

Executive summary:

Please provide an overview of actions taken to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This summary will form the basis of the compilation report of UN activities to implement the SWAP and the Declaration. [Word limit: 600]

As requested in the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (2014), a system-wide action plan (SWAP) 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. The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan during its 2018 session.¹³ For ease of reference, the questions have been framed under the six key elements of the SWAP-Indigenous Peoples as follows:

1. Raising awareness of the UN Declaration

Please provide information on any activities that raise awareness of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including key messages, advocacy and other media and outreach initiatives. Please provide information on publications, films, audio material, maps, or other materials that feature or focus on the UN Declaration and on indigenous peoples. Please also provide links to the relevant websites and other sources.

As the lead implementing partner of [Interfaith Rainforest Initiative](#), UN Environment facilitates dialogue and partnership among the world's religions and indigenous peoples on a global level and among majority religious groups and indigenous peoples at the country level in Brazil, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Peru. In this work, UNDRIP is being featured in training, outreach and advocacy materials as the most widely recognized resource on the rights of indigenous peoples (materials are not yet available and will be developed in 2019). UNDRIP will also be featured in key messages, workshops as well as in any media products developed.

¹² <https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/bitstreams/14946/retrieve>

¹³ See Report of the 15th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2016/43) at para. 73.

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In March 2018, UN Environment launched the [Environmental Rights Initiative](#). The Initiative represents the current phase of UN Environment's work to promote, protect, and respect environmental rights. The aim of the Initiative is to strengthen awareness of and capacity to realise environmental rights for environmental protection through providing information, advocacy, and technical and legal support to countries and stakeholders, including indigenous peoples. The Initiative also assists States to strengthen the role and security of environmental defenders through, amongst others, supporting the implementation of clarified human rights obligations relating to the environment by promoting [Framework Principles](#) on these rights to ensure countries and regular citizens, including indigenous peoples, are empowered and capacitated to contribute to environmental protection.

As one part of its Environmental Rights Initiative, UN Environment has also developed, and is currently implementing, an organizational policy on [Promoting Greater Protection for Environmental Defenders](#). Several public statements and press releases condemning attacks on environmental defenders and calling for their rights to be protected and respected have been issued since its adoption. In 2018 UN Environment joined the UN OHCHR in calling for the names of two close partners and allies of UN Environment, one of whom is the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples Issues, to be removed from a terrorist list issued by the Government of the Philippines. In its [statement](#), UN Environment reminded all stakeholders, including the state, of duties to promote, protect, and respect environmental rights, including those of indigenous peoples. The statement contributed to the political pressure on the government to eventually remove these names from the list of alleged terrorists.

UN Environment is co-organizing the next Global Landscape Forum (GLF) that will take place in June 22-23, 2019 in Bonn, Germany. This year's GLF theme is "Putting rights at the heart of sustainable landscapes". The GLF's participants are hoping for widespread adoption of a rights-based approach to sustainability including the recognition, respect for and protection of rural and indigenous people and their role as sustainable landscape managers. UN Environment is planning a dialogue on innovations and traditional knowledge; indigenous women and sustainable natural resources management as well as indigenous peoples' knowledge and practices for sustainable landscapes.

2. Supporting the implementation of the UN Declaration, particularly at the country level

Please provide information on actions taken or planned by your agency, fund, programme, entity on the following:

- i.* Measures taken or planned to support national partners in reform and implementation of legal frameworks, policies, strategies and plans to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including any joint programming initiatives. Please also include information related to include indigenous women in your responses.

As part of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, UN Environment supports the convening of leading religious leaders, indigenous peoples, and scientists in Brazil, Colombia, DRC, Indonesia and Peru to jointly identify and pursue advocacy strategies, interventions, and projects with an aim to protect indigenous peoples' rights under UNDRIP. Central to the training of religious and faith-based

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leaders are sessions on the leadership of indigenous peoples and forests communities in rainforest protection; the links between rights to communal lands, territories and natural resources and reduced deforestation rates, climate change mitigation and sustainable livelihoods; why rainforest protection and reducing deforestation and forest degradation is a human rights issue; and the trend of intimidation, violence and murder of indigenous forest activists.

- ii.* Support provided to Member States to mainstream the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in national development plans and in the UN Development Assistance Frameworks and Common Country Assessments (CCA/UNDAFs).
- iii.* Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.

As part of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, UN Environment supports the development of national interfaith platforms in Brazil, Colombia, DRC, Indonesia and Peru in which leading religious institutions, indigenous peoples' groups, and scientists will partner for tropical forest protection and restoration and the safeguarding of indigenous peoples' rights. The platforms will subsequently welcome the participation of local, regional and national government, business, civil society organizations and others to advance the forest and indigenous peoples' agenda in their respective countries.

UN Environment, through the integrated landscape management approaches, include in its projects with its partners consultative sessions and strengthen or support building inclusive stakeholders' consultative platforms. In addition, the Organization support or co-organize sessions/events in international conferences such as for example during UNEA 4¹⁴ or during the Global Landscape Forum in Nairobi in 2018¹⁵.

3. Supporting indigenous peoples' rights in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- i.* Has your agency/organization taken any measures to incorporate indigenous issues into policy and programming to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

One of the objectives of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative is to leverage the moral influence and reach of religious and faith-based communities to facilitate the participation of indigenous peoples

¹⁴ <http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/tradition-innovation-how-achieve-sustainable-pastoralism-and-protect-rangelands-future-generations>

¹⁵ <https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/agenda/nairobi-2018/day-1-wednesday-29-august-2018/parallel-sessions-2/4-parallel-discussion-forums/discussion-forum-9-cifor-on-gender/>

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and forest communities in national-level policymaking forums that concern forests, natural resources use, land rights, livelihoods and implementation of the SDGs.

The Organization project template includes a mandatory Environmental Social and Economic Review Note (that includes a set of safeguards standards)¹⁶.

- ii.* Has your agency/organization/entity supported the participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including at the national level? Please also include information on indigenous women, persons with disabilities, older persons and children and youth in your responses.

In its submission and participation in the 17th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues April 2018, UN Environment developed a video message from former Executive Director, Erik Solheim, which served as an awareness-raising resource and emphasised the importance of indigenous people's access to rights to lands, territories and resources, and the crucial role of indigenous peoples in furthering environmental protection and conservation. Participation in a side event on "Protecting Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders for Sustainable Development" which was organised by the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) as well as the delivery of a statement on behalf of Erik Solheim, former UN Environment Executive Director, during the PFII plenary session on Agenda Item 4: Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum. In the statement, the situation of environmental rights defenders was highlighted, as well as UN Environment's work and responses on this issue, inviting the international community to engage with UN Environment towards addressing the issue, and finding its solutions.

- iii.* Please provide information on any reports or other documents in implementing the 2030 Agenda for indigenous peoples. Also include information on any measures taken or planned for the collection of statistical data on indigenous peoples, in particular related to the SDG indicators for target 1.4 (secure tenure rights to land), target 2.3 (income of small-scale food producers), target 4.5 (parity in access to education) and target 10.3/16.b (experience of discrimination).

4. Mapping of existing standards and guidelines, capacities, training materials and resources for the effective implementation of the UNDRIP

- i.* Please provide information on any specific standards and guidelines on indigenous peoples adopted or planned by your agency/organization. See the Environmental Social and Economic Review Note¹⁷.
- ii.* Please provide information on any training materials prepared or planned related to the implementation of the UN Declaration.

¹⁶ <https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/bitstreams/14946/retrieve>

¹⁷ <https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/bitstreams/14946/retrieve>

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For the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, UN Environment produces training, outreach and advocacy materials featuring UNDRIP. The Declaration will also be featured in key messages, workshops as well as in any media products developed.

Under its Environmental Rights Initiative, UN Environment has developed a training curriculum for media and [civil society on environmental rights](#) which uses as one of its key resources, UN instruments such as the UNDRIP, for knowledge-building. The curriculum has already been rolled out in four [events](#) representing three regions. Participants are capacitated on environmental rights and related issues, including indigenous peoples rights.

UNEP's Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit (TEU) is co-leading together with the Global Landscape Forum and Wageningen University the Landscape Academy. Its training modules (for now 8) include a module on "Rights and Tenure". Furthermore, the partners agreed to mainstream questions related to indigenous peoples in the other modules.

- iii.* Please provide information on current resources and funds allocated to effectively implement the UN Declaration. Please also provide information on any joint initiatives with other UN agencies in the implementation of the UN Declaration.

5. Developing the capacities of States, indigenous peoples, civil society and UN personnel

Please provide information on any capacity development initiatives that your organization is conducting for indigenous peoples, government officials and UN staff. Also include information on the participation of indigenous women, children and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities in your response.

For the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative, UN Environment is supporting capacity building workshops in Brazil, Colombia, DRC, Indonesia and Peru in which indigenous peoples, including indigenous women, will participate. The trainings focus on the science of forest ecosystems and their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation, the importance of safeguarding the rights of indigenous peoples, as well as political advocacy and mobilization at the local, regional and national level. Moreover, UN Environment has developed specific trainings for civil society organisations, environmental rights defenders, and media. In Kenya, one environmental rights defenders training has been conducted so far, in partnership with UN OHCHR, and comprising several indigenous women as well as local youth defenders. UN Environment, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, the Office of the High Commissioner and other partners jumpstarted a global process to sensitise judges on constitutional environmental rights and to evaluate the impact of these rights. The process has seen four regional judicial meetings convened thus far in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, [Asia Pacific](#), and Europe. These interventions provide judges with a forum at which to share their experiences and good practices in the interpretation of constitutional environmental rights in their jurisdictions. In addition, it also provides a space for legal stakeholders to share cases and information with judges on

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environmental rights, and emerging environmental litigation. Increasingly, indigenous peoples are featuring in environmental litigation and other matters that of interest and relevance to the work of judges. In particular, the issue of environmental rights defenders, which often includes indigenous groups, has been presented at each of the engagements, with awareness-raising materials and resources, which also include the provisions of the UNDRIP and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, developed for judges.

6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples in UN processes

Please provide information on any support provided for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at relevant UN bodies, including at the country level. Please also provide information on any consultative mechanisms, tools and other measures to obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in processes that affect them.

The vision of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative is that it be a platform for faith-based leaders and communities to work hand-in-hand with indigenous peoples, governments, civil society and business on actions that protect rainforests and safeguard those that serve as their guardians. Both through global mobilization and advocacy work as well as network building and campaign development in priority rainforest countries, the initiative is being developed as a cross-sector, multi-stakeholder endeavor in which indigenous peoples are at the very forefront and taking a strong leadership position. The initiative will work through UN Environment networks globally and in priority countries to ensure that the right linkages are made between indigenous peoples and relevant UN bodies. Meanwhile, UN Environment's Environmental Rights Initiative is a coalition of environmental rights champions united to promote, protect and respect environmental rights. To this end, partners of the Initiative include several civil society organisations including those with a specific focus on indigenous peoples, academic partners, UN agencies, media and legal stakeholders. The Initiative takes a highly inclusive approach to development of materials on environmental rights and environmental defenders. Through online engagement, partners provide inputs, guidance, and recommendations to these materials and resources. To reach groups and individuals in more far-flung areas, UN Environment collaborates with its partners, in particular the office of the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous People Issues and the the Indigenous Peoples Major Group on the SDGs to seek guidance, inputs and recommendations on materials and resources that may be used by indigenous groups.

Through its major groups approach, UNEP has maintained the position of two persons representing the indigenous peoples major group within the [Major Groups Facilitating Committee](#). These are elected among the constituency every other year and represent the voices of indigenous peoples and are regularly consulted by UNEP on indigenous peoples matters and issues arising across the organisation.

Through the development of a new project on Addressing Environmental Challenges through the Law, UN Environment has committed to increasing its engagement with and participation of indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women, in the implementation of its activities as well as in the assessment of its impact and reach.

