



## REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Submitted to the Ninth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
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### Executive Summary:

The current environmental challenges including anthropogenic climate change, loss of biodiversity, natural disasters, conflicts and the food crisis have put the environment at the centre of political and economic decision making. In order to fulfill its role as the lead organisation in articulating, facilitating and supporting a response to these challenges and opportunities, UNEP developed a Medium-Term-Strategy 2010-2013 (MTS).

A decision on the MTS was adopted in early 2008 and the MTS will reorient UNEP's Programme of Work in the years 2010-2013 around six cross-cutting thematic priorities: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflict, Ecosystems Management, Environmental Governance, Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste, and Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production. The MTS defines the following five roles as central to UNEP's mandate:

- Keeping the world environmental situation under review;
- Catalyzing and promoting international cooperation and action;
- Providing policy advice and early warning information, based upon sound science and assessments;
- Facilitating the development, implementation and evolution of norms and standards and developing coherent inter-linkages among international environmental conventions;
- Strengthening technology support and capacity in line with country needs and priorities

The MTS also points out that there is renewed focus on the future evolution of international environmental governance within the United Nations system itself, including calls for greater coherence within the United Nations system and an increased focus on the role of civil society and the private sector, on being responsive to country level priorities, and on results-based management. These objectives provide also important opportunities and ways for engagement with Indigenous Peoples and their communities.

UNEP recognizes that there is a necessary role for Major Groups and Stakeholders in general to play in policy formulation, advocacy and lobbying, as well as in the implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work. It is also necessary that lessons learned from projects implemented with partners are communicated into the policy-making process. This is equally applicable to Indigenous Peoples and their communities.

UNEP's engagement with Indigenous Peoples flows from UNEP's policy decisions to enhance engagement with civil society as well as with Indigenous Peoples in its work.

Within its approach towards Major Groups and Stakeholders, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) considers Indigenous Peoples and their communities as important partners in environmental management. UNEP is looking in its work at ways on how to assist its partners to better understand the synergies and linkages between Indigenous Peoples and the environment, to inform

decisions in policy development and implementation as well as to inspire potential partnerships within the UNEP priority areas of interest to Indigenous Peoples and to UNEP.

It also seeks to respond to the strongly expressed needs from Indigenous Peoples with respect to UNEP's work as it links to Indigenous Peoples' issues. The rationale for a Partnership with Indigenous Peoples and their communities finds itself in the very nature of the Indigenous Peoples' inter-relationships with their traditional lands, territories, and resources, which are the foundations of their culture, social structures, economy, livelihoods, spirituality, traditions, customs and health. Reciprocal relationships sustain the vibrancy of their cultures and ways of life with the ecosystems where they live. Traditional occupations such as pastoralism on dry lands, hunting and gathering and rotation agriculture in tropical forests, and reindeer herding in the Arctic, have co-evolved in balance with specific ecosystems. Indigenous Peoples are holders of crucially important knowledge about their local environment. Their innovations and practices have been developed through experience gained over time and have often proven to be environmentally sustainable and adapted to local conditions. Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, innovations and practices are an inseparable part of who they are.

Indigenous Peoples have largely inhabited healthy ecosystems. However the security of both people and environment is increasingly under threat by a general population increase, large scale industrial activities, toxic waste, conflicts, migration and climate change, as well as unsound development activities. The structures of the world's ecosystems have been significantly degraded through human actions, including through the transformation of approximately one quarter of the Earth's terrestrial surface to cultivated systems. Most Indigenous Peoples suffer disproportionately from loss of biological diversity and deterioration of ecosystems, due to their subsistence economies and occupations and their spiritual connection to their traditional lands and territories.

This calls for a specific guidance aimed at enhancing Indigenous Peoples' full and effective participation in UNEP's. UNEP recognizes Indigenous Peoples' rights, risks, responsibilities and contributions in caring for the environment in furtherance of UNEP's over-all mission to promote ecosystem health and human well-being.

UNEP recognizes that all initiatives directly affecting Indigenous Peoples and their communities require their full and effective participation and consent to ensure that such initiatives are in line with their rights, cultures, visions and priorities. UNEP intends to formalize the alliance between UNEP and Indigenous Peoples in order to empower Indigenous Peoples and strengthen their participation in environmental policy-making and programme and project implementation and will also facilitate a better understanding of the situation of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the impacts of environmental changes on indigenous communities and their cultures. UNEP aims at enhancing its engagement with Indigenous Peoples, and draw out their key concerns and priorities, thereby firmly placing Indigenous Peoples on UNEP's agenda.

A strengthened institutional interaction between UNEP and Indigenous Peoples will also benefit governments, as Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, expertise and experiences will assist environmental decision making processes. Indigenous Peoples' participation in policy development will contribute to improved international environmental governance.

UNEP's draft guidelines for indigenous peoples issues and the environment have been developed and are being reviewed within UNEP for its final approval by senior management. The document intends to guide UNEP's work towards the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The activities and programmes described in this report are reflecting some of the examples of how UNEP has engaged in a number of strategic alliances with Indigenous Peoples and their communities ranging from research to projects on food security, environmental co-management, education, sustainable livelihoods, land degradation, disaster management, etc. and how these also reflect aspects of development with culture and identity including articles 3 and 32 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**(1) Given that the special theme of the ninth session of the Permanent Forum is Indigenous Peoples : development with culture and identity; articles 3 and 32 of the UN Declaration on the**

**Rights of Indigenous Peoples, please include information on how your agency is dealing with this important issues in the seven regional area of the UN-PFII.**

In the process of developing a strategic guiding document for UNEP's engagement with Indigenous Peoples, UNEP commits to engage Indigenous Peoples, communities and their traditional authorities as well as organizations proactively in the Major Groups and Stakeholders meetings as well as the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment sessions themselves. UNEP will look into options to include Indigenous Peoples' representatives in relevant discussion fora, including those at the ministerial level and will support and promote relevant partnerships at all appropriate levels within and outside of UNEP.

UNEP works in areas of the world where the environment is impacted by conflicts and disasters, or where the environment is a factor contributing to conflicts and disaster impacts. UNEP conducts environmental assessments in affected countries and strengthens national environmental management capacity through institution building, promoting regional cooperation, technical legal assistance, environmental information management and integrating environmental concerns and risk reduction measures in reconstruction programmes. In the context of natural disasters indigenous knowledge could become a major source for early warning signs within nature which would provide for preparedness against natural disasters.

In post-conflict assessments particular attention is often needed to the most vulnerable groups within a nation which includes indigenous groups and minorities and women. UNEP will emphasize the importance of addressing environmental and disaster risks and impacts, in ways which are gender and culturally-sensitive, as a prerequisite to sustainable development and will seek to integrate environmental management needs within recovery plans and peace-building strategies designed by Indigenous Peoples themselves.

**Major multi-stakeholder consultations and dialogues spearheaded by UNEP will aim at providing relevant participation of indigenous peoples. For example:**

**The Global Environment Outlook (GEO)** is UNEP's flagship assessment process which helps keep the global environment under review. The GEO process has over the years produced a series of environmental assessment reports aimed at providing comprehensive and reliable scientifically-credible, policy-relevant assessments on the interaction between environment and society.

GEO is a tool that informs decision-making, focusing on assessment priorities and analyzing policy challenges and opportunities. It is also a capacity building tool, bringing together diverse stakeholder groups from all regions. Finally, it is a communications tool that aims to raise awareness on the state and trends of the environment and provide policy response options for action.

The GEO-5 process was mandated in 2009 through GC Decision 25/2:III and held its first Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Consultation on GEO-5 from 29-31 March 2010 in Nairobi. The statement which was adopted on the objectives, scope and process of the 5<sup>th</sup> GEO by the Consultation asks for a multi-stakeholder approach and engagement in order to support and strengthen further scientific credibility, policy relevance and legitimacy. The planned assessments of the state and trends of the global environment will be based upon national, regional and global datasets and models as well assessments and will highlight regional differences, diversity and vulnerabilities. It is also planned to conduct a review of the needs to strengthen the collection, monitoring, interpretation and analyses of environmental, economic and social data relevant to track the state and trends of the environment. The objectives are to speed up achievement of the internationally agreed goals and in Multilateral Environmental Agreements and to inform the strategic directions of UNEP and other relevant UN bodies.

The GEO 5 report will be published in 2012 prior to the RIO +20 Conference where possible themes include green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication as well as an institutional framework for sustainable development. Opportunities for a global response will be based on regional priorities through regional analysis and modeling. In terms of its process, the GEO-5 will use an open and transparent approach and to ensure scientific credibility, policy relevance, legitimacy of, and effective engagement of stakeholders in the assessment, it will:

“Engage a wide range of global and regional partners, to include an appropriate balance of developed and developing country participants, in the assessment as authors, experts, peer-reviewers and advisors. Partners should include governments/ministries, United Nations bodies and other international organizations, scientific institutions, regional collaborating centres, NGOs and indigenous peoples networks as appropriate, and the private sector.” (paragraph 21.a of the Statement by the Global Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on the 5<sup>th</sup> GEO held in Nairobi from 29-31 March 2010, UNEP/IGMC.2.Rev2)

The call for nominations of experts will be published in May 2010 and UNEP will invite nominations of indigenous experts to the process. <http://www.unep.org/geo/>

### **Regional partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction on Climate Change, migration and cross-border conflict in pastoral communities ( UNOCHA, IOM, UNEP and ISS)**

In April 2009, UNOCHA, IOM, UNEP and ISS initiated a regional partnership to advocate for disaster risk reduction and preparedness strategies on climate change, cross border mobility and insecurity in pastoralist communities across the Horn of Africa. Several regional Inter-agency assessments were organised as part of partnership.

The objectives are:

- To promote pastoralists’ internal and cross-border mobility as a climate change adaptation strategy.
- To advocate for regional reconciliation of cross-border security concerns with pastoralists’ livelihood needs including cross-border mobility in search of water and pasture.
- To support regional governments to develop a regional normative framework on migration and mobility for pastoralists to ensure protection and enhance cross border security.

The Partnership suggests a Migration Framework for Pastoralists that could be mainstreamed into the Pastoral Policy Framework Initiative of the AU and address – among other themes:

- Human Security
- Climate Change
- Violence prevention and reduction
- Small arms reduction and control (DDR)
- Non violent conflict resolution and peace building
- Development of longer term vision and policy for community stabilization and sustainable livelihoods

The inter-agency assessment undertaken in the Maasai Cluster on the Kenya and Tanzania border highlighted several issues as regards the plight of pastoral communities in a changing climate. Information gathered from community-led consultations and also discussions with government and civil society focal contacts indicated that the 2009 drought was the severest probably in the last 30 years. Similarly the communities also indicated that during this period, they migrated to graze their cattle and also in search of water beyond the boundaries of their districts, even crossing the border into Tanzania and vice versa. While issues of conflict occurred in some areas, no violent conflict ensued during the drought period.

Most of the Maasai children had to be pulled out of schools during and after the drought period because their parents had either lost all their livestock and could not afford to educate them and/or the children had to help to fetch water and other household chores.

The women also mentioned that they had very little alternatives when the men had left with all the livestock. In some cases they opted to cut trees and burn charcoal to sell to the closest towns or villages. In other instances they opted to collect sand along dry river beds for buyers from towns where it was used

in the construction industry. They admitted that the drought clearly highlighted the need to diversify as regards their livelihood.

All the communities we spoke to mentioned the increased incidences of suicide among the Maasai as a result intensity of the drought which resulted in most families losing up to 90% of their livestock. The loss of dignity as a result of the losses of large numbers of livestock was particularly an issue for the Maasai men. Suicide also happened among women too. Some even alluded to the break down of community ties as a result of climate change.

Climate change, drought and its impacts in particular seemed to have a major effect on the communal social fabric which to a large extent had become fragmented. The women in particular highlighted their plight with the increased levels of HIV and AIDS in their communities. This was mainly because of their men being gone to livestock markets and to graze their animals for up to 6 months if not longer. Furthermore, it was observed that during the drought, there was hardly a moment for community members to interact and consult with each other on various matters simply because of the urgency of the matter.

Finally, based on a brief analysis of this once the environment or ecosystem is degraded or affected by this change, pastoral communities need to make certain decisions or undertake certain actions as permitted. The reasons for such actions vary from community to community. As an example widespread water shortages during a drought period contribute to food shortages, often result in displacement, and contribute to staggering humanitarian, economic and environmental costs.

### **The Mau Forest Restoration (Kenya)**

Kenya's closed canopy forest cover currently stands at approx. 1.7 percent of the country total land area. This is low compared to other African countries with an average of 9.3 percent and the world with an average of 21.4 percent. Most of the closed canopy forests in Kenya are montane forests and are the nation's water towers. Among the most important is the Mau Forests Complex.

Being one of the five water towers in Kenya and the single most important water catchment in Rift Valley and western Kenya, it is a natural asset of national importance. Its forests provide vital ecological services to the country, in terms of water storage; river flow regulation; flood mitigation; recharge of groundwater; reduced soil erosion and siltation; water purification; conservation of biodiversity; and, micro-climate regulation. Through these ecological services, the Mau Forests Complex supports key economic sectors in Rift Valley and western Kenya, including energy, tourism, agriculture, and industries. The Mau Forests Complex is particularly important for two of the three largest foreign currency earners: tea and tourism.

The Mau Forests Complex supports the livelihoods of millions of people in the Rift Valley and western Kenya. In the tea sector alone, approx. 35,000 jobs and the livelihoods of 50,000 small farmers, supporting both together some 430,000 dependants, benefit from the ecological services provided by the Mau Forests Complex.

The Mau Forests Complex is the home of a minority group of indigenous forest dwellers, the Ogiek. Many communities living in the immediate surrounding of the forest depend extensively on the forest goods and services.

Looking forward, environmental stability and secured provision of ecological goods and services, such as those provided by the Mau Forests Complex, will remain essential to attain sustainable development in Kenya. Despite its critical importance for sustaining current and future economic development, the Mau Forests Complex has been impacted by extensive illegal, irregular and ill-planned settlements, as well as illegal forest resources extraction.

Excisions (degazettement) of forest reserves and continuous widespread encroachment have led to the destruction of approx. 25 per cent of the Mau Forests Complex over the last 15 years. The destruction of the Mau Forests Complex is a violation of several multilateral environmental agreements to which Kenya is a Party. These include the East Africa Community Treaty, the African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

In order to maintain the vital role of the Mau Forests Complex in contributing to the health and prosperity of the country, the Government decided to engage all the stakeholders, including all relevant Government Ministries, to provide a sustainable solution to the current crisis. A stakeholder consultative forum, comprising some 300 persons representing Government institutions, Members of Parliament, private sectors, community-based organizations (CBO), local and national non-government organizations (NGO), as well as international organizations, was held in Nairobi on 15 July 2008. The forum was attended by the Prime Minister and ten Cabinet Ministers.

The forum agreed to establish a multi-stakeholder task force, comprising representatives from relevant Government institutions, non-governmental organizations, affected communities and private sector. The Mau Task Force was officially launched by the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008 and UNEP had an important role as technical advisory body.

The mandate of the Task Force was to formulate recommendations to the Government on: An effective management structure to stop any further degradation in the Mau Forests Complex; Providing for the relocation of the people who are residing in the forests; The restoration of all degraded forests and critical water catchment areas in the Mau Complex; and, Mobilizing resources to implement the above mentioned objectives and secure the sustainability of the entire ecosystem.

The [report of the Mau Task Force](#) was submitted to the Government in March 2009. It was approved by the Cabinet on 30 July 2009 and by the Parliament on 15 September 2009.

In the Mau Task Force (MTF) Report, the issue of the Ogiek Community featured prominently with emphasis on the need to have the Government address Ogiek matters as an indigenous community with attachment to the Mau. The MTF recommended the establishment of an Ogiek Register as a first step to secure the Ogiek identity and help address matters affecting the Ogiek community.

**In order to assist implement the recommendations of the Task Force, an Ogiek Council of Elders has been established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.**

The activities of the Ogiek Council of Elders will include:

- Nominate members to represent the Council in the Committee on Ogiek Matters of the Interim Coordinating Secretariat;
- Address issues related to the membership of the Council, including filling up vacancies and receiving appeal to the selection of members;
- Assist the Committee on Ogiek Matters in the establishment of an Ogiek Register based on lineages (family trees);
- Coordinate the Ogiek community position on issues related to the Mau Forests Complex;
- Assist the Committee on Ogiek Matters in the development of proposals for resettling the Ogiek Communities;
- Develop proposals involving the Ogiek Community in the restoration of the Mau Forests Complex;
- Develop proposals to support livelihood development in the Ogiek, as well as traditional Ogiek livelihood.

The historic development marks the very first time the indigenous community with attachment to Mau Forests Complex has formed its own leadership structure representing various forest blocks to work directly with the Government through the Interim Coordinating Secretariat (ICS). The 60-member grassroots council endorsed its terms of reference on social welfare and environmental conservation, including the establishment of an Ogiek register based on family lineages, the development of proposals for resettlement and restoration of the forest as well as for supporting livelihood development of the community. The formation of the one-year tenure Ogiek Council of Elders is part of the implementation of the repossession and restoration of the Mau Forests Complex. A ***Management Plan for the Maasai Mau has been developed*** in a participatory manner with the relevant Government bodies and the local

communities and has been signed; **Development of business plans for key economic activities:** Business plans have been developed to promote alternative income generating activities, including, bee-keeping, dairy goats, energy briquette production and timber production and processing; **Establishment of tree nurseries and woodlots:** Tree nurseries and woodlots have been established in 24 schools surrounding the Maasai Mau trust land forest and schools have been provided with water tanks; **Forest restoration, including replanting.** Three leading corporate organisations, one parastatal and one non-governmental organisation, have joined hands to support the rehabilitation of the Maasai Mau trust land forest. A proposal for the rehabilitation of the upper catchments of the Mara River is being developed by USAID with technical advice from the Interim Coordinating Secretariat. A team of experts was sent by USAID in late February/early March 2010 to make the necessary pre-assessments. The findings of the team of experts were presented and discussed during a USAID workshop held on 9 March 2010. A new team has been set up by USAID to design the project document based on the pre-assessments. The Kenya Tourism Board has committed to provide support to the rehabilitation efforts in the Mara River basin, including the affected forest blocks and the sub-catchments outside the forest. <http://www.maurestoration.go.ke/>

### **North America/ Arctic:**

The impact of climate change on Indigenous Peoples' lives, survival, development chances, their traditional knowledge and related biological diversity is of great concern to UNEP. There are also several examples of international and national climate change mitigation strategies posing an additional threat to Indigenous Peoples' territories and coping strategies. UNEP recognizes that indigenous communities are not simply passive victims of climate change but valuable partners in the global efforts to address climate change. Indigenous Peoples are already using their traditional knowledge to address and adapt to climate change at the local level. UNEP supports activities that raise awareness about the effects of climate change on vulnerable regions and peoples, and builds capacity to strengthen the role of these vulnerable communities in negotiations on greenhouse gas mitigation and on climate change adaptation. UNEP believes that Indigenous Peoples have a lot to contribute in designing and implementing solutions to climate change and that the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and organizations in these processes is encouraged.

UNEP/ GRID Arendal published a report on : " Assessing the impacts of climate change on food security in the Canadian Arctic" in March 2009 which also responded to indigenous peoples concerns during relevant meetings in 2009 such as the Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change held in Anchorage.<sup>1</sup> The report will also pave the way for future activities planned in collaboration with UNESCO as a follow up of the 59<sup>th</sup> recommendation from the 8<sup>th</sup> PFII session, namely: *The Permanent Forum recommends that the Arctic Council formally engage with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to jointly follow up the International Experts Meeting on Climate Change and Arctic Sustainable Development: scientific, social, cultural and educational challenges (3-6 March 2009 in Monaco).*

A series of regional meetings and pilot studies are planned on food security in the Arctic which will provide additional inputs for an Arctic Food Security Conference which will determine the elements for adaptation strategies and developing recommendations to ensure Arctic Peoples Food Security.

**UNEP/ GRID Arendal** developed the 200-page report *Arctic oil and gas issues: Statoil/Hydro training and awareness* covering issues related to fuels extraction in the circum-polar Arctic (2007). Four case studies present experiences and outlook related to integrated ecosystem management (IEM), local communities and indigenous peoples and the situation in Canada, Alaska and Sakhalin. RAIPON contributed to the report. A field trip to Canada was organised in cooperation with Canadian Indigenous Peoples representatives. <http://www.grida.no/polar/news/2389.aspx>

Portraits of Resilience is part of the Many Strong Voices Programme. The project intends to illustrate in a direct and personal way the ethical dimension of the climate change discussion. The goal is to train

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.manystrongvoices.org/news/4196.aspx>

children in the use of digital media in order to help bring personal stories and faces from vulnerable regions onto the floor of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations in Copenhagen in 2009. <http://www.manystrongvoices.org/portraits/>

Polar View offers integrated monitoring and forecasting services in the Polar Regions, as well as mid-latitude areas affected by ice and snow. Polar View utilizes satellite earth observation data from multiple satellites, in combination with ground truth data to deliver products that accurately illustrate the characteristics of the ice and snow on any given day. Polar View provides monitoring services for sea, lake and river ice, snow cover maps, and glacier monitoring and assessment. Many services are delivered in near real time and are readily accessible via the Internet. Several of Polar View's wide-ranging services are geared towards helping Arctic Indigenous communities to adapt to climate change. <http://www.polarview.org/>

**(2) Outline the obstacles your agency faces in implementing the Permanent Forum's recommendations, including those addressed specifically to your agency.**

The main obstacle UNEP faces in implementing policies and programmes relevant to indigenous peoples is lack of funds, inadequacy of staff resources and scarce knowledge among staff on the relevant issues. To strengthen UNEP's own capacity in relation to Indigenous Peoples' issues it is planned to making the organization more knowledgeable about and sensitive towards the situation of Indigenous Peoples and to respect Indigenous Peoples and their communities as partners in their own development through trainings in-house by division and by sub-programme, brown bag seminars with the help of available training tool kits, etc.

**(3) Outline the facilitating factors that enable your agency to implement the Permanent Forum's recommendations, including those addressed specifically to your agency which are:**

Following recommendations were made to UNEP during the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the UN-PFII:

***59. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Arctic Council formally engage with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to jointly follow up the International Experts Meeting on Climate Change and Arctic Sustainable Development: scientific, social, cultural and educational challenges (3-6 March 2009 in Monaco).***

A close collaboration between UNEP/ GRID Arendal and UNESCO has facilitated relevant activities in response to the above recommendations. A major workshop conference is planned to address Arctic food security issues among indigenous peoples with a wide range of international, national provincial and territorial as well as NGOs and Indigenous Peoples organizations as partners.

The Government of Canada, following on the recommendations of the Arctic Council workshop "Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Arctic", commissioned UNEP/GRID-Arendal to prepare a report on the impacts of climate change in the Canadian Arctic.

The paper examined three main questions (<http://www.manystrongvoices.org/news/4196.aspx>):

- \* Where are the gaps in knowledge and action with respect to the challenge that climate change poses for Arctic food security?
- \* What needs to be done to ensure a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and multi- stakeholder approach to achieving food security in the Arctic?
- \* What modalities are required for a long-term and sustained approach to addressing food security in the Arctic?

These questions will provide the basis for a proposed conference on the impacts of climate change on food security in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States.

**66. The Permanent Forum calls on UNEP to conduct a fast track assessment of short-term drivers of climate change, specifically black carbon, with a view to initiating negotiation of an international agreement to reduce emissions of black carbon.**

UNEP responded by initiating a global integrated assessment of black carbon (BC) and tropospheric ozone (TO), another potent global warming agent not covered by the UNFCCC-Kyoto Protocol, in July 2009. Urgently addressing short-lived greenhouse gases with the aim to develop politically and environmentally feasible options for climate change mitigation is among UNEP's priorities that requires sound scientific basis for action.

The integrated assessment of BC and TO is to be based on best available science; target regional and sectoral impacts and responses; engage a number of prominent global experts to develop the contents of the underlying assessment report and summary for decision-makers; include consultations with main stakeholder groups; include an outlook component; develop and implement an outreach and communication strategy; and involve relevant UNEP's divisions in the development of the assessment products and in the assessment follow-up.

Expected outputs include a Summary for Policy Makers (the leading science on the impacts of black carbon and tropospheric ozone on climate and human and ecosystem health summarised as a resource for decision makers), available by end of 2010, and an underlying comprehensive assessment report (an Integrated Assessment of the Physical and Societal impacts of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone Precursors), available by end of 2010-beginning of 2011.

The assessment outcomes will serve for informed decision-making at the global and regional levels, including but not restricted to the UNFCCC process; and provide considerable inputs to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report and UNEP's fifth Global Environment Outlook. They will also help develop and implement policies aiming at implementation of MDG 1, 3 to 5 and 7. The assessment will include a strong regional/national level component relevant to the issues being addressed.

**4) Given the Forums recommendations for adoption of policies on indigenous peoples issues, please specify whether your agency:**

- **Has a policy or other similar tool on indigenous peoples issues**

UNEP has been developing over the last years in consultation with indigenous peoples and following a recommendation by the UN-PFII at its 6<sup>th</sup> session a guidelines document called: *UNEP and Indigenous Peoples. Partnership for caring for the environment. Guidelines*. Several drafts have been reviewed and commented by UNEP staff for future endorsement by the Senior Management.

- **Has recent programmes on indigenous peoples issues**

**Civil Society inputs into UNEP's Governing Council proceedings**

The eleventh Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-11) was held from 21-22 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia. There were 111 participants representing 69 organizations from 43 countries that attended the meeting. Of these participants 60 were male and 51 were female. The majority were from Asia and the Pacific (61) and Europe (29) and a few from the other regions. Most participants were from the Non-Governmental Organizations major group (80) and the rest from all other Major Groups.

On the synergies process of the chemical conventions, Major groups and stakeholders feel there is a need to strengthen stakeholder participation at the regional level, and ensure that synergy it is based on equity across countries and attention to future generations. On green Economy, the main

recommendations were on the need to develop clear strategies on how green jobs will be promoted and to ensure that the Green Economy delivers in terms of fairness and decent work. On biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management policies must be promoted to create synergies in the implementation of other policy objectives. On Rio+20, the Major Groups and Stakeholders also supported the initiative for the Rio+20 Summit, underlining the need to develop a movement around it and the importance of stakeholder participation in the entire process - from preparation to implementation and beyond. On IEG, the main breakthrough is related to Business and Industry; which reiterated its support to the IEG process. Their main challenge was how to make a very significant contribution to the process, given the current fragmentation of the system. They, however along with others agreed on a common message to the GCSS-11/GMEF on IEG, which proposed the creation of a civil society Advisory Body on IEG and indeed now the decision on IEG provides for a “*consultative group, through the United Nations Environment Programme secretariat, to seek relevant inputs from civil society groups from each region in the process of further strengthening international environmental governance*” (para 9).

<http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Default.aspx>

### **MDG Joint Programmes:**

In the MDG Joint Programme of Panama on the Inclusion of Adaptation and Mitigation Measures to Climate Change in the Integrated Management of Natural Resources of Priority Basins in Panama, UNEP and fellow partners have worked closely with the traditional authorities of Ngöbe Buglé community in Tabasará river watershed and Wargandi and Embera-Wounaan communities in the Chucunaque river watershed. The negotiations and work plan activities for the projects were developed in close collaboration with these communities and they will continue to participate in the implementation process. A UNEP Individual Consultant in this project is a member of a Panamanian indigenous community.

Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Embera Wounaan community and the Joint Program, represented by UNDP as the leading agency for the second year of the program. Additionally, in Nicaragua, two workshops were held during December on self assessment of traditional knowledge on conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity; one workshop in Bonanza and the other one in Waspam, which encompasses the Mayagna and Miskita indigenous groups.

### **GRASP ( Great Apes Survival Partnership)**

Indigenous peoples in the great apes range states in Africa and Southeast Asia are provided a voice and support through many of the GRASP Partnership’s activities, which to date include:

- Community-based GRASP Partner conservation field projects that take into account the knowledge and priorities of local indigenous groups
- Inclusion of indigenous peoples’ perspectives in GRASP-supported intergovernmental and national planning processes
- Awareness raising actions in support of the important role that forest-dwelling and indigenous peoples play in ecosystem conservation and highlighting their unique present and future needs through documentary films and other media

[www.unep.org/grasp](http://www.unep.org/grasp)

### **Community Protocols for ABS ( Access-Benefit-Sharing)**

Community protocols” is a term that covers a broad array of documents generated by communities to set out how they expect other stakeholders to engage with them. They may reference customary as well as national or international laws to affirm their rights to be approached according to a certain set of standards. Articulating information, relevant factors, and details of customary laws and traditional authorities helps other stakeholders to better understand the community’s values and customary laws.

Community protocols provide communities an opportunity to focus on their development aspirations *vis-a-vis* their rights and to articulate for themselves and for users their understanding of their bio-cultural heritage and therefore on what basis they will engage with a variety of stakeholders. By considering the interconnections of their land rights, current socio-economic situation, environmental concerns, customary laws and TK, communities are better placed to determine for themselves how to negotiate with a variety of actors.

Community protocols can address any number of community issues: Conserve biodiversity; Sustainably use plants and animal genetic resources; Manage and benefit from local biodiversity; Use, protect and benefit from traditional knowledge; Provide free, prior and informed consent to access lands, natural resources of traditional knowledge for any number of reasons including commercial and non-commercial research and by the media; Ensure environmental and other laws are implemented according to customary laws; Oppose unsustainable development on their lands; and Engage with governmental or other support.

A website helps to connect communities, NGOs and shares relevant information regarding model, protocols, guidelines, or other community-related instruments. This enables communities to share their experiences and lessons learned from working with community protocols.

<http://www.unep.org/communityprotocols/index.asp>

### **UNEP Tunza: Work with children and youth**

As part of the Seal the Deal Campaign, UNEP organized its Tunza International Children and Youth Conference in Daejeon, Korea from 17 to 23 August. The Conference was the culmination of three months of online discussions by over 10,000 young people on climate change issues. The Conference brought together 700 children and youth representing schools and organizations from 111 countries to agree on a statement on climate change and to share information on their efforts to address climate change. A Global Town Hall was organized in which Conference participants were joined by hundreds of young people from 15 cities via web casting to discuss and the finalisation of their statement. 10 indigenous children and youth participated in those conferences.

The statement was sent to governments and presented by youth representative to the Secretary-General's High Level Summit on Climate Change in New York which took place on 22 September 2009. The statement will also be presented at the UNICEF Children's Forum in Copenhagen from 28 November to 5 December and the Climate Conference (COP 15) in Copenhagen.

The TUNZA youth programmes have currently two indigenous youth from Sweden and Panama on the youth team.

[www.unep.org/Tunza](http://www.unep.org/Tunza)

- **Has projects activities on indigenous peoples issues**

### **Latin America and the Caribbean:**

**UNEP's TUNZA Children and Youth Network (<http://www.unep.org/Tunza/>):** It has been a priority and tradition to invite indigenous peoples representatives to the LAC regional meetings, subregional workshops of the TUNZA Network, and the World Conference on Youth and Children. At the world conference held in Daejeon Korea ( 2009), UNEP supported the participation of an indigenous youth representative from Panama who provided valuable inputs on the role of indigenous youth in environmental activities and their concerns for the environment. She continues to support indigenous youth and children in her region and advocates for their engagement in UNEP events and in other environmental processes.

**Regional Civil Society Forum:** The Regional Consultation Meeting of the Civil Society Forum took place from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009, in Panama City. Local and regional indigenous communities particularly from Panama, Peru, and Suriname, actively participated in this event, making specific

recommendations to the regional major groups and stakeholders statement which fed into the 11<sup>th</sup> UNEP Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum prior to the 11<sup>th</sup> Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum. [http://www.pnuma.org/sociedad\\_civil\\_m/agenda2009.html](http://www.pnuma.org/sociedad_civil_m/agenda2009.html)

**Participation in the III. Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas:** UNEP participated in the III. Indigenous Leaders Summit of the Americas which was held in Panama City in April 2009. Representatives of indigenous peoples from the Americas participated in the meeting to prepare a declaration and a plan of action to be presented at the V. Summit of the Americas that took place in Trinidad and Tobago on April 17-19, 2009, for consideration of indigenous people issues in the OAS (Organization of American States). [http://www.summit-americas.org/Newsletter/2009/nl\\_en\\_0509\\_ilsa.htm](http://www.summit-americas.org/Newsletter/2009/nl_en_0509_ilsa.htm)

### **Preparation of radio plays for indigenous peoples and rural population**

In the context of the outreach strategy of UNEP's Third Integrated Environmental Assessment of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEO LAC 3), UNEP identified specific target audiences including the general public, policy makers, youth groups and indigenous peoples and is in the process of preparing different outreach products for each of the target groups.

In order to tailor the main messages of the report for rural and indigenous peoples, the relevant messages have been selected, developed into play scripts and performed by a group of actors. The performances have been recorded and elaborated into six radioplay stories about relevant environmental issues, to be distributed to radio stations. The package will be distributed together with a brief and clear instructions guide. The already available radio plays ( in Spanish) are downloadable at <http://www.pnuma.org/deat1/publicaciones.html>

### **Planned GEF/ UNEP project:**

#### **Communities, Culture and Conservation - Integrating local values into protected area and natural resource management - Proposal for the development of a Culture and Conservation Programme (2010-2015)**

Lead Partners: Fauna and Flora International, UNEP and local NGOs/Community Groups

Geographical scope: Global. FFI works in 42 countries in four geographic regions to support partners to conserve threatened species and habitats.

#### **Objective:**

The Culture and Conservation Programme will develop a suite of site-based projects to focus on practical initiatives to integrate cultural values into on-going or new protected areas or natural resource management initiatives. Projects will build on experience gained through the Culture, Values and Conservation Project in Uganda. Projects will expose the core concepts of integrating cultural values into operational and cultural environments in diverse locations. The suite of projects will be designed to maximise diversity across continents, ecosystems and socio-economic and development situations. Local partners will be sought for the implementation of projects. The FFI "Culture and Conservation Programme" will provide site-based and umbrella technical support, and share experiences in the development of policies and procedures through guidelines, manuals and other materials to support implementation of site and country specific projects and activities.

### **(5) Outline whether your agency have regular or ad hoc capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for staff or a plan for capacity-building activities in this area, at headquarters or in the field?**

Capacity building and empowerment is an important component of UNEP's draft guidelines concerning Indigenous Peoples. The capacity building component will have several objectives:

a) To strengthen UNEP's own capacity in relation to Indigenous Peoples' issues by making the entire organization more knowledgeable about and sensitive towards the situation of Indigenous Peoples

and to respect Indigenous Peoples and their communities as partners in their own development through trainings in-house by division and by sub-programme, brown bag seminars with the help of available training tool kits, etc.

b) To assist Indigenous Peoples to gain more knowledge, understanding and competence about international environmental standards and international environmental policy processes, including UNEP's procedures and structures, in order to empower Indigenous Peoples to influence processes that may affect their communities and their capacity to claim their rights; and

c) To provide technical support to governments, in order to strengthen their awareness and capacity to include Indigenous Peoples' rights and interests in environmental governance processes and procedures. UNEP will support the UNPFII in its delivery of specific trainings tailored on indigenous peoples issues to UNCTs and develop information and technical materials with specific inputs and approaches related to the environment and indigenous peoples in the respective countries in collaboration with relevant partners and sister agencies. Planning meetings are currently taking place with the UNCT Kenya.

d) For the implementation of many of UNEP's multistakeholder consultations, UNEP will select when appropriate, Indigenous Peoples' organizations as collaborating partners. Furthermore, UNEP will do everything possible to ensure that sufficient resources are dedicated specifically for empowerment activities of Indigenous Peoples, including women and indigenous youth and children. A Training and capacity development plan will need to be developed with relevant divisions and offices within UNEP to develop training and toolkit programmes addressing indigenous peoples issues. Outreach and communication material should support awareness campaigns also targeted to Governments.

**(6) Does your agency have a focal point on indigenous issues? If so, please provide the name and contact information of this person.**

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**(7) Please provide a list of conferences and other meetings under your agency regarding indigenous issues in the current year as well as next year.**

- Nomination process towards multi-Stakeholder dialogues and assessments including indigenous peoples on the GEO 5 process (May, June-August 2010). Please check website for relevant updates <http://www.unep.org/geo/>
- Inclusion of major groups into the RIO + 20 preparations (2012). For further information contact: [civil.society@unep.org](mailto:civil.society@unep.org)

