**Workshop on the Proposed Indigenous Peoples’ Policy, including Safeguards and Redress Mechanism, for the Green Climate Fund**

4-8 February 2017

Bangkok, Thailand

The Green Climate Fund has adopted a decision to develop a fund-wide Indigenous Peoples Policy by its 17th Board meeting in 2017. The Fund is also developing its own Environmental and Social Management Framework

The two-day workshop was aimed for the global partnership to come up with a solid position on on different Green Climate Fund- related policies such as the ESMS, IP Policy and the the Independent Redress Mechanism. Specifically, the objectives of the workshop are:

1. To present, discuss and elaborate on the GCF IP policy, IRM, ESMS and REDD+ RBP
2. To come up with a consensus on the priority projects to develop as concept notes to the Green Climate Fund through different modalities

This was attended by a total of 24 participants including consultants and resource speakers from from 9 countries.

The partners meeting was followed by a workshop with the UNDP. The aim of the workshop was for indigenous peoples to learn from the experiences of the UNDP and to explore the possibilities and different modalities of access for indigenous peoples. Also, the workshop was aimed at:

* Learning about what is needed to develop a successful GCF project
* Developing a GCF able programme/proposal(s) to take forward
* Agreeing upon a process for developing the outcomes and submitting them to the GCF

**Highlights of the meeting**

The Green Climate Fund, despite being established in 2010 under the UNFCCC as its financial entity, remains an unfamiliar institution for many indigenous peoples’ organizations. But despite it being new and seemingly technical, Kimaren Riamit urged the workshop participants to be engaged at the national level with their National Designated Authorities. He said that the GCF is already disbursing huge amount of money to developing countries and without necessary safeguards and full participation of indigenous peoples in place, the fund will become just another World Bank that implements project that could impact on communities negatively.

**Indigenous Peoples’ Engagements with the GCF**

The partners have varying levels of engagement with the Green Climate ranging although most of them shared that they have difficulty in reaching out to their NDAs and in accessing any public information about how their countries are doing Readiness for the GCF. CERDA of Vietnam, for example shared that the information they know about the GCF are mostly from the GCF website and from the website of an Accredited Entity that is implementing a project in Vietnam. Others like the Philippines and Nepal are yet to learn the status of their countries readiness on the GCF. Meanwhile, both MPIDO and ILEPA of Kenya have submitted their individual project proposals to their national accredited entity- National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) and are waiting for results.

Despite the apparent dearth of established relationship of some partners with their NDAs, indigenous peoples are building up their capacities to be able to engage more effectively at the national and international level.

**Different policies of the GCF that are relevant to IPs**

The GCF has called for inputs on the draft TOR of the Independent Redress Mechanism and the Environmental and Social Management Systems. It is also being anticipated that the the Fund will call for inputs on REDD+ RBP and the IP policy. Hence, the group worked on the policies and agreed:

1. ESMS: IPs to come up with their inputs on the ESMS and join the small working group of CSOs and support the bigger CSO submission. [[1]](#footnote-1)
2. IP Policy: The group looked at the basic structure and scope of an IP policy. This has been agreed and finalized by the group and was eventually sent to the GCF Secretariat and the Executive Director.[[2]](#footnote-2)
3. IRM TOR: Tebtebba has already submitted the IP inputs to the TOR of the IRM and the secretariat acknowledged it. It was agreed that indigenous peoples need to ensure to to contribute to operational guidelines of the IRM.
4. RBP and REDD+: Kimaren did a brief presentation on the history of REDD+ and why GCF is working on it now. The group agreed to reiterate the issues that indigenous peoples want to flag in the REDD+ once the call for inputs from the secretariat is out.

**IP Access to the GCF**

Niranjali Amerasinghe provided a succinct presentation on the different modalities of IP access to the GCF.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The GCF can provide money through grants, loans, guarantees and equity and it can either be implemented directly by the entity accessing the money or it can be passed on to an executing entity. So indigenous peoples’ organizations have the choice to either get accredited as an AE or to partner with an AE and be an executing entity (EE).

Programmatic approach is not yet settled as a matter of policy in the GCF. And as of the moment, the possible access points for indigenous peoples are:

1. through an IP Group (International, regional or national) that gets accredited
2. through a national IP Group (Enhanced Direct Access Pilot)
3. Through an Existing Accredited Entity, to which IPs can partner to become and executing entity

As it is now, some of the considerations and challenges that indigenous peoples consider include the following:

* Accreditation is a time consuming process; it can take many years
* National direct access may be quicker but it is limited to a country; would need to upgrade accreditation status to finance in other countries
* Working with an existing accredited entity may be faster, but need to ensure IP capacities are built to access finance later
* Relationship with government
* Project Preparation Facility

**Indigenous Peoples’ Climate Change Priorities**

The partners[[4]](#footnote-4) have prepared idea notes of project proposals that could possibly be presented to the GCF in the future. Most of the project idea notes were around forestry, land use and tenure. Below is a matrix of the partners’ project idea notes:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country/ Organization** | **Project theme** | **Objectives of the project** | **Target strategies/ Activities** | **Target beneficiaries of the project** |
| Kenya/ ILEPA | Enhancing Pastoral livelihoods resiliency and capacities to engage in Climate change related processes at County and National levels, Kenya | - Enhance resiliency of Pastoral livelihoods  - Facilitate enabling environment for the practice of pastoralism  - Knowledge generation and sharing | * Early warning systems for drought and mitigate floods * Enhancing county and regional pastoral herd mobility, information management towards policy development and implementation, enhance access to water and forage for livestock, research and documentation | Seven Pastoralist Counties |
| Kenya/ MPIDO | Pastoralists Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas of Kenya | building community resilience for adaptation to climate change | * Improving access to water, improving livestock trade, capacity building of communities on climate change mitigation and adaptation, build and strengthen partnership and strategic alliance, documentation and knowledge-sharing | Pastoralists in Kajiado, Narok, Baringo, Laikipia and Samburu counties |
| Cameroon/ Lelewal | Strengthening indigenous people resilience to integrated adaptation and mitigation to climate change impacts (SIRAMIC | The project is therefore elaborated to address chronic inequalities, in social development and fundamental needs generating from climatic variability impacts in the forest ecosystems, land and the environment. | * Building and strengthening individual and community capacities on climate change, enhancement of livelihood systems * Energy access and power generation, forestry and forestry land use | The Baka forest pygmies of Djoum with 11 communities, the Mbororo Pastoralists and local communities in Ngorin seeking to benefit from resilience livelihood infrastructures, water and food security (direct and medium beneficiaries).  Ngorin community and Djoun Dja Et Lobo |
| Nicaragua/ CADPI | Strengthening the system of territorial governance and livelihoods for adaptation to climate change in five communities along Nicaragua's northern coast | Enhanced productivity of agriculture and fishery sector | Pine tree savanna management, recovery of traditional land for food security, Protection of coastal area against erosion, mangroves protection, community fisheries governance | Territorial governments from Karatá, Prinzu Awala and Tawira. |
| Peru/Chirapaq | Land protection, agroforestry, forest management and conservation;  ecosystems and services, health, access to food, resource management | Empowered IPs, sustainable community agroforestry system and protection of ecosystems as an alternative to adaptation to climate change | Reforestation, research, youth leadership programs and creating baselines (mapping, CBMIS) | IPs at the Pasco region |
| Nepal/ CIPRED | Building Climate Change Resilience of Indigenous Peoples through Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Practices in Nepal | Build climate change resilience of indigenous peoples through their traditional knowledge and customary practices in Nepal | Awareness raising, Strengthening traditional knowledge and cultural practices, Alternative livelihoods, Information dissemination & CBMIS | Dura people of Nepal covering 11,320 hectares of forest, 10801 households and 52, 134 population |
| Vietnam/ CERDA | Climate Change mitigation through community-based REDD+ | Indigenous communities contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation by increase of carbon sequestration in forest through “community ownership based REDD+ initiative” and “Co-management and co-benefit between state Management Board of Protection Forest (MBPF) and communities” | Capacity building of both community and government, CBMIS,  Community ownership based REDD+ and Results-based payment | Ethnic minorities and local communities in Lao Cai province, Lang Son province, Thai Nguyen province (Vo Nhai and Dinh Hoa district), North of Vietnam |

The presentation of the partners showcased their climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities. While they have different contexts and situations, the proposals are inclined to seemingly common themes on forestry, carbon sequestration and natural forest/ resource management.

**Global IP Programme**

The workshop with UNDP was helpful for the partners to understand better what it takes for a proposal to be attractive to the GCF. Instead of presenting individual country projects, the group agreed to work on regional programs that can be developed further in the future. These regional proposals were the basis of the Resilience Adaptation and Transformation Assessment Framework (RAPTA) that James Butler introduced to the group. For the copy of the workshop results, please visit: <http://adaptation-undp.org/training-workshop-develop-concept-notes-indigenous-peoples-green-climate-fund-community-based>

At the end of the three day-workshop, the partners agreed to come up with a framework of a Global IP Programme (Please see Annex) that they can propose to GCF Accredited Entities. The framework spelled out the vision and principles of the program and ow the partnership envisions its basic structure.

As a first step towards this, the participants agreed to the undertake a **scoping of accredited entities** who are working in their countries, as a basis of assessing which AE is the best to work with IPs at the country level. The scoping of the AEs should be in by March 31, 2017.

There was also a suggestion to collaborate on a possible **side event** during the UNPFII and the SBSTA on the Global IP Framework.

The meeting ended on February 8, 2017.

Annex 1:

## Framework for Global IP Programme

**DRAFT**

**Vision**

To establish an enduring indigenous peoples-led programme that provides resources to indigenous peoples in developing countries to address climate change in the context of their own needs and sustainable development.[[5]](#footnote-5)

**Rational for the Green Climate Fund**

Indigenous Peoples play a key role in, and offer invaluable contributions to, increasing resilience to climate change with related mitigation co-benefits through indigenous peoples’ perspectives, traditional knowledge and sustainable resource management systems and practices, which are critical in achieving the goals of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Nevertheless, Indigenous Peoples are the most vulnerable to climate change and to the consequences of ill-conceived solutions to climate change and have the least capacity to realize this contribution. A lack of financial, technical and political support is a major factor limiting their role.

A global programme that can be directly accessed by multiple Indigenous communities around the world has the potential for considerable scale over time and for driving a transition to community-driven approaches to low emissions and climate resilient development*.*

Providing access to Indigenous communities also supports country ownership because it vests decision making at local and community levels.

**Objectives and Guiding Principles**

The Programme will **support indigenous peoples in developing countries** making a significant and ambitious contribution to addressing climate change.

The Programme will provide **simplified access to funding**, including direct access, to indigenous peoples particularly at a community level.

The Programme will pursue an **Indigenous Peoples-led approach**, including in decision-making arrangements at all levels and the full project/programme cycle.

The Programme will **promote and strengthen engagement** at all levels through effective involvement of relevant institutions and stakeholders.

The Programme will pursue holistic approaches, consistent with world views, values, cultures, knowledge, innovations, and governance of Indigenous Peoples.

In the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Programme will **support the paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways**

The Programme will provide an important contribution to **operationalizing the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy**, other policies and goals of the GCF and other relevant international commitment such as United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the UNFCCC.

The Programme will operate in a **participatory**, **transparent and accountable** manner guided by equity, efficiency and effectiveness

The Programme will be flexible, giving primary consideration to indigenous peoples’ needs and priorities on climate change adaptation and mitigation within the framework of **Indigenous Peoples Sustainable Self-Determined Development**

The Programme will be **continuously learning** and can make a valuable contribution to broader knowledge sharing and management.

The Programme will take a **gender-responsive** approach.

The Programme should foster cooperation, unity and solidarity.

**Priority Activities**

Although the priorities of the Programme will be driven by local level needs, the Programme will likely focus on the following specific contributions to the goals of the GCF where Indigenous People have a proven record of contribution:

* Sustainable management [and use/access] of natural resources and landscapes
* Increased resilience of diverse ecosystems (i.e. forests; marine and coast; savannah; tundra, etc.) and ecosystems services, leading to increased resilience in health and well-being, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods
* Access to community-owned renewable energy
* Strengthening of indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge, practices and innovations to addressing and responding to climate change
* Platforms for indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge-sharing and management

**Accredited Entity Criteria**

* Existence of an institutional IP policy, guidelines and principles, strong safeguards and accessible grievance mechanism Best practice with respects to IP policies, guidelines and principles (implementation)
* Commitment to equally partner and build capacity towards the goal of fully empowering indigenous people’ communities, based on mutual respect and trust
* Capacity/understanding of IP issues and will champion IP rights at all levels
* Consistency with supporting IP rights in their other projects
* Has the trust and confidence of indigenous peoples
* Facilitate payment of grants to IP organizations that don't have full legal status
* Able to provide support and guidance to the indigenous peoples’ governance mechanisms
* Commitment to build capacity of IP organizations to become executing and/or accredited entities and eventually to pass management of the programme to the IP organizations
* Financial and bureaucratic efficiency, accountability and transparency
* Track record in supporting IP or community-driven programmes and/or projects

**Pilot Country Criteria**

* Vulnerability of the IPs in the country
* Level of social and economic development of the country and IPs
* Current lack of alternative sources of financing for IPs (balance with potential for co-financing)
* Need for strengthening institutions and implementation capacity
* Objectives are in line with priorities in the country’s national climate strategy
* Engagement and consultation with IPs
* Supportiveness of the NDA to IPs
* Capacity of IP organisations and networks in the country
* Potential to contribute to GCF Investment Criteria
* Uniqueness of IP contribution
* Potential for co-financing or leveraging
* Presence of AEs in the country
* Responsiveness to GCF’s allocation criteria (e.g LDCs, SIDS, and Africa)

**An example of governance structure**

AE or EE Country Office

**GCF**

Accredited Entity(s)

Global Programme Support Unit (for coherence)

National Steering Committee

(IPs NDA, AE ....)

AE or EE Country Office

*Technical advisory support*

*To ensure high quality country programs*

*Country strategy, ownership*

*national expertise,*

*& Prioritization*

**Flow of funds**

National Steering Committee

(IPs NDA, AE…..)

AE or EE Country Office

National Steering Committee

(IPs NDA, AE…..)

*Reporting on results/impacts*

1. *See attachments for the IP Submission on the ESMS* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *See Attachment of IP Policy document* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Please see Attachment for the powerpoint presentation* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *CADPI, CHIRAPAQ, CIPRED, CERDA, MPIDO, ILEPA, Lelewal* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. While this program could be supported by any source of funding, the intention is to target current climate finance flows. These flows are meant to be channeled to action in developing countries only, hence the limitation in scope to developing countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)