



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

**Submitted to the Tenth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues  
16 – 27 May 2011, United Nations, New York**

**Executive Summary:**

UNEP is the principal UN body in the field of the environment and assists governments to address global, regional and national environmental challenges. UNEP keeps the environment under review and provides scientific information to stakeholders and governments and promotes regional and global collaboration to address these challenges.

Since 2010 UNEP implements its Medium Term Strategy (MTS) for 2010-2013 across six areas: Climate Change; Disasters and Conflicts; Ecosystem Management; Environmental Governance; Harmful Substances and Hazardous Waste; Resource Efficiency, Sustainable Consumption and Production.

During the reporting period, significant progress has been made by assisting countries to set the global environmental agenda: Countries embarked on first steps to green their economies to achieve sustainable development.

UNEP is planning to provide an insight into its Green Economy work during the upcoming session of the UN-PFII to indigenous peoples. The Green Economy Initiative and UNEP's Green Economy Report have received a lot of attention and Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication is one of the two main themes to be discussed in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 during the Rio +20 Conference. UNEP will seek for exchange of ideas and engagement with major groups and indigenous peoples in particular to shape the dialogue around themes of interest in the green economy context over the coming months leading to the RIO+20 Conference in 2012 and beyond in order to strengthen engagement with the Major Groups towards a transformation of certain sectors, such as the forest sector ([www.unep.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy)).

This year's report to the PFII aims at providing an overview of UNEP's most relevant projects and programmes as they pertain to indigenous peoples and indigenous peoples' issues. It also addresses the initiatives and projects that are being implemented following recommendations from earlier PFII sessions and their respective reports. The report highlights those areas of UNEP's work which are of relevance and interest to indigenous peoples and it responds to the recommendations made to UNEP to the extent possible. Issues and themes which were addressed in previous reports are not addressed in this year's report as requested by the Secretariat. However, updates are being provided when relevant.

One of the most important projects that UNEP has been continuously working on over the last years is the development of an Indigenous Peoples engagement document for UNEP. Other important initiatives and processes within UNEP which do involve Indigenous Peoples are the development of the fifth *Global Environment Outlook* through which UNEP provides an important tool for countries' decision making.

Furthermore, UNEP also provides an overview of its forest related work and relevant publications, including an update on the UN-REDD programme as well as the Kenya MAU Forest restoration process and how it continuously engages with the indigenous peoples of the MAU in the relevant processes and meetings as they relate to the collaboration with the Government of Kenya.

In addition the report presents an update on the implementation status of recommendations as they relate to the Black Carbon assessment as well as the project initiated by UNEP GRID – Arendal with relevant partners: *Nomadic Herders: enhancing the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods*. UNEP has also some important UN Joint Programme initiatives in the Latin-American and Carribean context to share.

The report also provides an update on the ongoing work regarding its products and engagement in the context of the Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) which aims at collating more cases of BCPs from numerous indigenous and local communities, institutions and other stakeholders with an intention to be used at a global level in the future.

The report gives also a general overview on recent as well as planned publications, studies and reports related to Traditional Knowledge, Access and Benefit sharing, Traditional Marine management, Sustainable Cultural Tourism, Protection of Traditional Knowledge for Sustainability: the Role of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Law are under preparation.

UNEP recognizes that there is an important role for Major Groups and Stakeholders to participate in policy formulation, advocacy and lobbying, as well as in the development and the implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work. This is equally applicable to Indigenous Peoples and their communities since 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. 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: The *Guidelines for Indigenous Peoples Issues and the Environment* has been developed and are currently being reviewed within UNEP. The document intends to guide UNEP's work towards the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### **Questionnaire for the UN system regarding written contributions to the UNPFII**

**1. At its tenth session in 2011, UNPFII will review its recommendations in relation to a) Economic and Social Development; b) Environment ; c) Free Prior and Informed Consent**

**(i) Please provide information on how your agency is dealing with this important issue in the seven regional areas of the PFII.**

UNEP is in the process of developing a **strategic guiding document for UNEP's engagement with Indigenous Peoples**, UNEP commits to engage Indigenous Peoples, their 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. 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 summary, major multi-stakeholder consultations and dialogues spearheaded by UNEP will aim at providing relevant participation of indigenous peoples.

**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, including indigenous peoples representatives 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 which asked for a multi-stakeholder approach and engagement in order to support and strengthen further scientific credibility, policy relevance and legitimacy. Partners and experts include governments/ministries, United Nations bodies and other international organizations, scientific institutions, regional collaborating centres, NGOs and indigenous peoples networks and the private sector. Please visit <http://www.unep.org/geo/> for updates on the process.

#### **UNEP's FOREST work:**

Forest strategy: UNEP has started a process to establish a strategic direction for its forest work. The emerging strategy is based on a finalized stock-taking and analysis of UNEP's mandates, on-going and previous forest projects, resources and the forest arena. The strategy setting is conducted in a participatory manner and has progressed to a first draft of the strategy itself. It is anticipated that the strategy would be finalized during the second part of 2011.

UNEP's International Year of Forest Campaign was officially launched last month at UNEP's Governing Council with the screening of a 5-minute film, the distribution of a limited edition of Yann Arthus Bertrand's Book on Forests, the distribution of UNEP's 'Supporting Forests' Pack which is targeting Government Leaders and Potential Donors, the launch of UNEP's Website on Forests ([www.unep.org/forests](http://www.unep.org/forests)) and the Display of UNEP's Photos Exhibition on Forests. Viewing and downloading of the relevant materials/products:

**UNEP's International Year of Forest (IYF) Curtain Raiser: *BRANCHING OUT FOR A GREEN ECONOMY***

BRANCHING OUT FOR A GREEN ECONOMY - a short animated film, narrated by the renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough, shows how forests have an essential role in the move towards a global Green Economy - one that would boost growth and create jobs, while using the Earth's resources in a more sustainable way.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJfPXVK8K8I>

**UNEP's IYF Donor Pack: *SUPPORTING FORESTS***

SUPPORTING FORESTS looks to the leaders of the world for policy change and incentives to support forest sector transformation at a time when deforestation is still rampant. Forests are hugely valuable in terms of health, viability, income and well being. As a guide for governments, decision makers and investors, SUPPORTING FORESTS recognizes that in order to fuel green growth further, forests need to become a universal priority.

[http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/IYF\\_Donor\\_Pack.pdf](http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/IYF_Donor_Pack.pdf)

**UNEP's IYF Public Service Announcements: *SUPPORTING FOREST*.** In their day jobs, they talk art, fashion or films. Now UNEP's Goodwill Ambassadors are talking trees. To mark the UN International Year of the Forests, Gisele Buendchen, Don Cheadle, Li Bing Bing and Yann Arthus Bertrand have joined forces to highlight the crucial role forests play in our environment, health and economy.

<http://www.vimeo.com/unep/videos>

**UNEP's IYF Media Pack: *REPORTING FORESTS*** serves as a journalist's guide to the role of forests in sustainable development and for human well being. This guide provides a strategic overview on how to best renew the commitment to forests at a time when deforestation and degradation are still rampant. It also presents potential solutions to address business as usual (BAU) as it relates to a viable and more promising future.

[http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/IYF\\_Media\\_bro\\_web2.pdf](http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/IYF_Media_bro_web2.pdf)

**UNEP's IYF Limited Edition Coffee Table Book: *FORESTS AND PEOPLE*** is designed for all audiences, the book is illustrated with 70 selected photographs of the exhibition and supplemented with texts written by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) experts, the GoodPlanet Foundation team and celebrity activists Li Bingbing, Janine Benyus, Sachin Tendulkar, Gisele Bundchen, Don Cheadle and Wangari Maathai. The book examines the forests in their biological, cultural and economic dimension. It focuses on those who inhabit them, their benefits, the threats they face and ways to protect them. Download the 6 chapters here:

- Discovery

[http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest\\_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.1%5D.pdf](http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.1%5D.pdf)

- Inhabitants

[http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest\\_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.2%5D.pdf](http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.2%5D.pdf)

- Usage

[http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest\\_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.3%5D.pdf](http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.3%5D.pdf)

- Services

[http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest\\_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.4%5D.pdf](http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.4%5D.pdf)

- Threats

[http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest\\_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.5%5D.pdf](http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.5%5D.pdf)

- Protection

[http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest\\_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.6%5D.pdf](http://www.unep.org/forests/Portals/142/docs/forest_people/FORESTS%20&%20PEOPLE%20%5BChap.6%5D.pdf)

**The Mau Forest Restoration (Kenya) – progress report on the situation of the MAU forest as requested by the PFII in 2010:**

Following last year's report to the UN-PFII as well as the statements made by UNEP at its 9<sup>th</sup> session, the PFII requested UNEP for an update of relevant issues regarding the MAU restoration process and its implications for the Ogiek Peoples. A general overview of the developments is available under: <http://www.maurestoration.go.ke/>

Concerned with the crisis situation in the Mau Forest Complex, the Government of the Republic of Kenya, through the Office of the Prime Minister established a multi-stakeholder Task Force in July 2008, to analyse the causes of the forest degradation and make recommendations on ways to rehabilitate and conserve the forest. In the Mau Task Force (MTF) report, the issue of the Ogiek community featured prominently with the emphasis on the need to have the government address Ogiek matters as an indigenous community with the attachment to the Mau. The MTF recommends the establishment of an Ogiek Register as a first step to secure the Ogiek identity and address matters affecting them. In order to assist implement the recommendations of the Task Force, an Ogiek Council of Elders and an ICS ( Interim-Coordinating Secretariat under the Prime Minister's office) Committee on Ogiek Matters have been established in April 2010 which has following **Terms of References as approved by the Ogiek Council of Elders:**

1. Nominate members to represent the Council in the Committee on Ogiek Matters of the Interim Coordinating Secretariat(ICS);
2. Assist the Committee on Ogiek Matters in the establishment of an Ogiek Register based on lineage (family trees);
3. Promote peace building and conflict resolutions;
4. Assist the Committee on Ogiek Matters implement its activities and programmes; and,

5. Assist the Committee on Ogiek Matters in the development of proposals for addressing settlement issues affecting the Ogiek community.

The terms of reference of the *Committee on Ogiek Matters* are as follows:

1. Assist the Ogiek Council of Elders in the day-to-day implementation of its activities;
2. Address issues related to the membership of the Ogiek community and the Ogiek Council of Elders;
3. Coordinate the Ogiek community positions on issues related to Mau Forests Complex, in consultation with the Ogiek Council of Elders;
4. Coordinate the development of proposals to support livelihood development of the Ogiek, including traditional Ogiek livelihood and involvement of the Ogiek community in the restoration of the Mau Forests Complex; and,
5. Carry out assignments aimed at improving and promoting the Ogiek community welfare.

The 60 members of the Ogiek Council of Elders and a Committee on Ogiek Matters comprising seven Ogiek Elders and Government officials were established on 1 April 2010.

In the meantime, two workshops have been organized to build the capacity of the Ogiek Elders (10-12 August 2010 and 16-18 March 2011). Following the TORs the **Establishment of an Ogiek Register** was launched and the field registration of the Ogiek members concluded in September 2010. The questionnaire aimed at collecting many socio-economic data towards enabling development partners and the Government in addressing areas where support is most needed. Two workshops were then organized with the Ogiek Council of Elders towards screening and validating the information collected during the registration (1-4 February 2011 and 16-18 March 2011 in conjunction with capacity building activities). The last workshop will take place in April of May 2011. The ICS held several meetings between the Committee on Ogiek Matters and development partners, including USAID, AFD, UNEP/EU and UNEP to provide the Ogiek with better opportunities to directly engage with development partners.

Since 2010, the Ogiek Council of Elders has held a number of meetings and workshops to discuss with the Interim Coordinating Secretariat and relevant partners such as the Kenya Land Alliance and NGOs issues around the MTF report and relevant land issues. One important part of the Elders Council mandate and TORs is the Ogiek registration process. To this effect the ICS and the Ogiek Council of Elders held a meeting in March 2011 in Naivasha, Kenya to raise awareness of the Ogiek on land issues in view of the new Constitutional dispensation in Kenya; to facilitate the sharing of information on Mau forest rehabilitation programmes with a view to assist integrating the Ogiek in these programmes; and, to provide a platform for the Ogiek to consider and consult on emerging issues. The completion of the Ogiek register was one of main issues that the Council needed to address in this meeting. Funding had been secured from USAID-ProMara to supplement the support provided by ICS to this important meeting. ProMara is an USAID-funded project with the goal of rehabilitating the upper catchment of the Mara River. Part of the approach is to ensure that communities living around the project area are living in peace with each other.

The Government representative at the meeting assured the participants that the Government recognizes the Ogiek as a minority and marginalized group. This recognition is demonstrated by the Government efforts towards the establishment of the Ogiek Council of Elders and the development of the Ogiek register - a critical step to securing the Ogiek identity and to establishing a framework for affirmative action to address the marginalization of the community. Prior to the finalisation of the register of the Ogiek, an appeal process was set up to provide the Ogiek an opportunity to register those whose names are missing in the draft register as well as to remove from the draft register those who are non-Ogiek.

The ICS will share the findings of the verification/validation exercise with the Council of Elders as soon as the process is finalised (findings are expected in May 2011). Some of the challenges faced during the registration process, included incomplete entries by the data entry clerks - missing names have dragged the process as well as internal conflict among the Ogiek themselves. Through the current critical appeal process there was opportunity for each of the Ogiek groups to correct any irregularities and a chance for the elders to demonstrate that their leadership has the capacity to address the posed challenges in a trustworthy manner.

ProMara shared the findings of a research conducted in the Mau forest which had the following main objectives:

- Establish land ownership in the forest whether private or government, land rights and security of tenure (customary and statutory);
- Identify, restore and protect critical catchment areas and biodiversity hotspots;
- Put in place mechanism to relocate those living in the critical water catchment areas;
- Assess opportunities to mitigate conflicts among the communities living within and around the forest.

The key research findings include: a larger portion of Mau forest was degraded by those who were expected to protect it; most of the water catchment areas have been contaminated as a result of chemicals used by large farming; the water flow in the rivers has reduced in volume; there is a lack of coordinated efforts with regards to the protection of water catchment areas among the water users upstream and downstream; there are frequent conflicts among communities related to the election period; there are population displacement and resource degradation stemming from land/resource disputes. Failure to mitigate the conflict among the communities around the forest constraints current efforts aimed at rehabilitating and protecting of the Mau forest.

In the endeavour to rehabilitate and protect the Mau forest, ProMara will seek to: address conflicts among communities; enhance collaboration between the Government and the communities in the management and protection of the forest through community-based conservation initiatives and through the promotion of community economic ventures which are friendly to the environment, such as bee-keeping.

ProMara has already established a community outreach center at Olenguorone with the aim of providing the community with free legal aid on land issues and providing local leaders with basic knowledge on laws governing land rights, forest rights, and conflict management methods among others. The new Constitution of Kenya, adopted in August 2010 after a referendum held nationwide offers opportunities for the Ogiek and to other indigenous minorities in Kenya to address their land issues and rights. The Bill of Rights (Chap IV), Language & Culture, Land

and Environment (Chap V), among others, are some of the legal provisions entrenched in the new Constitution that are relevant to the Ogiek community.

**The National Land Policy** was approved by the Cabinet on June 25, 2009 and endorsed by Parliament on December 3, 2009. The policy is a product of a multi-stakeholders' participatory, consultative and inclusive formulation process that had started in February 2004. The purpose of the NLP is to guide the people of Kenya towards efficient, sustainable and equitable use of land. The NLP had stipulated some key principles which have since been entrenched in the new Constitution, thereby making them constitutional provisions in the supreme law of the land. These principles include; equitable access to land for various land use practices and gender equity; secure land rights; effective regulation of land development and management; rights to access to information related to land issues; and, transparent and good democratic governance of land.

With respect to land use and management, the policy has given powers and responsibility of land management to the people as opposed to the president/commissioner of lands. The policy states that citizens must participate in all land decision-making processes, effectively putting an end to presidential decrees as a basis for allocating land rights.

The NLP recommends that the following key land issues to be addressed urgently and with special interventions: historical injustices; pastoralist land issues; coastal region land issues; land rights of minority and marginalized groups; land rights of women; land rights in informal settlements & for informal activities; land rights of children and impact of HIV & AIDS pandemic on agricultural production and access to land rights .

Once the registration exercise of the Ogiek is being finalised it is expected that the Government will embark on the resettlement exercise and the Mau Forest Complex Restoration in 2012. Following documents are being prepared to support this important exercise: development of a resettlement policy framework- the policy will feature how the Government had/should involve the community during the exercise, compensation; Ogiek planning framework; environmental social policy framework; community forestry framework; and, climate change mitigation strategy. Additional opportunities for the Ogiek – once their land tenure is secured- is to get involved in the implementation of the REDD+ mechanisms and opportunities.

### **Additional UNEP programmes and projects as they relate to indigenous peoples' issues in the regions:**

As presented by UNEP in detail in its 2010 report to the UN-PFII, *the 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.

The Biocultural Community Protocols (BCPs) that have been developed with UNEP's assistance were show-cased at the COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010 through two side events. A CD was also produced on the subject matter. An additional BCP was developed in Colombia through UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and another one in Malaysia through the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity

(ACB). See for UNEP's work on BCPs: <http://www.unep.org/communityprotocols/index.asp>. UNEP's work on BCPs is ongoing and aims at collating more cases of BCPs from numerous indigenous and local communities, institutions and other stakeholders with an intention to analyze and extract the common underlying principles of BCPs in the future which could be used at a global level by those intending to develop community protocols. Furthermore, it would serve to inform outsiders/stakeholders who have an interest in dealing with communities in terms of access to their territories and resources and their use or conservation so as to enhance understanding and minimize conflict. The Website will be updated to reflect work undertaken between the time of its launch and now.

In 2010 UNEP prepared a publication on "*Issues of Compliance: Considerations for the International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing*" of which sections of the publication covered the Model Laws in the South Pacific that exist to protect traditional knowledge.

A book on "*Traditional Knowledge in Policy and Practice: Approaches to Development and Human Well-Being*" was published by the United Nations University Press through support from UNEP in 2010. UNEP staff members contributed as co-editors and authors of chapters (the role of traditional knowledge in water management) for the publication. <http://tkbulletin.wordpress.com/2010/10/27/resource-unu-book-on-tk-in-policy-and-practice/>.

A policy brief on communities and well-being was developed by UNEP and other partners which addresses right- based approach, development and community knowledge service. The policy brief was distributed at the COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Japan as part of UNEP's contributions on the subject matter.

UNEP contributed to a report by UNU-IAS on "*Traditional Marine Management Areas of the Pacific in the Context of National and International Law and Policy*". The contribution was on customary laws and practices that relate to traditional marine management areas in Papua New Guinea. See: [http://www.unutki.org/news.php?news\\_id=103&doc\\_id=7](http://www.unutki.org/news.php?news_id=103&doc_id=7).

UNEP supported a project on the involvement of African Non-Governmental Organizations in the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Process in 2010. A report has been compiled on the project which includes some findings and recommendations. The project and report both covered issues such as the role of NGOs in the protection of traditional knowledge and awareness raising and capacity building for local communities in the context of traditional knowledge as it relates to ABS legislation in some African countries.

UNEP is currently cooperating with three other UN Agencies (UNESCO, ILO and UN-HABITAT) on a project on sustainable cultural tourism in Namibia where the primary goal of the project is to develop a knowledge base on linkages between customary/traditional practices, tangible and intangible cultural/natural heritage and livelihoods and conduct pilot programmes using the knowledge base to streamline policies and legislation in a manner that they support livelihoods with a link with the environment, culture and tourism. The project will end in 2012.

A publication on the *Protection of Traditional Knowledge for Sustainability: the Role of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Law* is under preparation. The book will look at relevant MEAs and other Treaties and processes that deliberate on or work on the protection of traditional knowledge. More specifically it will explore the role of law in the protection of TK and the development of law around TK.

Another publication planned and currently in production with relevant partners is the *Endogenous development in Asia-pacific in an era of biocultural rights*. Topics will include Biocultural Rights, Livelihoods & Ecosystem Governance in Asia-Pacific presenting examples from Mobile Indigenous Peoples and farmers, ICCAs and Sacred Natural Sites, Forest-dependent Communities, Fishing and Coastal Communities and touch upon Ecosystem/Territorial Governance. The: Concluding Analysis and Policy Recommendations will provide an overarching analysis, make key policy recommendations, and suggest areas for future research, action, and assessment.

### **Africa:**

In order to help maintain and restore the integrity of the Mayombe ecosystem so as to conserve biodiversity, promote regional stability and improve human livelihood, UNEP is working with the three countries Angola, Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo to establish a transboundary protected area in the Mayombe landscape. A MoU was signed by the three governments confirming their commitment towards the establishment of a transboundary platform and the creation of a transboundary protected area. Next steps include the completion of technical studies which facilitate the development of a transboundary plan.

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

Activities in the UN Joint Programmes (JP):

“As part of the legal component of the UN Joint Programme Incorporation of Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation measures into the integrated management of natural resources in two river basins in Panama, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean produced two Manuals on (i) legislation relevant to rivers basins: climate change, quality of life and production patterns (ii) River basins: how they are affected and what we can do to protect them. An indigenous lawyer was engaged in the work and was supported by the indigenous communities living in the areas who contributed toward the revisions of the final selection of the material. A video which reproduces and explains the text of the manuals was produced in the native languages (kuna, emberá and ngäbe) where indigenous women and men of these three communities were selected and trained for this purpose.”

The three JPs (Panama, Nicaragua and Peru) include the participation of indigenous communities, who benefit and support implementation of JPs' activities (3 indigenous groups in Panama (Ngobe, Bugle, Embera, Wounaan and Kuna Wargandi); 2 indigenous groups in Nicaragua (Miskito and Mayagna); and in the case of Peru, several quechua indigenous communities participate as well:

#### **JP- Nicaragua:**

- Activities with indigenous communities have been undertaken for climate change awareness raising and sharing of traditional knowledge on climate change. These include workshops with indigenous communities in Nicaragua (intervention area) to assess with them current climate change effects in the JP area, and facilitate discussions within the Miskito and Mayagna indigenous communities to determine some actions to prevent, mitigate and adapt to these effects.

- A training on Biodiversity monitoring needs assessment in Bonanza and Wasparam, Bosawas Biosphere Reserve was held with the participation of youth, including indigenous communities.

**JP- Peru:**

- Different climate change awareness campaigns for local communities, including indigenous communities, have been held.

**JP- Panama:**

- Support to local climate change monitoring, geographical information and early warning systems, has also been a vital part of the intervention, since they are the basic tools to prepare for and respond to a changing climate. The JP has included training in technological means such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS), and has invited indigenous representatives to be part of the trainings. UNEP extended the national research and monitoring networks through the acquisition of the latest technology of meteorological stations that will allow for proper climate modeling and monitoring, in the intervention areas, which is represented mainly by indigenous communities.
- During December 2010, after 15 days of strong rain, the river Chucunaque increased its normal levels and took along houses and livelihoods of poor families in the region, many of which are indigenous communities. UNEP office was informed that the equipment acquired by the JP (included UNEP), for the early warning system, and climate change monitoring system, in particular communication radios and limnometric scales, were key in maintaining local communities informed during the disaster, communicating upstream with downstream communities and SINAPROC (emergency response Government's agency), and this made it also possible to have a timely evacuation, avoiding any loss of human lives.
- UNEP is currently assessing the indigenous leaders' capacities and knowledge on climate change in order to develop a capacity development/strengthening program on climate change
- Some climate change awareness workshops have been held with the indigenous community of Embera Wounaan. Also, as part of communication activities, we are training a group of local people, including indigenous people, in order to create local capacities in local communities, including indigenous groups, for promoting, spreading, etc., concepts and knowledge on climate change and related legislation.

**(ii) What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered 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 and shortcomings in terms of staff resources to enable the coordination of indigenous peoples projects and programmes within UNEP. Currently the diversity of ongoing projects and programmes is being implemented under different offices and divisions. To strengthen UNEP's own capacity in relation to Indigenous Peoples' issues it is planned to make 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 and other relevant initiatives. The sensitization and training aspects will be part of the UNEP Indigenous Peoples guidelines toolkit. Another obstacle towards implementation of UN-PFII recommendations is that UNEP's Programme of Work is being planned and budgeted up to two years in advance to actual implementation date. It is therefore difficult to plan and fundraise towards some of the recommendations given by the PFII if they do not already form part or can possibly fit into a programme of project activity which was already approved accordingly by UNEP's Governing Council.

**(iii) What are some of the factors that facilitate your agency's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum's, including those addressed specifically to your agency?**

Facilitating factors include: the implementation of recommendations in cooperation with sister-agencies, common fundraising and a more regular communication with the PFII regarding strategic direction and advice and support needed. Recommendations are easier to implement if entry points and links are evident in the Programme of Work of UNEP and are planned ahead in collaboration with the PFII. Following two examples of recommendations made to UNEP over the last two years were part of UNEP's general Programme of Work and therefore easier to implement.

- ***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*** (recommendation made in 2009- paragraph 66 of the UN-PFII report):

During 2010, UNEP Project Atmospheric Brown Clouds (ABC) supported development of science, demonstrated mitigation measures and highlighted opportunities for speeding up action on climate change by turning attention to the black carbon and other short-lived climate forces following co-benefit approach. Major results achieved include:

- (i) *Contributions to science*- The ABC observatories have provided continuous data sets for radiation and several pollutants including black carbon and organics and a full seasonal cycle of aerosol forcing. The data sets were compiled and published *ABC data CD* for wider dissemination.

- (ii) *Contributions to emission reduction (climatic benefits)*- Project Surya, mitigation component of project ABC, has developed and tested locally fabricated cook stove that reduces Black Carbon emission by 50% to 80% compare to the traditional mud-stoves.
- (iii) *Improved health and living conditions for women and children*- Project area traditionally used to cook in mud stoves using locally available biomass, which is either collected or (in some cases) purchased. Introduction of improved stoves to these families had three immediate benefits: (1) reduction of black carbon emission by 50% to 80% has significantly improved the kitchen air quality, (2) drudgery in collecting biomass fuel like wood chips has reduced as the improved stoves require 50% less biomass fuel than the traditional stoves, and (3) reduction in cooking time.
- (iv) *Established sustainability and business model for the new technology by addressing the poverty and cultural issues*- Customization and local fabrication reduced the cost of the stove from US\$120 per unit to US\$ 40 per unit, which is affordable to poor rural population. Five hundred households, in an Indian village, today use the improved cook stoves. Government of India is planning to upscale the project to 5,000 households.
- (v) *Awareness for replication*- Regular Black Carbon e-Bulletin was published to inform stakeholders with the recent science of Black Carbon and available options for mitigation. Developing countries such as Bhutan, Nepal, and Kenya have expressed the interest to replicate Surya in their countries.  
[http://www.unep.org/dec/Information\\_Resources/blackcarbon.asp](http://www.unep.org/dec/Information_Resources/blackcarbon.asp)

See also following publications and assessments:

[http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/Black\\_Carbon.pdf](http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/Black_Carbon.pdf)

<http://www.rrcap.unep.org/abc/>

- *The Permanent Forum welcomes the joint initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Association of World Reindeer Herders, and the International Centre for Reindeer Husbandry aimed at assessing the impacts of land-use change and climate change on nomadic pastoralists and on their adaptation options and opportunities, focusing on taiga reindeer herding in the Russian Federation, Mongolia and China, and yak herding in the Himalayas. The objective of the project is to increase the resilience and capacity to adapt to climate change of the nomadic communities while building partnerships between reindeer- and yakherding communities, strengthening local institutions and increasing the capacity of nomadic herders to engage in land-use and natural resource management* (recommendation made in 2010, paragraph 177).

UNEP-GRID Arendal in collaboration with the Association of World Reindeer Herders, the UArctic EALAT Institute for Circumpolar Reindeer Husbandry, the Taiga Nature Society, the Mongolian Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism and the All Russian Research Institute for Nature Conservation launched the project: **Nomadic Herders: enhancing the resilience of pastoral ecosystems and livelihoods**. The project is aimed at assessing the impacts of land-use change and climate change on nomadic pastoralists and on their adaptation options and opportunities, focusing on taiga reindeer and yak herding in Mongolia. The initiative started in 2010. With Norwegian funding, the Mongolian Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism hosted a workshop in Ulan Bator in December 2010. The workshop facilitated dialogue between

herders, scientists and local and national authorities, and identified threats to and potential for enhancing the resilience of herder communities and taiga ecosystems in Mongolia. The project will conduct jointly with local partners a vulnerability, adaptation and scenario assessment of nomadic herders and land use change in the Mongolian Taiga area. Results are expected end of 2011. A GEF project proposal is currently being developed. For more details and an update please visit: [www.nomadicherders.org](http://www.nomadicherders.org)

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

**(i) 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*. A draft version was reviewed in-house by Senior Management in February 2011 and the responsible office is currently revising the document for re-submission to Senior Management in the course of the following months. The guidelines package will also entail a checklist for project managers as well as a training tool kit for UNEP staff among other elements. UNEP intends to present its guidelines document to the upcoming session of the UN-PFII 2012.

**(ii) Recent programmes on indigenous peoples issues as well as projects / activities on indigenous peoples issues:**

**Civil Society inputs into Governing Council of UNEP**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (GMGSF-12) was held from 19-20 February 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya. Over 100 participants attended GMGSF-12, which aimed to provide a platform for exchange and consultation on key environmental issues to be addressed by Member States during the 26th Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-26/GMEF). Discussions were held on issues, including international environmental governance (IEG), Green Economy, and partnerships with major groups and stakeholders towards Rio+20. There was also a dialogue with UNEP Executive Director and the film premier of the movie “Silent Snow.” In the movie, a young Inuit woman investigates the sources of the pollution of the Arctic. Her journey takes her to three different continents, where she is confronted with conflicting interests when it comes to short-term gains and sustainable solutions for agriculture, industries and health care. For detailed informaiton on the GMGSF, the deliberations by Major groups during the forum on the main themes as well as more details on the movie, the following link:

<http://www.unep.org/civil-society/GlobalMajorGroupsStakeholdersForum/GMGSF12/tabid/5461/Default.aspx>

**UN-REDD Programme**

UNEP, as one of the three agencies that form The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (UN-REDD) endorses Free, Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples and other forest dependant peoples in national

REDD+ planning processes. UNEP has encouraged the participation of indigenous peoples in capacity building workshops and national planning, most notably at The Global Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Benefits of REDD+ that was co-organized with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Indigenous representatives were in attendance and the rights of indigenous peoples and other forest dependant peoples were discussed and the importance of consultation with these key stakeholders was included in the key recommendations and report that came out of the workshop. In addition, UNEP held a side event at the CBD Conference of the Parties 10, in Nagoya, Japan, about traditional knowledge, indigenous peoples, REDD+ and its biodiversity and ecosystem benefits. The event was held as part of the “REDD+ Hour” series in the Rio Conventions Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion and included experts on indigenous peoples and REDD+. The session clearly identified the importance of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in assuring that the rights, interests and knowledge of indigenous and local people are assured and incorporated in national REDD design. The session highlighted the potential of cash incentives for forest carbon benefits to divide communities against each other and have undesirable effects on livelihoods and cultures, unless communities were given sufficient time to inform themselves and consult with each other.

### **Summit of Heads of State and Governments from the Tropical Forest Ecosystems**

UNEP is supporting in collaboration with relevant partners the Summit of Heads of State and Government from the Tropical Forest Ecosystems of Africa, Asia and South America on Tropical Forests Ecosystems which will take place in Brazzaville, Congo in June 2011. The discussions will revolve around the current situation and future prospects for cooperation on tropical forests and this will also address the complexities and linkages between deforestation and forest degradation and socio-economic challenges such as livelihoods and poverty reduction.

### **Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas, Registry and Handbook**

Since 2008, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre has been working closely with partners including the GEF Small Grants Programme at UNDP and the ICCA Consortium to develop and manage an interactive, online portal and database for Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas. The purpose of this project is to increase awareness of the contributions of indigenous and local governance for biodiversity conservation. It also assists with understanding achievement toward global environmental commitments and targets. A handbook, currently available in English and Spanish, has been written to briefly introduce the project, to guide users and contributors, and to summarize the current state of knowledge about ICCAs. Consultations with indigenous and local communities are an essential part of this voluntary process, which includes Free Prior Informed Consent as part of the formal registration procedure. For further information, please see [www.iccaregistry.org](http://www.iccaregistry.org) for pdf version of the handbook and ICCA case studies.

[http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected\\_areas/docs/ICCA%20Handbook%201.2%20English.pdf](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/protected_areas/docs/ICCA%20Handbook%201.2%20English.pdf),

[http://www.unep.org/publications/contents/pub\\_details\\_search.asp?ID=4130](http://www.unep.org/publications/contents/pub_details_search.asp?ID=4130)

## Current UNEP Activities in the Arctic

In implementing the 2010-11 Programme of Work UNEP's programme offices are collaborating with GRID Arendal, UNEP's Polar Collaborating Centre, to carry out a number of activities related to polar issues, some of which are conducted in close cooperation with the Arctic Council's working groups. Among them are (1) collaboration on the production of a UNEP global mercury assessment report as a contribution to the negotiation of a global legally binding instrument on mercury; (2) an integrated assessment of black carbon and tropospheric ozone focusing on Arctic and Himalayan region impacts; (3) an assessment of the impacts of climate change and land-use change on nomadic pastoralist and their adaptation options and opportunities; and (4) publication of an Arctic biodiversity assessment, "Protecting Arctic Biodiversity: Strengths and limitations of environmental agreements." UNEP is also an Observer on the Arctic Council and collaborates in a number of the Council's Working Group projects.

A number of UNEP multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), intergovernmental programs and regional cooperation initiatives have potential application in the Arctic, including those dealing with endangered and migratory species, transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, biological diversity, land-based sources of marine pollution and persistent organic pollutants.

UNEP has a specific and long-standing responsibility to consult and cooperate closely with the Indigenous Peoples and their Communities, one of nine Major Groups, in all regions, including the Arctic.

Surveying Ways to Further Assist Governments to Address Arctic Issues: Pursuant to its existing mandate, UNEP wishes to ascertain where it might best serve governments and other stakeholders to identify and address environmental and environmentally-related issues in the Arctic region and the linkages between Arctic and global issues. To this end UNEP plans to consult with Arctic country governments, key multilateral entities such as the Arctic Council and the International Maritime Organization, indigenous peoples and civil society. The following are examples of areas where UNEP could contribute to addressing environmental issues related to the changing Arctic:

- *Scientific assessment and outreach.*
- *Science-Policy Interface.* UNEP can also reinforce cooperation between scientists and policy makers to ensure that research informs policymaking for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- *Evaluating and identifying ways to improve the effectiveness of relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other environmental initiatives in the Arctic.*
- *Developing initiatives to ensure the sustainability of human activities in the Arctic, e.g., with respect to tourism, shipping and exploitation of natural resources, taking into account existing initiatives.*
- *Considering how to address impacts on migratory species and their management.*
- *Strengthen the linkages between the Arctic Council's working group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) and UNEP's Regional Seas Programme.*
- *Strengthening consultation with indigenous peoples and civil society.*

**3. Does 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 address UNEP's own capacity development on Indigenous Peoples' issues by making the entire organization more knowledgeable about and sensitive towards the situation of Indigenous Peoples. Secondly it will also offer to Indigenous Peoples capacity building on UNEP's work and any relevant environmental themes. UNEP might also provide technical support to governments if requested, in order to strengthen their awareness and capacity to include Indigenous Peoples' rights and interests in environmental governance processes and procedures. A Training and Tool kit will be developed addressing indigenous peoples issues within UNEP. Outreach and communication material will also support awareness campaigns also targeted to Governments.

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

Ms. Laetitia Zobel  
Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch  
Division of Regional Cooperation  
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  
P.O. Box 30552 Nairobi - Kenya  
email:[Laetitia.Zobel@unep.org](mailto:Laetitia.Zobel@unep.org)

Ms. Kathrine Ivsett Johnsen  
Deputy Polar Programme Manager  
UNEP/GRID-Arendal  
Postboks 183  
N-4802 Arendal  
Norway  
[Kathrine.Johnson@grida.no](mailto:Kathrine.Johnson@grida.no)

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

NB: The listed events are addressing major groups and stakeholders in general of which indigenous peoples form an important part.

- Engagement of major groups and stakeholders including indigenous peoples into the RIO + 20 preparations process through relevant regional meetings and fora. Final dates and locations are yet to be confirmed. For further information contact: [civil.society@unep.org](mailto:civil.society@unep.org) or [Laetitia.Zobel@unep.org](mailto:Laetitia.Zobel@unep.org) or check <http://www.unep.org/civil-society>
- UNEP/ TUNZA International Children and Youth Conference. 26-30 September 2011, Bandung, Indonesia. Main themes will be Rio + 20 (Green Economy) / Green Lifestyles, Forests, Sustainable Consumption, State of the Global Environment from a youth perspective. Indigenous youth are encouraged to apply. Please see <http://www.unep.org/tunza/> for regular updates and information regarding the preparation of the event.