



THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Conservation and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Thematic Discussion

Conference Room 6

Thursday, 26 April 2018, 10 AM – 1 PM

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will hold a thematic discussion on “Conservation and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” at the 17th session of the Permanent Forum. Representatives of Indigenous Peoples, Member States, UN agencies, academics and other stakeholders are invited to attend the discussion.

The thematic discussion will build on a study by the Permanent Forum members to examine conservation and indigenous peoples’ human rights.ⁱ The aim of the thematic discussion is to consider the rights of indigenous peoples and the responsibilities of stakeholders and duty bearers in the context of conservation, and initiate discourse for a plan of immediate action aimed at developing a set of conservation standards that would ensure recognition of and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, as elaborated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in conservation settings.

For over four decades, the conservation community has engaged in dialogue on the importance of recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples in conservation initiatives. The International Union for Conservation of Nature first acknowledged the need to recognize indigenous peoples in relation to protected areas at the 12th meeting of its general assembly, held in Kinshasa in 1975. Since then, a number of initiatives have focused on the need for human rights and conservation related standards and/or guidelines to be agreed upon and used by all actors involved in or affected by conservation. There is a growing recognition of the urgent need to develop a universally recognized set of standards for engaging in conservation efforts on the lands and waters of indigenous peoples.

In this context, the thematic discussion will begin with introductory remarks from the Permanent Forum members on their study to examine conservation and indigenous peoples’ rights. After the introductory remarks, there will be a panel of speakers from among representatives of indigenous peoples and conservation agencies to set the scene and open discussions among the participants. Each panellist will, in 7 minutes, share on the opportunities and/or challenges to the rights of indigenous peoples in conservation initiatives in policies and practice. They will be asked to suggest particular strategic measures that can be taken to ensure respect for the rights of indigenous rights as per the UN Declaration in the context of conservation. The Permanent Forum members will then invite interventions and comments from the participants along the lines of the aim of the thematic discussion.

The discussion will be conducted in an interactive manner. This requires that interventions are brief and address a specific issue in order to allow time and opportunity for indigenous peoples, Member States, Forum members and other stakeholders to engage in a genuinely interactive exchange. Each intervention is limited to 3 minutes.

ⁱ E/C.19/2018/9 Study to examine conservation and indigenous peoples’ human rights by Brian Keane and Elifuraha Laltaika
http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/C.19/2018/9