



## **Contribution to the 13th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

### **UNDP's Work on Indigenous Issues**

Since the creation of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been closely engaging with the UNPFII and following up on its recommendations in accordance with its mandate.

This report is a synopsis of UNDP's progress towards implementing those recommendations and mainstreaming the principles and standards contained in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as well as other human rights instruments as they relate to indigenous rights in 2013.

UNDP's work with indigenous peoples is an integral part of its broader work towards sustainable human development and is thus guided and shaped by international human rights standards and principles, supported by in-house instruments, policies, operations and procedures on development, human rights, gender, health, the environment and climate change. To fully achieve the internationally agreed-upon development goals and inclusive governance, some implementation gaps have to be addressed. This includes the meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in efforts aiming at the reduction of poverty and inequalities, addressing multiple, inter-sectional as well as inter-generational forms of discrimination that affect indigenous women, youth and children and indigenous persons with disabilities, the protection of the environment, the sustainable management of natural resources, the prevention of conflict and political participation, amongst others.

In 2013, UNDP outlined the vision and approach for the period 2014 – 2017 through a new Strategic Plan (SP) adopted by UNDP's Executive Board in September 2013. The SP underlines that the concept of sustainable human development guides all UNDP-supported



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programmes and projects. This means, in practice, assessing whether they address the opportunities and capabilities of communities as well as the promotion of sustainability. It also means supporting national governance systems in becoming more effective and responsive by addressing discrimination and structural inequalities, as well as dealing with the effects of natural resource exploitation that can disproportionately and negatively affect indigenous peoples, their collective and individual rights, as well as their traditional livelihoods and world views.

Furthermore, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women are central to the mandate of UNDP and intrinsic to its development approach. The SP is accompanied by the “UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017 - The Future We Want: Rights and Empowerment” which is designed to contribute to the eradication of poverty and the significant reduction of gender inequalities by empowering women and promoting and protecting their rights. It includes special attention for women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including on the basis of their indigenous status. The Gender Equality Strategy was approved by UNDP’s Executive the Board in January 2014.

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.

### **Thematic Programmes and Initiatives**

This section reflects on some of the key programmes, projects and initiatives in place that are specifically geared towards indigenous issues.



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### *Global Human Rights Strengthening Programme*

UNDP's Global Human Rights Strengthening Project (GHRSP) 2008 – 2015 aims at mainstreaming human rights into its policies, programmes and processes by grounding its activities under three strategic overarching areas: support to national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights; promoting and application of a human rights-based approach to development programming; and, greater engagement with the international human rights machinery.

Given the UNDP architecture as well as global and regional positioning, UNDP at the global, regional and national levels is intensively involved in advancing the implementation and overall development of a rights culture, both internally and externally with its main stakeholders. Within this context, the GHRSP carries out catalytic and cutting-edge work through the identification and promotion of new and best practices and approaches in the area of human rights; develops and tests guidelines on human rights issues, including issues that have traditionally received marginal attention; facilitates progressive development of UNDP's capacity to mainstream human rights in all its activities; and supports strategic global, regional and country level programming processes to that end.

Through the GHRSP UNDP has been able to firmly commit to enhancing its focus on minorities as well as indigenous peoples, thus further addressing the principle of non-discrimination in its work. UNDP believes that by integrating a human rights-based approach in our development activities, we can help build more inclusive and just societies. Likewise, by engaging with governments and people in the most diverse and complex contexts, UNDP works towards better understanding the importance of mainstreaming human rights, as the capacity to do so is part of development. Together with OHCHR and the International Coordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions, UNDP has scaled up its support to National Human Rights Institutions, which are crucial to bringing indigenous peoples and governments together. It further anchors indigenous peoples' issues in development programming through the development of a range of tools and activities,



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including national workshops on lessons learned and best practices and the establishment of Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committees in UN Country Teams at the country and regional levels (e.g. Nicaragua, Bolivia, the LAC Regional Inter-Agency Support Group for Indigenous Peoples - GIRPI).

#### *Global Environmental Facility-Small Grants Programme*

The Global Environmental Facility – Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) recognizes that indigenous peoples have specific and deeply rooted cultural, political and territorial rights and supports efforts to reverse their marginalized situation in many countries. Operational in over 129 countries worldwide, the GEF-SGP engages with and assists indigenous peoples to address destructive developments in and around their territories, and to promote sustainable alternatives based on indigenous knowledge and practices related, for example, to biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. The GEF-SGP respects customary law and practice and supports efforts to secure their rights to land and resources as well as the participation of indigenous groups in local and national environmental governance systems. GEF-SGP grants further promote the recovery and revitalization of indigenous cultural practices in relation to sustainable livelihoods and strengthening customary institutions.

In July 2013, the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group was established. This was an important milestone in implementing the “GEF Principles and Guidelines for the Engagement with Indigenous Peoples (2012)”. The key objective of the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group is to provide advice to the GEF Indigenous Peoples focal points on the operationalization and reviewing of the Principles and Guidelines paper, particularly on the appropriate modality to enhance dialogue among indigenous peoples, GEF partner agencies, the GEF Secretariat and other experts.

In May 2013, UNDP, in collaboration with UN Environment Programme (UNEP), launched “A toolkit to support conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities: Building capacity and sharing knowledge for Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved



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Territories and Areas (ICCAs)”. The toolkit includes sixteen case studies that highlight innovative tools and approaches that local communities have developed to address critical challenges affecting their territories and areas. The toolkit includes a diverse set of resources organized around five key themes - documentation, management planning, monitoring and evaluation, communication, and finance and values - and comprises a suite of tools to support the effectiveness and viability of ICCAs as governance structures for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems. Developed in partnership with UNDP, the significance of community-based actions for biodiversity conservation will be further captured by the Global ICCA Registry established by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

While local communities and indigenous peoples are often the primary “resource stewards” who rely on ecosystems to meet food security and health needs, and sustain livelihoods, their contribution to the achievement of global conservation targets have not yet been fully recognized. Awareness of the role that these civil society initiatives have in conserving ecosystems is however growing under the Aichi 2020 targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In June 2013, at the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, GEF-SGP launched the COMPACT publication “Engaging Local Communities in the Stewardship of World Heritage”.

In December 2013, the German Ministry of the Environment (BMU) provided UNDP with the additional support of 12 million euros for the implementation of a “Global ICCA Support Initiative” as a contribution to Aichi Targets 11 (on protected areas), 14 (ecosystem services) and 18 (traditional knowledge), which will be implemented and delivered by the GEF-SGP. The initiative will be implemented during the period between 2014 and 2019 and will contain components directed at the provision of small grants to eligible indigenous and local communities’ organizations, legal and policy reviews, as well as knowledge creation and regional exchanges.



In addition, the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation Programme (COMPACT) aims to replicate the success of the SGP by using grants to support community-based activities that are intended to strengthen biodiversity conservation in and around protected areas and World Heritage Sites. In recent years, COMPACT's work has helped indigenous communities recognize the opportunities that exist for them to guide and shape local management practices. By fostering partnerships among different stakeholders, COMPACT has enabled local and national government bodies, local community groups and indigenous peoples to work together on formulating strategies for the co-management of protected areas, enhancing biodiversity and at the same time encouraging sustainable economic development.

*The UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries*

The UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) has a specific focus on indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, while also encouraging broader multi-stakeholder processes. The UN-REDD Programme Strategy 2011-2015 explicitly confirms the commitment to respect indigenous peoples' rights in line with UNDRIP, including the right to free, prior and informed consent. It formulates the effective participation of indigenous peoples as a specific outcome to be achieved. The UN-REDD Programme supports indigenous peoples through its governance structure (the Policy Board has four indigenous members, with one being a full member and the current Chair of the UNPFII) 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.



In January 2013, UN-REDD Programme published the Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and an associated Legal Companion, which outlines existing international law and emerging State practice affirming that indigenous peoples have the right to effective participation in the decisions, policies and initiatives that affect them and that FPIC is a legal norm that imposes duties and obligations. The Guidelines are the result of more than two years of consultations with indigenous peoples, analysis, pilots and testing, consensus building and refinement around core issues related to FPIC from its conceptual definition to its practical application.

At the country level, the UN-REDD Programme in Indonesia proposed a strategy to enhance stakeholder participation in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions particularly that of indigenous peoples and communities living in the surrounding forests of where the programme activities take place. As stated in the REDD+ National Strategy, representatives from indigenous peoples' organizations are to integrate the REDD+ Agency, which carry out a number of different, yet mutually supportive, functions. The membership of the REDD+ Agency is made up of representatives from government ministries and institutions, community groups, indigenous peoples' organizations, civil society organizations, industries, and relevant academic institutions.

#### *Community-Based REDD+*

The Support to Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+) is a new joint initiative of the UN-REDD Programme and the Small Grants Programme (SGP) aiming to direct funds towards community-level projects that would align with UN-REDD national programmes and/or national REDD+ strategies. Co-financed equally by the UN-REDD Programme and the GEF-SGP, CBR+ leverages the respective operational and technical expertise of these two



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programmes to efficiently support the implementation of REDD+ activities at the local level and to contribute to national and global REDD+ objectives more systematically. Grants are capped at US\$50,000 and support activities to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, strengthen land rights, explore mechanisms for benefit sharing, and advance the implementation of safeguards for REDD+, among others.

CBR+ is currently in its inception phase with the aim of disbursing the first grants in summer 2014. Five of the six pilot countries have been confirmed as Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Paraguay and Sri Lanka, with a sixth pilot country from the LAC region to be confirmed.

#### *UNDP Global Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness*

The UNDP Global Programme on Anti-Corruption for Development Effectiveness (PACDE) has been working on the issue of governance, particularly corruption, in the context of natural resource management and how it affects indigenous peoples. Currently, the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy's Democratic Governance Group and the UN-REDD Programme are in the process of developing a "Guidance Note on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples and other Forest-Dependent Communities in Anti-corruption for REDD+". It outlines the rationale for indigenous peoples' involvement in anti-corruption monitoring and related activities, and proposes ways to engage them in this work.

#### *Business and Indigenous Peoples' Rights*

UNDP's engagement on business and human rights is multi-fold, from the UNDP African Facility for Inclusive Markets (AFIM) that works to accelerate progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by supporting the development of inclusive, pro-poor markets across Africa, to the Business Call to Action, which is a global initiative that seeks to harness the power of business investments to reduce extreme poverty to the recent opening of the Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD).



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UNDP sees the business sector as having a critical role to play in fostering inclusive growth with advancing business models that can be particularly positive for development and further advancing an approach that goes far beyond traditional concepts of corporate responsibility and includes marginalized groups such as indigenous peoples.

In August 2013, the United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC) and the Government of Colombia co-hosted the first Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights for Latin America and the Caribbean in Medellin, Colombia. The Forum provided a regional multi-stakeholder platform for constructive dialogue on the challenges, good practices and lessons learnt in implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (Guiding Principles) adopted in 2011 and focused in particular on exchanging experiences and ideas and identifying emerging innovative practices designed to manage corporate impacts and enable equitable development with a human rights-based approach. In October 2013, UNDP led by the Regional Global Compact for Latin America and in association with several multinationals in the region actively engaged with actors on the ground and facilitated a constructive dialogue between the private sector and indigenous leaders.

### *Extractive Industries*

UNDP believes that indigenous peoples' collective and individual rights, livelihoods and world views must be fully recognized and taken into account if a development project affecting them or their territory is to be truly sustainable. UNDP is also aware that land is an essential spiritual and cultural element for any indigenous community and that deprivation thereof affects the integrity of the community, which in turn has an impact on their human development and their capacity to overcome poverty, protect the environment, contribute to building democratic societies and preventing conflicts.



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In past years, there have been a growing number of countries that seek UNDP's support in managing the risks associated with natural resource wealth. Building on past and present programmes and projects that support the management of oil, gas and mineral resources, UNDP developed a strategy to address the challenges posed by extractive activities and to advance human development and human rights for all. UNDP's "Strategy for Supporting Sustainable and Equitable Management of the Extractive Sector for Human Development" (2012) stresses the importance of supporting governments in harnessing their extractive industries for a people-centered and sustainable development process.

In the last quarter of 2013, UNDP launched the *Global Initiative (GI) on Extractive Industries for Sustainable Development*. Through the GI, UNDP will provide support to the development of capacity for legal and policy formulation and national coordination for the governance of extractive industries by means *inter alia* of facilitating and convening dialogue on extraction with affected populations, especially indigenous peoples, the private sector and governments. UNDP will work with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), which can play a vital role in monitoring the grievance procedures and/or redress mechanisms that may exist in a given country. The GI will support NHRIs' collaborative capacities in collecting information, ensuring security, supporting victims, and addressing complex causes of human rights violations across diverse institutions, sectors and geographies.

The GI will also support the participation of communities in decision making to reduce the risks of marginalisation, environmental degradation and conflict. UNDP will support the establishment of formal and informal participatory decision making fora and grievance mechanisms to institutionalize representation of communities in the management of extractive industries. This entails supporting meaningful consultations with local and indigenous communities and women's groups, the establishment or enhancement of monitoring and grievance mechanisms to address issues of concern to indigenous peoples and encouraging business practices that are conflict sensitive, environmentally sustainable,



respect human rights and address the needs of women, indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups.

### *Parliaments*

Within the Global Programme for Parliamentary Strengthening (GPPS), UNDP has been advocating for better representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliaments and contributed to fostering cooperation among parliamentarians in terms of ensuring compliance with UNDRIP and strengthening the respect of indigenous peoples' rights.

In response to a request from indigenous parliamentarians to increase parliaments' familiarity with UNDRIP, UNDP - in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (SPFII), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) – produced a practical Handbook on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Handbook aims to be a practical instrument for parliaments around the world to better understand indigenous peoples' rights and provides practical ideas for their full recognition and implementation. It also presents good practices related to the situations of indigenous peoples and parliaments in different regions of the world. The Handbook will be finalized in the beginning of 2014.

### *Access to Justice*

Access to justice and legal empowerment for indigenous and tribal communities is critical to reducing inequalities, achieving human rights and addressing key challenges and threats to the livelihoods and social, economic and cultural way of life of these communities. With the objective to increase UNDP's knowledge and practice-base on improving access to justice for indigenous peoples, UNDP convened a regional meeting in Nicaragua last November,



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entitled “Access to justice for indigenous and Afro descendent communities: strengthening UNDP’s programme support to communal justice in Latin America”. During two days, UNDP representatives from UNDP Country Offices in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru and UNDP HQ, discussed the barriers to access justice for indigenous and Afro descendent communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The discussions echoed the importance of self-determination for indigenous groups including the recognition of indigenous justice systems within changing societies and local communities that have a particular cultural and spiritual relevance for indigenous peoples. Discussions further focused on sensitization and synergies between the two systems, including formal jurisdictional demarcations between statutory and indigenous justice systems and coordination mechanisms (e.g. intercultural dialogue; acknowledgement of resolutions; referral mechanisms), incorporation of indigenous professionals, availability of translators/recognition of indigenous languages, and training on indigenous law for judges and judicial personnel. Even though the topics of environmental justice, control of natural resources and territory and prior consultation were not specifically part of the agenda, the discussions revealed that they do form a central part of indigenous peoples’ experience for the protection of their livelihoods and ways of life. A Practitioner’s Guide will be developed as part of the workshop outputs, to guide country offices in engagement on and programming with indigenous justice systems.

## **Select Regional and Country Perspectives**

### *Latin America and the Caribbean*

In May 2013, UNDP published a report entitled “Intercultural Citizenship - Contributions from the political participation of indigenous peoples in Latin America” that examines the region’s six countries with the highest percentage of indigenous peoples and greatest



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progress in terms of their political participation: Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. The report reveals that in spite of the unprecedented mobilization of indigenous peoples in Latin America these past 20 years, their political participation, particularly among women, is still low, and more has to be done in terms of consultation and free, prior, and informed consent.

According to the study, some key factors have helped boost indigenous peoples' political participation in the region. Worth mentioning are the increased number of indigenous movements and parties, which also benefitted from communications technology, including mobile phones, the Internet and social media; the expansion of their rights after countries signed and recognized crucial international conventions and; an increased number of government agencies advocating for indigenous issues.

The study highlights that indigenous women's political inclusion has been a major challenge, since they can face triple discrimination: being female, indigenous and living in poverty. Even though women have the right to vote and several countries in the region have put in place quotas for female participation in political parties and public offices, indigenous women's political participation - along with their sexual and reproductive health - are crucial issues that still lag behind, the report stresses.

### *Asia and the Pacific*

In 2008, following the end of a ten-year long civil war, Nepal elected a Constituent Assembly tasked with writing a new and inclusive constitution. Indigenous peoples comprised almost 36 per cent of the membership of the Constituent Assembly. Commencing in 2008, UNDP's "Support for Participatory Constitution Building in Nepal" project supported indigenous peoples in the Constituent Assembly, other members and indigenous peoples more generally to participate in the political process and ensure that the issues and agendas of indigenous peoples were addressed throughout the constitution making process.

Key approaches included supporting the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus (a sub-group of the Constituent Assembly) to review thematic reports that proposed draft sections of the new constitution and to assist the Caucus to identify the changes required. All in all, the Caucus was able to identify 408 proposed amendments, including those proposed to address indigenous women's issues.

The project also conducted numerous workshops interactions and seminars on indigenous peoples' issues, such as cultural rights, ethnic federalism, the right to self-determination and the ILO Convention 169, often incorporating the inputs of international experts. These interactions were significant in that it sensitized members of the Constituent Assembly, along with other political and civil society leaders on indigenous issues. At the local level, the project supported indigenous organizations to conduct local level dialogues to bring grassroots issues to the table. Underpinning this engagement was the translation and publication of explanatory materials regarding electoral and constitutional issues (e.g. proportional representation) in a range of indigenous languages.

Culminating in 2013, the project successfully brought together a range of activities to encourage the informed participation of indigenous peoples in the political process, from capacity building and awareness raising, to providing technical assistance towards the creation of supportive enabling environment.

The meeting helped consolidate and strengthen synergies of ongoing regional and international discussions and initiatives on extractive industries and indigenous peoples, in connection with the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), as well as the newly-created Asia Indigenous Peoples' Network on Extractives and Energy represented by prominent indigenous representatives and civil society leaders. It brought together various UN agencies at the regional level, as well as various practice teams within



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the UN, thereby providing opportunities for increased cross-practice understanding and future interventions.

The following were the most noteworthy results of this meeting: 1) better understanding of the challenges governments and indigenous peoples face in South-East Asia when engaging with the extractive sector; 2) increased knowledge on evolving norms and notable initiatives on how to improve the governance challenges around extractive companies with a view of better protecting indigenous rights to land and natural resources; 3) exchanged country reports and recommendations by different stakeholders and across practices on how to improve the extractive sector's protection norms for indigenous communities; 4) a partnership platform created through which various stakeholders can substantively engage with one another and address critical issues of sustainable human development and respect for human rights within the extractive sector in the region.

### *Africa*

In July 2008, UNDP Kenya and partners established the Civil Society Democratic Governance Facility commonly known as Amkeni Wakenya. In 2010 Amkeni Wakenya gave a grant to the Enderois Welfare Council to implement a small project on redressing historical injustices committed against the Enderois until March 2013. With support from Amkeni Wakenya, the council managed to empower the community to advocate for their rights in different the governance spheres in Kenya. At the end of 2011, the Enderois Welfare Council submitted its report the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Kenya (TJRC). The TJRC, in its final report published in May 2013, highlighted the concerns raised by the Enderois and recommended to the Government of Kenya to implement the African Commission ruling in favor of the Enderois Community with a 12-month period.

### **Collaboration with UN Mechanisms and Inter-Agency Work**

### *Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues*

During 2013, UNDP continued to participate actively in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) at global, regional and, where in place, country levels and will continue its support in preparation for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples related to research, data collection and indicators emanating from the work of different UN agencies, funds and programmes.

### *UN Indigenous Peoples Partnership*

The UN Indigenous Peoples Partnership (UNIPP) is the first global inter-agency initiative to support country efforts to advance indigenous peoples' rights and comprises of the four United Nations entities ILO, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNDP together with Indigenous Members. UNIPP funded projects have proven to be catalytic in 2013, increasing capacity for indigenous peoples' issues at country level, with an estimated US\$ 3.7 million in additional funds mobilized, especially in the Latin American region (Bolivia and Nicaragua), as a result of seed money provided by UNIPP. UNIPP continues to receive requests of support from various indigenous peoples' organizations and UN country teams, including Costa Rica, Burundi, Myanmar and several other countries and thus securing additional donor support is crucial in order to meet the increasing demand expressed and to seize the momentum created by UNIPP. Through the significant progress made and lessons learned from the pilot countries in 2012 and 2013, UNIPP is quickly becoming a mechanism that transforms aspirations of indigenous peoples beyond the global advocacy bodies at the international level into concrete change at the country level, especially among indigenous women, children and youth.

Furthermore, in June 2013, the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP) Southeast Asia Regional Project together with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific organized a sub-regional meeting on "Extractive Industries and Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Land and



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Natural Resources” in Bangkok. The meeting involved over 60 expert participants including the Professor James Anaya, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, indigenous leaders, leading academic researchers and civil society leaders, as well as high-level officials from the governments, congress, and National Human Rights Institutions from five countries in the region.

### *Nicaragua*

During 2012 and 2013, UNIPP-UNDP Nicaragua provided small grants to different indigenous women’s organizations and indigenous communities to implement different access to justice-related projects. These organizations were not registered as NGOs in the country and the project proposals were formulated with some guidance from the UNDP team and but implemented by the indigenous constituencies themselves. This came as a response to a UNPFII recommendation (2010) “that the experience and knowledge of the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environmental Facility be utilized by other small-grant schemes and that a stronger link be developed between efforts to enhance the capacity of indigenous peoples’ organizations and UNDP efforts to enhance the participation of indigenous peoples in national policy processes”.

### *Philippines-Indonesia*

In partnership with the Philippines Parliament and Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations – Civil Society Organizations (CSO) networks, UNDP-UNIPP South-East Asia organized a Peer-to-Peer knowledge exchange between the Philippines and Indonesia on indigenous legislation and policy-making to support the inputs to the legislative process in Indonesia. The workshop took place in the Philippines with the participation of delegates from Indonesia and the Philippines as well as high-level government officials, parliamentarians, and their legal expert staff, CSO leaders and activists, as well as indigenous leaders.



### *UN Development Group –Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism*

UNDP is also part of the UN Development Group’s Human Rights Mainstreaming (HRM) mechanism which promotes a coherent UN system-wide capacity development approach towards human rights mainstreaming. It focuses on strengthening the capacity of national partners and supports UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators to jointly work on promoting human rights through their projects and programmes.

### **In-House Capacity and Coordination**

#### *Indigenous Peoples Liaison Committee*

In 2008, the UNPFII recommended to UNDP “to strengthen its institutional capacity on indigenous peoples’ issues by establishing a task force to serve as a liaison mechanism between headquarters and focal points on indigenous issues at the country level.” In 2010, UNDP established the UNDP Indigenous Peoples Liaison Committee (IPLC), based at Headquarters in New York and composed of designated focal points from each UNDP practice, regional and substantive bureau. Since its establishment the IPLC continues to meet regularly within UNDP. During 2013, support on human rights especially indigenous issues was further strengthened with the recruitment of a Junior Professional Officer, funded by the Government of Luxembourg for a period of two years. In addition to general coordination, including engaging with the UNPFII during the 12<sup>th</sup> session of the UNPFII, the IPLC also coordinated actively with different UNDP stakeholders in the preparations for the internal e-Discussion on UNDP’s work and engagement with indigenous peoples that took place during September-October 2013. The e-discussion was in part a response to the UNPFII request to all UN agencies to update or establish their policies and strategies on indigenous peoples in the run up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, as well as a response to development practitioners, governments, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders



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working in the area of human rights. In particular, UNDP development practitioners have requested more institutional guidance and support in terms of promoting indigenous peoples' rights through development planning and programmes and public policies. The e-Discussion has further highlighted the breadth of engagement with indigenous peoples and the extensive range of activities UNDP is involved in across the development spectrum.

A further effort to support in-house coordination and provide support to colleagues working on indigenous peoples' issues was the establishment of a UNDP specialized space on our global knowledge sharing platform and extranet – TEAMWORKS on Indigenous Peoples. This dedicated space was established to connect colleagues and development practitioners working on Indigenous People's issues and ensure ready access to resources, guidance and knowledge and experiences related to UNDP's work and engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

UNDP continues to host the UN Human Rights Policy network – HuriTALK and the UN Practitioner's Portal on Human Rights-Based Approaches to Programming ([www.hrbaportal.org](http://www.hrbaportal.org)), which provides a range of tools from the UN system to mainstream human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples, and it facilitates dialogue among development practitioners.

### **Post 2015**

The integration of indigenous peoples' rights and needs into key development processes such as the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a great concern for indigenous peoples worldwide.

"The Future We Want" resolution of the General Assembly adopted on 11 September 2012 ([A/RES/66/288](http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/12/12092012ga77res66288.html)) stressed the importance of the participation of indigenous peoples in the achievement of sustainable development and recognized the importance of the United



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Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the context of global, regional, national and subnational implementation of sustainable development strategies<sup>1</sup>.

A global conversation about the *World We Want* took place throughout 2013 and responded to a growing call for active participation in shaping the post-2015 development agenda. Taking place well before governments sit down to negotiate and finalize such a new agenda, the consultations provided evidence and perspectives to governments on the challenges people face in improving their lives and those of their families and communities.

In February 2013, UNDP, in partnership with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and supported by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Pan-African Parliament organized the *Global Thematic Consultation on Governance* in South Africa. UNDP prioritized the participation of excluded groups and those who may not normally have access to such global development discussions with a wide range of participation from civil society members including prominent indigenous leaders and a member of the UNPFII.

In doing so, it was possible to highlight some of the most pressing issues for Indigenous Peoples in messages that emerged from the *Global Thematic Consultation on Governance*, specifically that empowerment and meaningful participation of individuals and civil society in governance systems are necessary to tackle inequality and promote social inclusion. Participants also concluded that a key building block of good governance is empowerment with enhanced and meaningful participation in decision-making processes and that in particular a focus should be placed on populations who may in fact lack access to power, including indigenous peoples.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 49 of the General Assembly Resolution A/RES/66/268 'The Future We Want' adopted on 11 September 2012.



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During 2013, UNDP worked actively with some members of the UNPFII to address the challenges facing indigenous peoples, especially their marginalization and exclusion, in the discussions around the post-2015 development agenda.