

Questionnaire to UN system

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

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

The responses will be compiled into two separate reports for the 2021 session of the Permanent Forum: (a) System Wide Action Plan on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Implementation by the United Nations System; and (b) Update on the Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda.

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 for your response to be made available on our website, please inform our office accordingly.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **20 December 2020** 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
Telephone: +1-917-367-5100
Email: indigenous_un@un.org and requesens@un.org

The Twentieth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is scheduled to take place at United Nations Headquarters from **19 - 30 April 2021**.

Questionnaire

The theme of the Permanent Forum's session in 2021 will be:

“Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”

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:

- i. Please provide information on measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.
- ii. The theme of the 2021 PFII session is “Peace, justice and strong institutions: the role of indigenous peoples in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16”. Please include information on any publications, projects, report or activities that are of relevance to this theme.

Over the course of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing structural inequalities and pervasive discrimination against Indigenous Peoples, environmental destruction has continued to affect lands and territories, and social conflicts linked to economic development activities, particularly natural resources extraction, have contributed to increasing attacks against environmental and indigenous human rights defenders, including violence, criminalization and hate speech.

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

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

grow, while women continue to feel the impact of the pandemic on their ability to access their livelihoods. In that vein, as part of the COVID-19 response, UNDP has recommended that socioeconomic response and recovery plans (SERPs, coordinated and led by UNDP) are developed with the participation of and in consultations with Indigenous Peoples in line with international obligations and commitments, noting that a joint UN task force could support the establishment of mechanisms to support consultation and participation processes, in line with existing frameworks and legal obligations.

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 or planned to implement the System-Wide Action Plan on the Rights of 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 (A/RES/69/2), 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.

In August 2020, the United Nations Executive Committee agreed on the need for accelerated and collective action to strengthen the implementation of UN System Wide Action Plan (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, to ensure collaborative and coherent UN system action to support the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples with focus on furthering the implementation of the SWAP.

The Permanent Forum will follow up on progress made in the implementation of the system-wide action plan during its 2021 session. For ease of reference, the questions have been framed under the six key elements of the SWAP-Indigenous Peoples as follows:

The United Nations Development Programme continues its engagement with Indigenous Peoples¹ grounded in an overall vision to assist countries achieve the simultaneous eradication of poverty and significant reduction of inequalities and exclusion. This involves the three main areas of our work, consisting of developing sustainable development pathways, strengthening inclusive and effective democratic governance and peacebuilding, and building resilience, particularly from conflicts and natural disasters. In addition, UNDP's work on Indigenous Peoples is guided and shaped by the international human rights standards and principles, and particularly the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

¹ UNDP affirms that there is no one universally accepted definition of indigenous peoples. The term "indigenous peoples" refers to distinct collectives, regardless of the local, national and regional terms applied to them, who satisfy any of the more commonly accepted definitions of indigenous peoples. Depending on the national context, indigenous peoples are referred to as "tribal people", "first peoples", "scheduled tribes", "pastoralists", "hill peoples" and also "ethnic groups/minorities".

Questionnaire to UN system

Engagement with Indigenous Peoples has been a focus area within UNDP's mission to mainstream a human rights-based approach into its development policies and programmes, its global advocacy efforts to fight discrimination and support marginalized minorities, as well as in its long-standing engagement with civil society. UNDP greatly values the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to humanity's cultural diversity and heritage, climate change solutions and shares their concerns about economic and social disadvantages and weak political representation. UNDP's Strategic Plan 2018–2021 signature solution for partner countries on “promoting nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet” specifically makes reference to “addressing finance, tenure, water and land rights, with a clear understanding of the differentiated impacts, access and contributions of women and men and also of indigenous communities [which] will be critical”².

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

Since the creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNDP has been closely engaging with the UNPFII and following up on its recommendations in accordance with its mandate. This summary encompasses UNDP's progress towards recommendations made by the Permanent Forum, implementation of the UN System Wide Action Plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and mainstreaming the principles and standards contained in UNDRIP as well as other human rights instruments as they relate to indigenous peoples in 2020.

UNDP applies Social and Environmental Standards (SES) which are mandatory for all UNDP projects.³ The application of social and environmental safeguards and related grievance mechanisms provide tools to navigate through this complexity and ensure that integrated development solutions are identified early on and that programming does not result in inadvertent harm or conflict. The SES are comprised of several elements: overarching policy and principles; project-level standards; and the policy delivery process. The project-level standards further support implementation of UNDP's commitments to promote respect for human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability and relate to areas such as sustainable natural resource management, displacement and resettlement, cultural heritage and Indigenous Peoples.

UNDP cooperates with and supports States and indigenous peoples at country level on national action plans, strategies and other measures that aim to achieve the UNDRIP; promotes integration of the SDGs with and for Indigenous Peoples from both its global and

² UNDP Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021 p13.

³ UNDP SES at <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/social-and-environmental-sustainability-in-undp/SES.html>

Questionnaire to UN system

country level work; engages and supports the Permanent Forum's indigenous media zone; and contributes to advocacy and communication with and for indigenous peoples through its programmes (GEF Small Grants Programme, Equator Initiative, Youth Co-Lab, UN-REDD and others); and works jointly with other UN entities technically and financially in supporting the implementation of the SWAP.

1. Raising awareness of the UN Declaration

Please provide information on 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 relevant websites and other sources., including contact details of focal points.

UNDP contributes to the IASG SWAP efforts for harmonized and system wide messaging and awareness raising on the UNDRIP, contributing to system wide advocacy and social media as well as widely sharing stories on indigenous peoples, especially on International Day for Indigenous Peoples (see for example [Nature for Life Hub - Learning for Nature; Small Grants Programme: 25 Years of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples | Global Environment Facility \(thegef.org\)](#)).

For the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, on 9 August 2020, Youth Co:Lab, a project co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, along with the Business and Human Rights team of UNDP Asia Pacific, UNESCO and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) partnered to celebrate Young indigenous peoples ingenuity and their contributions to our communities. The campaign consisted of various videos, blogs, a quiz and the announcement of a new small grants project all centered around young Indigenous social entrepreneurs and how they are supporting and enhancing their communities, in particular in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Content was promoted both on a dedicated website page, on the social media channels of all partners involved, and on additional channels of AIPP to ensure direct outreach to young Indigenous peoples in the region: <https://www.youthcolab.org/ip-day>:

UNDP's Equator Initiative and GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) bring together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. In 2020 UNDP helped raised awareness of the UN Declaration through the 4-day '[Nature for Life](#)' hub (24-29 Oct) organised at the time of the UN General Assembly to raise awareness of the value of local and indigenous communities for the SDGS and Nature-Based solutions to climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

- i. <https://www.youthcolab.org/post/indigenous-peoples-as-stewards-of-sustainable-development>
- ii. <https://www.youthcolab.org/post/indigenous-youth-in-asia-pacific-find-strength-in-unity>
- iii. <https://www.youthcolab.org/post/moving-forward-during-the-covid-crisis-the-story-of-chandra-tripura>
- iv. <https://www.youthcolab.org/post/myanmar-s-indigenous-peoples-response-to-covid-19-the-story-of-ke-jung>
- v. <https://www.youthcolab.org/post/challenging-ourselves-to-be-productive-the-story-of-barsha-lekhi>

Questionnaire to UN system

- vi. <https://www.youthcolab.org/post/how-i-can-contribute-to-the-sdgs-as-a-young-indigenous>
- vii. <https://www.ws.undp.org/content/samoa/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/village-leaders-exchange-traditional-knowledge-and-best-practice.html>
- viii. https://www.la.undp.org/content/lao_pdr/en/home/blog/2020/championing-the-voices-of-laos-ethnic-minorities-.html?fbclid=IwAR3Kty4ZfC7bWQgfNGFRLiRmSMIhs1yKm_pacuhc4sHVSP02c3iLctyzHY8
- ix. https://www.la.undp.org/content/lao_pdr/en/home/blog/2020/changing-perspectives--the-stereotype-and-the-sinh.html
- x. https://www.pg.undp.org/content/papua_new_guinea/en/home/presscenter/articles/2020/indigenous-knowledge-essential-for-sustainable-development.html
- xi. https://twitter.com/GEF_SGP/status/1340795257110216706/photo/1
- xii. https://twitter.com/GEF_SGP/status/1340012747136913408/photo/1
- xiii. [Small Grants Programme: 25 Years of Engagement with Indigenous Peoples | Global Environment Facility \(thegef.org\)](#)

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

The role of the new Resident Coordinators and UN Country Team framework is an integral component of the UN's commitment to support the rights of those at risk of being left behind, including indigenous peoples. The Chief Executives Board committed to redouble efforts to help Resident Coordinators and UNCTs ensure more systematic participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations country processes. Please provide information on actions taken or planned by your agency/ fund/ programme/ entity on the following:

- i. Any activities or support provided to indigenous peoples both during the COVID-19 pandemic and after, to ensure their inclusion in addressing the impacts of the pandemic, as well as in building back better.

At the end of 2018, UNDP announced that it had finalized the selection of 126 UNDP Resident Representatives (RRs) as part of the process to “delink” the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) system from the UNDP. Prior to that, the role of RC was combined with that of UNDP's Resident Representative. From 2019 onwards, UNDP has refocused its role and mandate on the integration of SDGs at national and global levels.

With respect to COVID-19 in 2020, UNDP has noted that a tendency for the pandemic to bring to the forefront longstanding social grievances, increasing the risk of conflict and violence involving Indigenous Peoples, while exacerbating the disproportionate peace and security challenges faced by indigenous women and girls, who are exposed to multiple forms of discrimination and are at a greater risk of violence. Limitations to address specific needs of Indigenous Peoples and failure to include their voices in recovery strategies risks exacerbating tensions between Indigenous groups and the state while resulting in the implementation of socioeconomic measures that have failed to address their differentiated needs. The propensity of electoral campaigns to increase violence against indigenous leaders, human rights and environmental defenders, as well as an increase in the illegal occupation of indigenous lands, is also of concern in many countries.

Noting the interlinked nature of priority risks across the LAC region, UNDP has committed to assist the UN to take action to prevent the escalation of tensions and mitigate the risk of violence against Indigenous Peoples over the next six months until mid-2021. In this vein,

Questionnaire to UN system

UNDP supports the UN-wide call (CEB Statement) on governments to guarantee Indigenous Peoples' collective right to participate in decision-making and to be consulted, in line with the UNDRIP and ILO Convention No. 169 and to ensure that situations, where FPIC is required but not achieved, are addressed in line with obligations and commitments. In this context, the UN should leverage its ability to add value and build bridges.

In LAC, it was also recommended that UNDP work with other UN agencies to empower Indigenous Peoples to reduce the risk of conflict resulting from the impacts of COVID-19 and mitigate an escalation of tensions through inclusive solutions that address health, development, climate and land-related challenges. Noting that COVID-19 fatality rates for Indigenous Peoples are much higher than other populations, UNDP will work with governments to define special measures in protection of this group. As part of the joint UN [Call to Action on Human Rights](#) (C2A) announced by the Secretary General in early 2020, the UN is expected to develop partnerships and dialogue mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples organizations. Coordinated and led by UNDP on behalf of the UN system, COVID-19 socioeconomic response plans (SERPs, see Section 3 below) are required to differentiate and incorporate Indigenous Peoples' needs, alongside CCAs and Cooperation Frameworks and discussions on adapting vulnerability criteria to access development financing is inclusive of Indigenous Peoples' needs and specificities.

BMU-SGP partnership for ICCAs and COVID-19

With respect to the COVID-19 global pandemic, UNDP formulated a comprehensive '[Roadmap for Humanity](#)' as part of the socio-economic recovery response, including a detailed '[Nature Offer](#)' within the context of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. As release in Dec 2020, the [UNDP Human Development Report](#) in 2020 focuses on the topic of the 'Anthropocene', re-examining how the relationship between people and the planet must be at the heart of 'building forward better' from the pandemic -- just as it is at the heart of the 2030 SDGs.

In Oct 2020, the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMU) extended its partnership with the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) for Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) and COVID-19 response needs in 45 countries. Building on the Phase 1 partnership for ICCAs in 26 countries (\$12M), Phase 2 (\$17.1M) will be extended to include support to ICCAs in 45 countries at the global level. The participating countries are distributed with 12 in LAC; 18 in Africa and the Middle East; 3 in Europe/CIS; and 14 in Asia and the Pacific. A preliminary Call for Proposals from Indigenous Peoples and eligible civil society organisations has been initiated in late Nov 2020 with a deadline for concepts and proposals in late Jan/early Feb 2021.

- ii. 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.

UNDP implements a wealth of programmes in countries promoting UNDRIP and Indigenous Peoples, ranging from stand-alone targeted programmes to mainstreaming indigenous

people's rights in programmes related to governance, environment and climate change, national planning, and other sectors.

Country support through the UN-REDD Programme

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

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

In July 2019, Ecuador received \$18.5 million US from the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) pilot programme on Results-based Payments to be reinvested in the national effort to restore deforested and degraded areas and promote sustainable production. On 17 September 2019 Ecuador's Ministry of Environment and Water launched the REDD+ Results Based Payments Project that commits the country to promoting sustainable production systems and encouraging the restoration of deforested and degraded areas. With an aim to conserving forests, the project was launched with the participation of stakeholders from civil society, academia, the private sector, NGOs and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including the Montubio people and Afro-Ecuadorians.

In Nov 2020, Costa Rica became the first Central American country to receive non-reimbursable funds from the GCF, due to its successful results in climate matters by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, associated with deforestation in the 2014-2015 period. The GCF approved today US \$54.1 million in non-reimbursable funds for Costa Rica - under the modality of REDD+ Results-based Payments - within the framework of climate financing of the UNFCCC. This modality recognizes the efforts made by countries like Costa Rica to respond to the climate crisis and provides funds so that they can continue successful public policies.

UNDP supports countries in their efforts to secure financing for the implementation of their national strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions due to deforestation and forest degradation, through negotiation and co-design of large-scale results-based payment projects. With this approval, UNDP consolidates its position as a leading agency in this sector, having supported 4 pioneer countries (Brazil, Ecuador, Indonesia, and Costa Rica) to access more than US \$270 million payments for results from the GCF, to emissions reductions from deforestation, including support to Indigenous Peoples.

Questionnaire to UN system

- iii.* 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, where ratified, in national development plans and in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks and Common Country Analysis.
- iv.* Support for consultative mechanisms and platforms of dialogue including under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators.
- v.* Support provided to Resident Coordinators, UNCTs, SRSGs, UN field operations or Special Envoys in their engagement with indigenous peoples.

Indigenous Peoples in LAC

On 13 Nov 2020, DPPA, UNDP, OHCHR, DESA, ILO, UNEP, UN Women and RCOs in the LAC region convened and agreed to produce a series of seminars for UNCTs, over a 12 month period, to build harmonized and coherent approaches for promoting Indigenous Peoples' rights based on a common understanding of the UN Declaration, ILO Convention 169 and other relevant international instruments and to strengthen the SWAP, while also supporting the implementation of the EC recommendations to map existing resources and activities currently devoted to Indigenous Peoples at the country and regional level and to support the building of institutions for Indigenous Peoples' participation and consultation. UNDP, DESA, OHCHR and ILO further agreed to provide strengthened and integrated support to UNCTs and RCs in the implementation of socioeconomic response plans, including through supporting the collection of disaggregated data (e.g. gender, age, diversity) and increased data-sharing (including with IFIs) as recommended by the EC, to ensure the full inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, including indigenous women and girls.

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?

Through application of the UNSDG approach for effective and coherent implementation support on the 2030 Agenda, UNDP applies human rights-based approaches, including as relates to data and participation. The approved UNSDCF guidance to support implementation of Agenda 2030 in countries specifically refers to Indigenous Peoples in the principles for integrated programming on 'leaving no one behind' (LNOB) as well as 'human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment'. The UNSDCF guidelines for SDG country reporting also specifically address issues affecting Indigenous Peoples, including on data and participation/engagement. In addition, UNDP's social protection primer also refers to ensuring social protection for indigenous peoples as part of 'leaving no one behind'.

- 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,

Questionnaire to UN system

older persons and children and youth in your responses. Please describe how indigenous peoples have contributed to the preparation of the national plans/strategies for SDG implementation?

UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme

Financed primarily by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and implemented by UNDP, the Small Grants Programme (SGP) engages directly with civil society organizations including community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, across a range of demand-driven priorities. These areas include biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; climate change mitigation and adaptation; sustainable land management; protection of international waters; and the sound management of chemicals and waste, including mercury.

On 4 Dec 2020, during the GEF CSO network consultations on the topic of traditional knowledge, the SGP launched a retrospective [publication](#) which takes stock of the SGP's engagement with Indigenous Peoples over more than two-and-a-half decades from 1992 to early 2019. The review was based on multiple sources, including: (a) an independent report titled 'GEF SGP Support to Indigenous Peoples: a 25-Year Review' (Ledwith 2019);⁴ (b) a GEF Independent Evaluation Office evaluation on GEF's engagement with Indigenous Peoples (IEO 2018);⁵ (c) the global SGP database; and (d) SGP Annual Monitoring Reports from 2011 to 2019.⁶

In total, from 1992 to 2019 the SGP has invested around US\$163 million to implement 5,832 projects that have benefited Indigenous Peoples, representing 37 percent of all project-level small grants in the SGP participating countries where Indigenous Peoples are present. SGP project grant sizes awarded to Indigenous Peoples appear to follow the same trend as the overall SGP project grant award sizes. On average, 54 percent of all project grants involving Indigenous Peoples were more than \$25,000, with an average grant award size of \$27,945.

- iii.* Please provide information on 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).

UNCT COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPs)

Since the outbreak of the pandemic in early 2020, UNDP and the UN system has supported over 128 socio-economic impact assessments across 93 countries. The picture emerging is one of a rapidly deteriorating fiscal space needed to deal effectively with the crisis, avoid a humanitarian crisis and a protracted economic crisis in the most vulnerable countries.

⁴ [Ledwith, L \(2019\) Strengthening GEF SGP Support to Indigenous Peoples: A 25- year review](#)

⁵ https://www.gefio.org/sites/default/files/ieo/evaluations/files/indigenous-peoples-2017_0.pdf

⁶ <https://sgp.undp.org/our-approach-153/monitoring-and-evaluation.html>

Issues of debt, domestic resource mobilization, expenditure switching, and increased levels of international financial assistance urgently need to be prioritized to avoid this, and to lay the foundation for building forwards better. These were also some of the main action points highlighted under the High-level meeting on “Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond.”



GLOBAL SNAPSHOT



74 countries now have a national COVID-19 response in place, 93 countries have at least one socio-economic impact assessment and 127 countries have a response plan supported by the UN country teams.



IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

93 countries now have at least one UN socio-economic impact assessment (SEIA). The total number of impact assessments recorded is 128.



RESPONSE PLANS

109 out of 131 UNCTs socio-economic response plans (SERPs) are finalized, covering 127 countries. This includes sub-regional response plans from Barbados and Fiji covering 18 countries.



FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

In 2020, the Joint SDG Fund approved 62 proposals to reinforce the SDG financing architecture at the country level, including through the support to countries on designing Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs).

Figures above were updated as of 28 October 2020.

Specific examples of UNDP and UN support under different pillars span the full range of interventions need to deliver development results in emergency mode: support to health needs of returning migrants (Bangladesh) and indigenous populations (Bolivia); evidence-based advocacy for stronger social protection systems and digital education (Thailand); cash transfers to disadvantaged households (Belarus, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria); boosting agroindustry and investing in resilience and skills training (Guatemala); tackling nutrition and food security (Cabo Verde, Panama, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan); education (Cabo Verde); strengthening human rights capacities (Tajikistan); labor governance to enable decent work for women, youth, Persons with Disabilities and migrant workers (Maldives); universal unemployment insurance (Mexico); promoting green recovery and digitalization (Cameroon, Chile, Jamaica, Kenya, Montenegro, Thailand); work on Integrated National Financing

Questionnaire to UN system

Frameworks, social expenditure monitoring and addressing issues such as corruption (Ghana) and remittances from migrants (Kyrgyzstan).

SERPs are expected to ensure that the UNCT socioeconomic response protects the most vulnerable (and does not aggravate existing structural inequalities), while also sowing the seeds of a better, more inclusive and peaceful future. It is therefore encouraging that the majority of SERPs systematically address vulnerable populations, identifying specific vulnerable groups. Among the most vulnerable people hardest hit by COVID-19, the Brazil SERP identifies people of African descent, LGBTIQ, people living with HIV/AIDS and Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples are also addressed well in Guyana and the Ecuador plans; whilst the Bolivia SERP focuses on empowering Indigenous Peoples as agents of change in their communities and in democratic processes and dialogue, and supporting human rights activists.

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

- i.* Please provide information on specific standards and guidelines on indigenous peoples adopted or planned by your agency/organization.

Social and Environmental Standards

UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards ([SES](#)) have been mandatory for the implementation of all projects since 1 January 2015.⁷

The project-level standard on Indigenous Peoples ([Standard 6](#), currently being updated in 2020, with a new version to be ready in 2021) establishes that all projects that may impact the rights, lands, resources and territories of Indigenous Peoples require prior review and/or assessment of potential impacts and benefits. Projects with potentially significant adverse impacts require a full social and environmental assessment conducted by an independent and capable entity. Reviews and assessments will be conducted transparently and with the full, effective and meaningful participation of the indigenous peoples concerned. The Standard states that *“UNDP will not participate in a project that violates the human rights of indigenous peoples as affirmed by Applicable Law and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)”*.

Furthermore, Standard 6 requires UNDP projects that may impact Indigenous Peoples to be *“designed in a spirit of partnership with them, with their full and effective participation, with the objective of securing their free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) where their rights, lands, resources, territories, traditional livelihoods may be affected”*.

Standard 6 further outlines that *“UNDP Projects will recognize that indigenous peoples have collective rights to own, use, and develop and control the lands, resources and territories that*

⁷ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/social-and-environmental-sustainability-in-undp/SES.html>

Questionnaire to UN system

they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired, including lands and territories for which they do not yet possess title. If the Project involves activities that are contingent on establishing legally recognized rights to lands, resources, or territories that indigenous peoples have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired, an action plan will outline the steps and timetable for achieving legal recognition of such ownership, occupation, or usage [...]. In such cases, with the consent of the relevant authority or Implementing Partner, will support such activities aimed at delimiting, demarcating and titling such lands, resources, and territories with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned” (p. 34).

UNDP has made available the SES Toolkit on a public website so that it can be shared with partners, stakeholders and consultants as a key tool to support the implementation of the SES. The Toolkit includes a variety of material, such as guidance, templates, examples, webinars, communication materials, in order to support the implementation of UNDP safeguards, and in particular the SES guidance note on Indigenous Peoples.

- ii.* Please provide information on any training materials prepared or planned related to the implementation of the UN Declaration.
- 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.

As part of the inter-agency collaboration for the LAC region (described above in Section 2) pertaining to the UN Declaration, UNDP, DPPA, DESA, UNEP, ILO and OHCHR agreed in Nov 2020 to provide expertise to RCOs to raise awareness about due diligence processes/social and environmental standards (SES), consultation processes; free, prior and informed consent (FPIC); the implementation of the regional [Escazú Agreement](#); and facilitate civic space for dialogue between authorities and indigenous representatives to promote inclusive policies and programmes that address climate and environmental protection -- thereby strengthening access to natural resources, benefit-sharing and protection mechanisms for indigenous environmental defenders.

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

Please provide information on:

- i.* Any capacity development initiatives that your organization is conducting for indigenous peoples, government officials and UN staff;
- ii.* Please include information on the participation of indigenous women, children and youth as well as indigenous persons with disabilities in your response.

In January 2020, the UNDP Governance and Peacebuilding cluster for Asia-Pacific organized a “Regional Dialogue on Indigenous Youth Social Entrepreneurship: A Workshop on business and Human Rights” The workshop aimed at: (i) providing participants with an overview of

Questionnaire to UN system

the UNGPs and the Business and Human Rights agenda and how it interlinks with the rights of IPs; (ii) introducing opportunities for engagement for advocacy on NAPs; (iii) introducing means to better engage with representatives of government and business, and more effectively promote and protect their rights, including the right to free, prior and informed consent; (iv) strengthening the constructive engagement of young IPs in order to amplify voices and, consequently, influence a constructive engagement on NAP processes; and (v) presenting best practices and examples of IPs and BHR engagement.

As part of the event, some 30 young Indigenous entrepreneurs and change makers from nine countries in the Asia-Pacific region gathered for the Regional Dialogue on Youth Indigenous Social Entrepreneurship in Bangkok, Thailand. The participants were supported to develop their skills to upscale their social enterprises, which will support the preservation of Indigenous culture and livelihoods. Those social enterprises led by Indigenous youth ranged from production and sale of fashion accessories to farming and agricultural innovations. The event was co-organized by Youth Co:Lab, a project co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, UNDP's Business and Human Rights team, UNESCO and the Asia Indigenous People's Pact (AIPP) to identify and support the best youth-led innovative and entrepreneurial solutions for preserving traditional knowledge in their indigenous communities.

6. Advancing the participation of indigenous peoples at the UN

Please provide information on:

- i. Any support provided for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples at relevant UN processes, including at the country level;
- ii. Any consultative mechanisms, tools and other measures to obtain free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in processes that affect them;
- iii. Any consultation mechanisms established by the UNCT or support to Member States in establishing institutions and mechanisms for consultation with indigenous peoples, as well as ensuring effective participation of indigenous youth and indigenous women, in the COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery plans.

Trinational Program Initiative (Colombia, Peru, Brazil)

Noting that the multidimensional poverty indicators for Indigenous Peoples across Latin America are two or three times higher than national averages, with food insecurity and the disproportionately high, COVID-19 infection and fatality rates of particular concern (20-25 times national averages), a Trinational Program Initiative between Colombia, Peru and Brazil was initiated in 2020 to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs of approximately 210,000 people at the triple border area, a majority of whom are comprised of Indigenous Peoples. Spearheaded by the three respective RCs, with the support of OCHA, WFP, ILO, UNFPA and UNDP, the initiative seeks to implement 25 critical activities across the WASH, gender-based violence (GBV) and healthcare sectors. The total cost of the initiative is \$10 million and

OCHA funding has so far only been made available for Colombia, with the other two country portions undertaking further resource mobilization.

SGP Indigenous Peoples' Fellowship programme

Over the course of OP6 (2016-2019), the SGP introduced an Indigenous Peoples Fellowship initiative designed to develop higher-level skills of existing and potential Indigenous People leaders to advance the work of their communities, organizations and networks at national, regional and global levels. The initiative was designed in response to a need expressed by Indigenous Peoples during consultations to directly represent themselves in multi-lateral policy settings, including within dialogues pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN's 2030 Agenda, and global environmental financing opportunities.⁸ The IP Fellowship was designed in consultation with a number GEF agencies, including Conservation International, which has a similar programme; Tribal Link, with experience in providing annual capacity-building of IPs during the UNPFII; and Nia Tero Foundation, with the mission to secure indigenous guardianship of vital ecosystems.

A first cohort of four global SGP Indigenous Peoples Fellows were selected in 2016 through a competitive international process (which received over 500 applications). Two of the Fellows were selected with a focus on biodiversity conservation, and two on climate change (see Table 5). The objective of the Fellowship centred on the individuals' personal engagement with global environmental and sustainable development policy fora, supporting their informed participation in global conferences, trainings and dialogues. Over three years, the four Fellows represented the interests of their communities across a wide range of international policy settings including: (a) the UNFCCC COP22 in Morocco (2016); (b) UNPFII (2016, 2017, 2018); (c) CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)); and (d) the 14th COP of the CBD in Sharm el Sheikh in Egypt (2018). In most cases, the Global Indigenous Peoples Fellows also supported their communities and networks at the national level, engaging closely with SGP national coordinators with respect to grant-making procedures and strategic areas of focus.

A national SGP Indigenous Peoples Fellowship pilot programme was later launched in 2018 to increase SGP's support to Indigenous Peoples in seven target countries in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America.⁹ The national SGP Fellowship initiative sought to support a range of skills development, including project monitoring and implementation, uptake of alternative proposal formats by SGP country teams, dialogues on Indigenous youth, and access to climate finance.

⁸ In response to call from Indigenous People networks during the pre-COP21 Indigenous People-government dialogues organized in 21 countries (Sept-Nov 2015), as well as global dialogues held at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris (Dec 2015).

⁹ China, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Argentina, Guatemala, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The participating countries were selected based on their ongoing work on forests under the community-based REDD+ (CBR+), and/or engagement in the Global Support Initiative on Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs).