

FAO actions in support of Indigenous Peoples

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Activities undertaken in 2013

Nutrition Division (ESN)

- Publication and launch of the book *Indigenous Peoples' food systems & well-being: interventions and policies for healthy communities*, resulting from a collaboration between Indigenous Peoples' representatives, CINE and McGill University, with the support of FAO, and presenting the results of 10 years research on community health promotion interventions based on local and traditional food systems.

Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division (FOE)

- Management of the Forest & Farm Facility, supporting smallholder, women, community and Indigenous Peoples' producer organizations and governments at local, national, regional and international levels to achieve sustainable forest landscape management, whilst boosting food security and promoting climate-smart agriculture using a three pronged approach:
 - 1) Strengthen smallholder, women, community and Indigenous Peoples' producer organizations for business/livelihoods and policy engagement.
 - 2) Catalyze multi-sectoral stakeholder policy platforms with governments at local and national levels.
 - 3) Link local voices and learning to global arena through genuine participatory processes/communication and information sharing. Activities in support of producer organizations started in 6 partner countries: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Gambia, Liberia, Nepal and Myanmar.

Forest Assessment Management and Conservation Division (FOM)

- Development of training modules to support Community Based Forest Management by Indigenous Communities in the Peruvian Amazon.
- Finalization of a case study of Indigenous Vegetation Fire Management and Knowledge in Tanzania to highlight the importance of basing Community Based Fire Management on existing indigenous knowledge and management practices.
- Inclusion of the Indigenous fire management knowledge and management practices in the program of the next International Wildland Fire Conference (2015, Korea)
- Inclusion of the indigenous people in the Global Plan of Action for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources which has been adopted by the FAO conference in June 2013. It is based on country reports on the state of Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) in which national stakeholders including NGOs, and

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- Local organizations, were involved in the report preparation process at national level. Strategic priorities in the plan which are specifically related to indigenous people and traditional knowledge are:
 - 1) To develop national and subnational systems for the assessment and management of traditional knowledge on FGR .
 - 2) To promote the establishment and the reinforcement of FGR information systems (databases) to cover available scientific and traditional knowledge on uses, distribution, habitats, biology and genetic variation of species and species populations.
 - 3) To support and strengthen the role of forests managed by indigenous and local communities in the sustainable management and conservation of FGR
 - 4) To promote the participation of indigenous and local communities in FGR management in the context of decentralization.

Development Law Branch (LEGN)

- Preparation of two regional studies on *food security legislation and legal issues related to contract farming* in support of the Hunger Free Latin American and Caribbean Initiative. In both studies, customary law and practices and special protection to Indigenous Peoples (cultural dimension/vulnerability condition) within legislation and its implementation are being considered.

Climate, Energy and Tenure Division (NRC)

- Development of capacity building and training material in support to the implementation of the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* for Civil Society Organizations and Indigenous people.
- Publication of the *Technical guide Free Prior and Inform Consent: practical guidance for governments, companies, NGOs indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to land acquisition* in English, Spanish and French.

Land and Water Division (NRL)

- Direct technical support in Angola to GOA local government officers and NGOs local experts in their joint effort to secure the land pertaining to the Mupenbati Bushmen community (this happened in parallel with other Gias Maasai oriented actions in Kenya and Tanzania and with field work in Darfur in support of Berti and Fur groups).

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- Project in Colombia “Fortalecimiento de las Capacidades Locales Para La Construcción de Paz en Municipios Priorizados de la Costa Pacífica y la Frontera Andina del Departamento de Nariño, Colombia”.
- Recognition and designation of 25 Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) – sites of agri-cultural, ecological, and social value and importance to indigenous peoples, minorities, tribal peoples and farming communities.
- Regional Workshops/cross visits and knowledge sharing between and among GIAHS custodians in Latin America, Southeast Asia and North Africa within the framework of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) initiative.
- Publication of *Food and Wisdom (sustaining our future by harvesting diversity)*.
- Realization of a Video documentary on agricultural heritage systems of minorities and farming communities in Peru, China, Tunisia.
- Promotion of “Schools of Living Tradition” and “Heritage Learning Centers”.
- Organization of the biannual International Forum on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) on May 2013 in Japan.

Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC)

- Coordination of the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples.
- Assistance to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in ensuring the participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, in the main discussions; and management of the Multidonor Trust Fund in support of CSO participation in the CFS. One of the 4 members of the Advisory Group of the CFS coming from civil society is currently an indigenous representative.
- Support to indigenous peoples’ communication for development initiatives.
- Technical support to regional initiatives to monitor compliance of FAO projects in indigenous territories with the principles established in the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

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Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP)

- Organization of a Regional Consultation on ways forward to reinforce FAO's work on Indigenous Peoples' issues in the region.
- Preparation of a FAO funded project proposal to work on shifting cultivation with Indigenous peoples in 4 Asian countries.

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)

- Development of the Second Regional Dialogue between FAO and Indigenous Peoples of Latin America, "building up a common agenda".
- Support to 10 Dialogue events to strengthen indigenous peoples' advocacy on public policies related to food security and other related issues.
- Finalization of five studies on Indigenous Peoples' food systems in the region: Mesoamerica (Nicaragua, 4 departments), Amazon (Peru), Andes (Bolivia), Chaco (Argentina-Bolivia-Paraguay) and Coastal and Island Territories (Chile).
- Design of e-learning courses on indigenous peoples rights and development.
- Organization of 7 National Dialogue Workshops to strengthen indigenous peoples' advocacy on public policies related to food security.
- Preparation of A FAO funded project "Support to women of the Ticuna indigenous community to improve food security through aquaculture, processing and commercialization of fish and fish products" in Brazil, Colombia and Peru.
- Execution of the FAO funded project "Food and Nutrition Security Policies and Indigenous Peoples" in Colombia, Guatemala and Paraguay.
- Coordination of the Inter Agency Regional Support Group on Indigenous Issues (GIRPI)

Investment Centre Division (TCI)

- FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme in Brazil: Rural Competitiveness Project in Santa Caterina. Target beneficiaries consist of an estimated 90 000 small farming families, 2 000 rural workers/labourers and 1 920 indigenous people families.

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- FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme in Brazil: Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) and Access to Markets Project in Sao Paulo. An estimated 22,000 small farming families would be reached by the project through their own producers' organizations. This target population also includes indigenous and Quilombola families.
- Participation in a Workshop on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security held in Colombia: TCI gave a presentation on Governance in Indigenous Territories.
- FAO/GEF project "Management of Chimborazo's Natural Resources" in Ecuador. The project is executed by the Local Gov of Chimborazo under the authority of an Indigenous Governor. The project was formulated and is implemented by indigenous communities and authorities. Micro watersheds management plans were formulated by indigenous communities.
- Regional project "Transboundary agro-ecosystem management programme for the Kagera river basin" in Africa (Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda). The project aims to promote the adoption of productive and sustainable land management and livelihood strategies of local populations in range, agro-pastoral and arable lands.

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Activities planned for 2014

Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division (FOE)

- Management of the Forest & Farm Facility in 4 new partner countries in addition to the 6 existing partner countries and through regional and global grants to strengthen the role and voice of Forest and Farm Producer organizations at the regional and global level.

Forest Assessment Management and Conservation Division (FOM)

- An implementation strategy for the Global Plan of Action for the conservation sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources, including the priorities related to indigenous people will be finalized by July 2014 prior and presented to the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) in January 2015.
- Preparation of a session on Indigenous fire management knowledge and management practices for the International Wildland Fire Conference (2015, Korea)

Development Law Branch (LEGN)

- Finalization of two regional studies on *food security legislation and legal issues related to contract farming* in support of the Hunger Free Latin American and Caribbean Initiative. In both studies, customary law and practices and special protection to Indigenous Peoples (cultural dimension/vulnerability condition) within legislation and its implementation are being considered.
- Publication of a Technical Guide on the legal implications of the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security, which will include references to indigenous people's rights, customary tenure and common property regimes.

Climate, Energy and Tenure Division (NRC)

- Application of the Technical guide *Free Prior and Inform Consent: practical guidance for governments, companies, NGOs indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to land acquisition* in Liberia.
- Preparation in English, Spanish and French of the Technical Guide for the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security focusing on tenure rights related to Commons (likely to be published in 2015).

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- Development of capacity building material in support to the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security for Civil Society Organizations and Indigenous peoples, including training material.

Land and Water Division (NRL)

- Preparation of training materials and activities carried out on governance of natural resources management with a gender perspective, targeting CSOs/NGOs/Indigenous Peoples' organizations as well as local public institutions.
- Provision of continued support to the Angolan government, among other things, through the new project "Land Rehabilitation and Rangelands Management in Smallholders Agro-pastoral production systems in South Western Angola" which will work with the Mukubal indigenous group.
- Provision of technical support in Darfur, through the "Increasing cooperation between conflicting communities through promoting dialogue and enhancing livelihoods and natural resources management in North and West Darfur States" project.
- Launch of two new projects in Somalia and Kenya, financed by the European Union, that will promote capacity building activities targeting marginalized tribal groups such as Bantu (in Somalia, particularly Gedo Region) and Maasai (in Kenya) in order to reinforce their capacities to deal with land rights issues and to have access in relevant decision-making processes.
- Finalization of a technical document on Territorial Development and Local Knowledge Systems.

Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC)

- Coordination of the Inter-Departmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples.
- Assistance to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in ensuring the participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including Indigenous Peoples' organizations, in the main discussions; and management of the Multidonor Trust Fund in support of CSO participation in the CFS. One of the 4 members of the Advisory Group of the CFS coming from civil society is currently an indigenous representative.
- Development of a capacity building programme for local community leaders, including indigenous, to develop negotiation, lobbying and leadership skills needed to achieve lasting impacts in the economic, political and social organization of their societies.

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- Active involvement in the IASG for the preparations and lead up to the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples.
- Support to indigenous peoples' communication for development initiatives: Support to Indigenous Peoples' producers and women organizations through participatory communication plans/strategies (e.g. Nicaragua country project of the Forestry and Farm Facility). Special attention will be given to the issue of Indigenous Peoples's communication within the context of the International Forum on Communication and Community Media Action to Advance Family Farming that will take place in Rome in November 2014.

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP)

- Preparation and launch of the TCP project "Regional Support to Indigenous Peoples for Livelihood and Food Security" focusing on the subject of shifting cultivation practices, including case studies from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Laos and Thailand.

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)

- Publication and launch of five studies on Indigenous Peoples' food systems in the region.
- International Seminar on "Culture, Food Sovereignty and Traditional Livelihoods" to be held on May 4-6.
- Organization of a side event during the 13th Session of the Permanent Forum on the results of the International Seminar on "Culture, Food Sovereignty and Traditional Livelihoods".
- Execution of the TCP project "Food and Nutrition Security Policies and Indigenous Peoples" in Colombia, Guatemala and Paraguay as well as in Ecuador and Panama.
- Execution of the TCP Project "Support to women of the Ticuna indigenous community to improve food security through aquaculture, processing and commercialization of fish and fish products" in Brazil, Colombia and Peru.
- Organization of a side event during the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples on the experiences of mainstreaming an indigenous peoples approach in public policies related to food and nutrition security.
- Development of e-learning courses on indigenous peoples' rights and development.
- Coordination of the Regional Inter Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (GIRPI) and preparation of a Regional Report on the situation of indigenous peoples in the region.

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Investment Centre Division (TCI)

- FAO/World Bank CP Programme in Guatemala: Land Administration Project "Improving M&E system and Recognition of communal lands", working mainly with indigenous communities.
- FAO/World Bank CP Programme in Honduras: Land Administration Project "Improving M&E system and Governance in Indigenous territories" for the full recognition of indigenous territorial rights, working mainly with Miskito communities.
- FAO/World Bank CP Programme in Nicaragua: Land Administration Project "Improving Improving M&E system and impact evaluation" for the demarcation of indigenous territories, working mainly with Miskito communities.
- FAO/World Bank CP Programme in Bolivia: Project "Protierras" promoting rural development in indigenous territories, working mainly with Guarani and Chiquitano communities.
- FAO/GEF project "Management of Chimborazo's Natural Resources" in Ecuador. The project is executed by the Local Gov of Chimborazo under the authority of an Indigenous Governor. The project was formulated and is implemented by indigenous communities and authorities. Micro watersheds management plans were formulated by indigenous communities.
- Regional FAO/UNEP/GEF project "Integrated Natural Resources Management of the Fouta Djallon Highlands" in Africa (Gambia, Guinea, GBS, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone). Demonstrations are implemented in 17 pilot sites with the involvement of local communities, including indigenous ones.
- Regional project "Transboundary agro-ecosystem management programme for the Kagera river basin" in Africa (Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda). The project aims to promote the adoption of productive and sustainable land management and livelihood strategies of local populations in range, agro-pastoral and arable lands.
- Several other projects are currently under formulation and will involve local communities and indigenous people.

