

Questionnaire on Indigenous Issues / PFII

To Indigenous Peoples' Organizations

Your organization is invited to contribute to the seventeenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) which will take place from 16 to 27 April 2018.

The special theme of the seventeenth session will be: “**Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources**”. There will also be discussions on the follow-up to the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum.

The Report of the Permanent Forum's sixteenth Session of 2016 (document E/2017/43) which is available at the website: <https://undocs.org/en/E/2017/43>

The report provides a number of recommendations within to States, United Nations Agencies and other organizations.

Your organization is welcome to submit information on the actions taken or planned regarding indigenous peoples' issues. Your written submission should be sent to us by 1 January 2018. Please refer to the attached questionnaire addressed to Indigenous Peoples' Organizations. The secretariat of the UNPFII intends to synthesize the responses for presentation to the Permanent Forum's sixteenth session.

Please send your contributions to indigenous_un@un.org at the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Headquarters, New York. USA.

Thank you for your efforts towards the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well and supporting the mandate of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in improving the lives of indigenous peoples.

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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Questionnaire to Indigenous Peoples' Organizations

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 sixteenth session of 2017 includes a number of recommendations within its mandated areas, some of which are addressed to indigenous peoples' organizations and institutions (attached).

The report can be found at : <https://undocs.org/en/E/2017/43>

The secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invites Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and institutions to complete the attached questionnaire on any action taken or planned related to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The responses will be compiled into one report for the seventeenth session of the Permanent Forum which will take place from 16 to 27 April 2018. Responses will be placed on the DESA/DSPD website on Indigenous at: <https://www.un.org/indigenous>

Please submit your completed questionnaire by **1 January 2018** to:

Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Division for Social Policy and Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Room: S- 2955
United Nations Headquarters
New York, USA 10017
Telephone : 917-367-5100; fax : 917- 367-5102
Email: indigenous_un@un.org

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The seventeenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held at United Nations Headquarters from **16 -27 April 2018.**

The theme of the Permanent Forum's session in 2018 will be:

Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources

Draft 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. Dialogue with indigenous peoples.
6. Dialogue with Member States.
7. Dialogue with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.
8. Discussion on the theme "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources".
9. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
10. Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
11. 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.
12. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.
13. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session
14. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its seventeenth session.

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Questionnaire to Indigenous Peoples' Organizations

A. General information and background on your organization/institution

1. Please provide the name of your organization/entity and where it is based. Please also provide details on the objectives and goals of your organization.

Research and Action Group for Wellbeing in Benin (GRABE-BENIN)

Objective: Transmission of environmental awareness to the people and the promotion of well-being for all

Goal: Contribute to the regeneration and preservation of natural ecosystems and sustainable development.

Headquarters: located in Avrankou Sèdjè Avrankou City Hall Street Oueme Department

BP: 13 Avrankou, Tel: 97272326/ 97642295

Mail: grabe.bj@gmail.com ou aoussoulio@gmail.com

2. Which indigenous peoples/communities does your organization represent and/or work with?

Gbévozoun and Gnanhouizoun in Bonou

Zodre-zekpon in Avrankou and

Lindja-dangbo in Adjarra

B. Recommendations of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At the 2018 session, the Permanent Forum will focus on "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources".

3. Are there laws and policies and/or administrative measures in your country to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples to own, use, control, and manage lands, territories, and resources? If so, please provide details.

Yes

The constitution of the Republic of Benin

Framework law No. 98-030 of 12 February 1999 on the environment in the Republic of Benin

Law No. 93-009 of 2 July 1993 on the Forest Regime in the Republic of Benin

Law No. 2002-16 of 18 October 2004 on the Fauna Regime in the Republic of Benin

Interministerial Order No. 0121 / MEHU / MDGLAAT / DC / SGM / DGFRN / SA of 16/11/2012 setting the conditions for the sustainable management of the sacred forest in the Republic of Benin

The municipal decrees of legal recognition

4. Are there any efforts or initiatives to (i) demarcate and/or map communal lands; (ii) registration of land titles (individual and collective); and (iii) adjudication of claims for collective rights to lands, territories and resources? If so, please provide details.

Yes

Installation of the national consortium of ICCAs in Benin

Integration into the protected area system

Installation of local management committees for the sacred forest called CLFS;

Installation of communal coordination and monitoring committees for the integration of the sacred forest called CCSI.

5. Please provide information on any projects or programmes to ensure the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in relation to development projects and/or extractive activities?

Project to Integrate Sacred Forests into the Protected Areas System

Sustainable Forest Valorization and Promotion of the ICCA Consortium (Indigenous and Community Heritage Areas and Territory) Initiative in Benin

Djowamon Program: for the conservation of forests and sacred sites and the revaluation of endogenous knowledge

6. Do you have any examples of good practices that may be useful for resolving issues of ownership and control over natural resources? If so, please provide details. Please also include information on any specific programs targeting indigenous women.

Endogenous knowledge for the protection of natural resources

Environmental Education Through Youth Profile Experience

Community Dialogues with Aboriginal Peoples on Their Values

Sacralization of forests and other natural resources

Involvement of women in the conservation of traditional seeds

C. UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

7. Has your organization been involved in any legislative, policy and/or administrative measures taken by the Government to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples? Please provide details.

Yes

The organization supports communities in the process of recognizing ICCAs (Aboriginal and community heritage areas and territory)

D. World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

In 2014, at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/69/2), Member States committed to taking, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, a number of measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration.

8. Have any steps been taken to develop a national action plan or strategy on indigenous peoples? Please also include information on any capacity building to strengthen awareness and action to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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The UN developed a System wide action plan to support Member States to achieve the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (SWAP-Indigenous Peoples [E/C.19/2016/5](#)).

The National Indigenous Peoples Consortium has been established with the support of the Government and the United Nations Development Program through the GEF. A three-year action plan has been developed at the level of this consortium National Aboriginal Awareness and Pre-identification Workshop (Aboriginal and Community Heritage Areas and Territory) First national course on Aboriginal and community heritage areas and territory for students and all those involved in the promotion of ICCAs

9. Please provide information on the involvement of your organization/peoples with UN offices at the country level including on:
 - a. Any projects, activities, dialogues and/or public awareness campaigns;

Participation in the General Assembly of Indigenous Peoples around Mother Nature in Brazil

- b. Preparation of country programmes and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF).

E. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Global Goals

There are 17 Global Goals that cover a number of important issues including ending extreme poverty, ensuring all children receive a good education, achieving equal opportunities for all, and promoting a clean and healthy planet. The Permanent Forum has emphasized that the recognition, protection and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources will make a significant contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Has your organization been involved in the implementation, review and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda? If so, please provide details.

No