



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the
United Nations**

**Contributions to the Report of the UN Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)**

Twenty Fourth Session, 2025

Table of Contents

FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit: Mission and Pillars of Work.....	4
FAO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES UNIT – MAIN HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024	7
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES AND INPUT TO THE 2024 SESSION	25
2024 UNPFII/UNDESA Recommendations to FAO.....	25
2023 UNPFII/UNDESA RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO	25
2022 UNPFII RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO (UPDATED FROM 2022 FAO REPORT TO UNDESA/UNPFII	29
2021 UNPFII RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO (UPDATED FROM 2021 FAO REPORT TO UNDESA/UNPFII)	34
2019 UNPFII RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO (2020 UNPFII SUSPENDED DUE COVID19)	41
UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION	47
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	48
INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION “WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”	48
INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES.....	49
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS 2024	49
CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION 39 ON INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS	50
SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN TO ACHIEVE THE ENDS OF THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (UN-SWAP), 6 KEY ACTION AREAS.....	53
KEY ACTION AREA 1: RAISING AWARENESS OF THE UN DECLARATION	53
KEY ACTION AREA 2: SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN DECLARATION, PARTICULARLY AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL.....	54
KEY ACTION AREA 3: SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.....	58
KEY ACTION AREA 4: MAPPING OF EXISTING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, CAPACITIES, TRAINING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNDRIP. 63	
KEY ACTION AREA 5: DEVELOPING THE CAPACITIES OF STATES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, CIVIL SOCIETY AND UN PERSONNEL	64
KEY ACTION AREA 6: ADVANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AT THE UN	67
2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	70



FAO SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS 2024

FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit: Mission and Pillars of Work

Mission Statement

To support FAO's mandate and strategic framework to eradicate hunger and malnutrition by implementing the 2010 FAO Policy on Indigenous Peoples in support of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Free Prior and Informed Consent, and Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems within the context of ongoing global debates on climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable food systems.

Means

Under the overarching objective of eradicating hunger and malnutrition, the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit (PSUI) brings together normative and technical capacity to generate knowledge and technical evidence on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems, territorial governance, climate action and biodiversity protection to drive changes at the global, regional and national levels and to provide strategic advice to FAO management and countries, supporting their engagements with Indigenous Peoples.

The technical capacity and the earned trust of Member States, UN agencies, scientific community, and Indigenous Peoples' representatives put FAO in a unique position to convene key stakeholders in areas pertaining to FAO's mandate. In this context, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit manages three secretariats that influence evidence gathering and policy making on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems:

1. The Rome Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples
2. The Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems
3. The UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum

Focus Areas

Pillars of Work

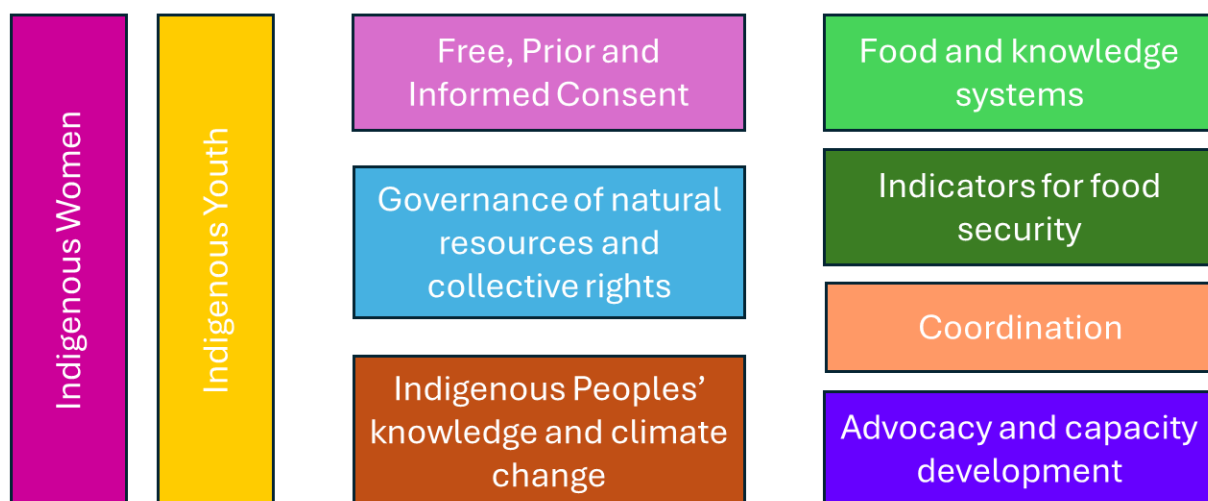


Figure 1. FAO'S joint work programme with Indigenous Peoples to operationalize the FAO Policy on Indigenous Peoples

Pillars Of Work

Pillar 1: Indigenous Peoples' food systems

Indigenous Peoples food systems cut across FAO's different areas of work, being particularly relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sustainable Food Systems Framework, the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, the UN Decade on Family Farming (2019-2028), Agroecology and the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). PSUI has been leading FAO's work on Indigenous Peoples' food systems by profiling Indigenous Peoples' food systems and supporting knowledge co-creation through the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems.

Pillar 2: Free, Prior and Informed Consent

In line with UN and international legal framework, FAO developed a Policy on Indigenous Peoples that ensures the organisation makes all due efforts to respect, include and promote Indigenous issues in its work. The core principles of the policy are self-determined development; respect for Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, cultures and traditional practices that contribute to sustainable and equitable development; and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). PSUI has the corporate responsibility for the implementation of the FAO Policy on Indigenous Peoples, and the FAO manual on FPIC. PSUI provides technical support to other units including the FAO Environmental and Management Guidelines Unit, GEF, GCF.

Pillar 3: Climate change adaption, resilience & Traditional Knowledge

Indigenous youth requested in 2017 a new pillar of work, on Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and climate change. This pillar includes the ongoing work on Indigenous Biocentric restoration and the work in support of their intellectual property with respect to their cultural heritage.

Pillar 4: Coordination

The coordination pillar encompasses the following main liaison, coordination and secretariat activities: The Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems; the Rome Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples; The FPIC donor task force; The FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples; The UN Inter-Agency Support Group (IASC); Liaising with UNPFII, EMRIP and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus; The Working Group on Indigenous Peoples' Collective Rights to Natural Resources, Land and Territories.

Pillar 5: Natural Resources, Collective Rights & VGGTs

In partnership with different Indigenous organisations and in collaboration with the tenure team, this pillar involves activities aimed at strengthening Indigenous Peoples' capacities towards the recognition and protection of their tenure rights and customary tenure systems using the VGGTs and the Small Scale Artisanal Fisheries guidelines as tools.

Pillar 6: Advocacy and Capacity Development

To continue strengthening FAO's engagement with Indigenous Peoples worldwide, the unit takes part in relevant international events that promote discussions addressed to tackle the challenges of food security at the national, regional, and global levels. FAO supports the attendance of Indigenous representatives to discuss the importance of their traditional knowledge, sustainable livelihoods, and food system practices, among others.

Pillar 7: Indicators for food security

Indigenous Peoples have drafted a list of indicators mainly related to their culture and ways of life, as well as to lack of secure access to lands, territories, and natural resources, their main obstacle for their food security. Indicators and lack of data is serious issue in assessing the level of food insecurity and poverty faced by Indigenous Peoples.

Focus Areas

Indigenous Youth

This focus areas' main aim is to ensure the role of Indigenous youth in the context of identity, preservation of traditional knowledge, poverty reduction, rights to land, territories, and resources, access and protection of their traditional food systems, and sustainable development is acknowledged by all actors and addressed within the SDGs implementation.

Indigenous Women

The promotion of gender equity, equality, and women's empowerment are key to eradicating hunger and poverty, the FAO Policy on Gender Equality provides the framework for promoting the rights of Indigenous women within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Gender equality is a core principle for FAO's Policy on Indigenous Peoples, and it is mainstreamed across all the activities of the Unit.

FAO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES UNIT – MAIN HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024

Pillar 1: Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems

- Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems is an area of work of particular relevance to FAO's mandate. This work started in 2009 by the FAO Nutrition division, in collaboration with McGill university, and later was picked up by the Indigenous Peoples Unit, which has set the narrative and way forward on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems within the UN.
- Proposed by the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems, the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' food systems, the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, **Indigenous Peoples' food systems** have been included in the **multi-year programme of work (MYPoW) 2024-2027 of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**. Since the creation of the CFS and its subsequent reform in 2009, this is the **first time** that Indigenous Peoples' food systems have been included in the programme of work, marking an important milestone.
- Until 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit held the Secretariat of the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' food systems. Nevertheless, in May 2024 the Secretariat was transferred to the World Food Programme (WFP). Until when FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit held the Secretariat, the Coalition reached 15 Members, with Brazil as the most recent member to have joined in March 2024.

The Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems

- Created in 2018 and endorsed by the Technical Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in 2020, the [Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#) is an active think-tank capable of co-creating knowledge and providing evidence-based contributions on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems in critical moments, by bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts, scientists and researchers.
- Its flagship participatory publication, the [Wiphala Paper](#), revolutionized the understanding of Indigenous Peoples' food systems and enabled scientists to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples as game changers for sustainability and the overall transformation of food systems.
- In October 2024, the [Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#), convened its **second in-person meeting** (14-18 October; see Annex). The 2024 in-person meeting brought together 53 Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts from 14 Universities, research centres and institutes, 13 Indigenous-led/co-led organizations and networks. Almost half of the experts were Indigenous experts. 20 out of the 31 Global-Hub members were represented. The meeting offered an opportunity to celebrate the Global-Hub's achievements since its creation, review the ongoing work of the drafting committees established at the 2023 Global-Hub in-person meeting, and consider the desired next steps and milestones for the coming years.
- The meeting also provided the Global-Hub the opportunity to bring its unique expertise to the World Food Forum, facilitating exchanges with the Hand-in Hand and the Science and Innovation Forums (see *Key Action Area 6*).
- Following this meeting, 4 new members and 3 new collaborators joined the Global-Hub, bringing the total number to **35 member institutions and 5 individual collaborators**, including three global networks. The Pacific Research Network has been established by FAO, FAOSAP and members of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples'

food systems.

- The meeting agreed to open a stream of work to support the work of the [High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition](#) (HLPE-FSN) on its upcoming report on “Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems, and traditional practices for sustainable food systems”.
- **Four new drafting committees and five existing drafting committees:** four new drafting committees were established on 1) Indigenous Peoples and food security; 2) ocean and freshwater-based food systems; 3) food composition of Indigenous Peoples’ foods; 4) hunting-gathering-fishing and pastoralism. The work of the **five existing drafting committees** will continue on 1) co-creation of knowledge and ethical research engagement; 2) Indigenous Peoples and poverty; 3) Collective paper on the importance of mobility nomadism, transhumance, collective rights for biodiversity; 4) ultra-processed food products and Indigenous Peoples’ health; 5) Contributions to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. **Two areas of work** on a) narrative and b) approaches within the Global-Hub and policy recommendations were also opened.
- These committees and groups play a crucial role in **bridging the gap** between Indigenous science and formal scientific knowledge, with the aim of producing evidence that addresses issues related to Indigenous Peoples’ rights and their food and knowledge systems.
- Indigenous Peoples’ food systems have enlarged to include **Indigenous social protection mechanisms**. FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division are collaborating in Nepal and in the Plurinational State of Bolivia on Indigenous social protection mechanisms, gauging the challenges and barriers that Indigenous Peoples face in accessing formal social protection, and in identifying good practices and areas of improvement in terms of Indigenous Peoples’ engagement in the design and management of social protection programmes, which is reflected in their adequacy with respect to the needs of Indigenous Peoples’ communities.

Events

February 2024

FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participated in the **IPON Management Committee Meeting**. IPON is the Indigenous Peoples Observatory Network, which is researching the climate food-health nexus with more than 100 Indigenous Peoples’ communities across 17 countries, and it works in close coordination with the Global-Hub to support Indigenous Peoples’ food systems resilience in response to global pandemics and biodiversity/climate crisis.

March 2024

[Workshops on Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and the Sciences: strengthening recognition to address global challenges](#): FAO participated in this two-day event organized by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in Vatican City. It focused on the importance of combining Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and sciences to strengthen the resilience needed in the face of some of the most urgent global challenges: climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, and health issues.

August 2024

Workshop on co-creation of knowledge: hosted by the Universidad Intercultural Maya de Quintana Roo, in Mexico, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participated to develop principles on the co-creation of knowledge with Indigenous Peoples. This workshop complements the ongoing work of the Global-Hub.

October 2024

In-person meeting of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems: see pp. 09-10, for more information

Publications

- **"Guidelines for the Co-creation of Knowledge and Ethical Engagement with Indigenous Peoples"**: to be released in 2025.

Pillar 2: Free, Prior and Informed Consent

- Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a specific right granted to Indigenous Peoples and is the cornerstone of [FAO's Policy on Indigenous Peoples](#), and made operational by the [FAO Manual on FPIC](#). FPIC is reflected in [FAO's Environmental and Social Management Guidelines](#) and in the Programme and Project Review Committee.
- In 2024 (to date), FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit completed a further review of 44 projects of the **Programme and Project Review Committee (PPRC)** to ensure that FPIC was appropriately integrated. This effort entailed several meetings with project developers to provide guidance and support.
- FPIC is so important for FAO that in 2022 the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit carried out an analysis of the ongoing FAO projects in 2021. The rapid analysis reflected that from the ongoing projects worth USD 6.8 billion, 31% were involving Indigenous Peoples. From this basis, the Unit in collaboration with Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division has developed a methodology for identifying, reviewing, and analysing projects that may involve or affect Indigenous Peoples in order, among other objectives, to (1) verify whether resources (in terms of funds, expertise and activities) are effectively allocated to ensure implementation of FPIC; (2) to provide a strong dataset to offer actionable insights, and; (3) identify priority areas for collaborative initiatives related to Indigenous Peoples. Results will converge in an analysis report in 2025.
- In coordination with regional Indigenous Peoples focal points, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit has also provided **technical advice on the inclusion of FPIC requirements and on the implementation of FPIC** process to several **projects at country level** (Benin, Bhutan, India, Nepal) as not properly addressing FPIC, could lead to the infringement of Indigenous Peoples' rights and affect the validity of the consent, representing a reputational risk for the organization.
- FAO is about to recruit a **FPIC dedicated officer** to coordinate the implementation of the FPIC pillar of work at FAO and to provide technical support/analysis and advice to various assessments, studies and initiatives of projects and programmes involving FPIC policies/procedures and Indigenous Peoples.
- The unit, with the European Union, is chairing the **FPIC donors task force**, established in 2019, and has taken the leading role for the organization of the FPIC donor task force workshop in FAO Headquarters in early 2025.

Events

October 2024

Collaboration Workshop on Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC): organized by the Asian Development Bank

(Nepal Resident Mission), FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participate to discuss the application of FPIC principles in different sectors.

Side-event on *Ensuring adequate access to social protection for Indigenous Peoples*: organized by FAO ESP during the 2024 World Food Forum. The event was an important opportunity to share with Indigenous Peoples and experts the importance of analysing and improving the adequacy and accessibility of national social protection policies and programmes for Indigenous communities.

Pillar 3: Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and climate change

- As part of this pillar of work, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit has emphasized the need to look at Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and recognize their contributions to restoration, climate action and biodiversity conservation.
- During **CBD COP 16**, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit has also actively participated to the negotiations around article 8(j) of the Convention, which resulted in adoption of the [new Programme of Work on Article 8\(j\) and the creation of a Subsidiary Body](#), which will ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the works of the Convention. These are historic goals for Indigenous Peoples and will enhance their transformative potential in terms of biodiversity preservation.
- During **UNCCD COP 16**, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit supported and facilitated the joint work between the UNCCD Secretariat and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) to establish a UNCCD Indigenous Caucus.
- FAO, together with Indigenous Peoples' organizations, has co-developed the [Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration](#) Initiative, which aims to conserve and restore the ecosystems and biodiversity that sustain Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems through the role of Indigenous Peoples as active participants. The initiative aims to restore degraded ecosystems through an inclusive approach based on Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and territorial management systems, as well as their cosmogony, including their spiritual and beliefs systems, while respecting Indigenous Peoples individual, collective and customary, rights.
- What started as a pilot project in Northeast India, Thailand, Peru, and Ecuador is now becoming a **global programme**. The initiative has grown to the point of becoming a national plan, officially launched by the President of Costa Rica, and a regional plan in Bolivia and Peru. Recently, the initiative has also attracted more interest from Brazil and Colombia, and the momentum continues to build with Nepal and India considering participating as well in various regions within their countries.
- FAO Indigenous Peoples unit, together with its partner organizations, has implemented **pilot initiatives** for Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration in seven countries, covering an area of about 1000 hectares:
 - Meghalaya, India: Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration implemented in partnership with the Northeast Society for Agroecology Support (NESFAS).
 - Thailand: Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration implemented in partnership with Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the Inter-Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT).
 - Peru: Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration in dryland areas (Andean plateau) implemented in partnerships with Association of the Indigenous Centre for Sustainable Development

- (CINDES).
- Ecuador: Role of Bamboo in Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration initiatives, implemented in the Amazon basin in partnership with the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR).
 - Brazil: Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration with Xucuru Indigenous Peoples, Caatinga Biome.
 - Colombia, Brazil, and Costa Rica: Exchange of Knowledge on Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration, jointly organized with experts from INBAR and CINDES, in different Indigenous communities and ecosystems.
- The **Government of Costa Rica** at a presidential level, announced the starting process for the **first National plan on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration worldwide**, including the 24 Indigenous Peoples' territories of Costa Rica through Indigenous Peoples-led restoration activities rooted in their cosmogony and food and knowledge systems.
 - In 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit initiated conversations to develop a **regional plan** on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration for the **Southern Andean Corridor of Peru and Bolivia**. This plan includes governmental national and local authorities as well as Indigenous local authorities currently leading Indigenous Peoples-led restoration activities in the highlands, including the Titicaca Lake and the corridors of Suri and Guanaco.
 - FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit has been leading the process of drafting a practical manual with partners involved in the Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration programme. The **"Manual for Practitioners on Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration"** is a practical tool that has benefitted from the discussions among Indigenous Peoples during the exchanges of knowledge organized in 2023 and 2024 in Colombia, Brazil and Costa Rica. The drafted manual was finalized in 2024 to allow other Indigenous Peoples to start their own Indigenous Peoples Biocentric Restoration programmes. The manual includes not only procedures but also valuable metrics, templates, and tools for monitoring and reporting progress.
 - In 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and members of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems contributed to an important publication: [Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration – A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#), co-published by FAO, SER (Society for Ecosystem Restoration) and IUCN. This publication recognizes Indigenous Peoples as game-changers for ecosystem restoration and introduces the concept of Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration as an inclusive and rights-based approach when involving Indigenous Peoples in restoration projects.

Events

2024

Indigenous Biocentric Restoration initiative started with Exchange of Knowledge in Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru.

March 2024

Launch of the publication: [Standards of Practice to Guide Ecosystem Restoration](#): Under the umbrella of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, FAO developed a process for targeted consultation with Indigenous Peoples on these Standards of Practice. It is co-published by FAO, SER (Society for Ecosystem Restoration) and IUCN.

June 2024

Amazon: New paths for the Church and for an integral ecology. FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit presented on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration at the event "Amazon: new paths for the church and for an integral ecology", organised by the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See at FAO.

Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration Workshop in Latin America: organized by FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit with the relevant stakeholders, including Indigenous organizations and FAO country offices, in the implementing countries in the region.

August 2024

World Summit on Traditional Knowledge related to Biodiversity (TK Summit): organized by the IIFB, the Government of Colombia, and the MPC, with the support of the CBD Secretariat, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participated in person in Bogota, Colombia, and supported IIFB as rapporteur of the Summit, which had the objective of developing recommendations for the national implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and formulating recommendations on the new Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and institutional arrangements.

September 2024

Workshop on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and Traditional Knowledge: FAO delivered a presentation on Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems.

October 2024

UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP16: FAO held a session on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration, in partnership with Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, and Indigenous Peoples' representatives.

December 2024

UN Convention to Combat Desertification UNCCD: FAO held 2 sessions on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration, in partnership with Brazil and Costa Rica, and Indigenous Peoples' representatives.

Publications

- FAO, SER and IUCN. (2024). Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration – A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. Rome, FAO, Washington, DC, SER & Gland, Switzerland, IUCN CEM. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9106en>
- FAO (*forthcoming*, 2025) Manual for Practitioners on Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration. Rome.

Pillar 4: Coordination

- The Indigenous Peoples Unit continues to perform three essential coordination/secretariat roles: i) Secretariat of the [Rome Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples](#) (comprising 43 countries regularly meeting); and, ii) [Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#) (including 33 member institutions and 4 collaborators); iii) [UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum \(UNGIYF\)](#), the only high-level forum in the UN

dedicated to indigenous Youth, which will hold its III Session in 2025.

- Within FAO, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit coordinates the **Inter Departmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples** and the **Working Group on Indigenous Peoples' Collective Rights to Natural Resources, Land and Territories**. It also coordinates with a group of focal points at regional and national level in many country offices as well as regional and sub-regional country offices.
- FAO participates in three key United Nations fora on Indigenous Peoples and one Inter-Agency Group, namely a) the [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues \(UNPFII\)](#), b) the [Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(EMRIP\)](#), and c) the [Inter-Agency Support Group \(IASG\) on Indigenous Issues](#)

23rd SESSION OF THE UNPFII

April 2024

- At the 23rd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), held under the overarching theme of "Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voice of Indigenous Youth", FAO co-organized **3 side events**:
 - Indigenous Youth as game-changers in biodiversity conservation, nutrition and food systems transformation: Insights from the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' food systems (22 April)
 - Calls to Action for Safeguarding Seven Generations in Times of Food, Social, and Ecological Crises – Reporting on the Outcomes of the 2023 UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum (23 April)
 - Indigenous Youth of Abya Yala: Weaving stories and resilience for the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (17 April)

17TH SESSION OF THE EMRIP

July 2024

- FAO participated in the plenary for a panel discussion under **item 3** *Study and Advice on Constitutions, laws, legislation, policies, judicial decisions, and other mechanisms through which States have taken measures to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Peoples, in accordance with Article 38 of the Declaration*.
- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the OHCHR Indigenous Peoples team discussed about reinforced collaborations in the margins of the III Session of the UNGIYF.

FAO Programme

- In February 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized a **three-days meeting**, held in FAO HQ, **called by the UNPFII, EMRIP and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. The whole [Inter-Agency Support Group \(IASG\) on Indigenous Issues](#) was invited to the meeting, which discussed the implications of the conflation, association, combination, or equating of Indigenous Peoples with non-Indigenous entities, in particular with "local communities". The meeting resulted in a [joint statement from the three mechanisms](#) which recommends stopping the use of Indigenous Peoples in conjunction with categories or terms different from their own denomination such as "local communities".

- In occasion of the World Food Day week at FAO headquarters, there was a significant increase in Indigenous Peoples' representation and involvement across all the World Food Forum (WFF) activities and events, including technical panels, policy discussions, and cultural events. Key moments featured Indigenous Peoples' participants at the WFF Grand Opening Ceremony, the High-Level Opening of the FAO Science and Innovation Forum, WFF Youth Forum Opening, WFF Youth Concert, WFF Grand Closing Ceremony.
- In 2023, in the Pacific Region, a network on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems with a focus on biodiversity was established by FAO and FAOSAP, in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples from the region and selected members of the Global-Hub. The group was strengthened in 2024 during the 4th Pacific Ocean Climate Change Conference in Samoa, and during the meeting of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems in Rome, to formally become in 2024 the **Pacific Research Network**. Conversations are now underway to co-organize with the Network a conference on Indigenous Peoples' food systems in the Pacific region in 2025.
- Under the **FAO-UNESCO Memorandum of Understanding**, which was extended for another 5 years in July 2023, priority areas to strengthen the ongoing collaborations on Indigenous Peoples between the two UN agencies have been delineated. UNESCO is a member of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems. FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit together with the Communication for Development Team (PSUF), aim to work together under the umbrella of the International Decade of Indigenous Peoples Languages, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the UN Decade of Ecosystems Restoration and the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development on the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples' communities by strengthening the capacity of Indigenous Peoples -led media organisations and by publishing at least one publication on the importance of intergenerational transmission of food systems through Indigenous Peoples' languages, encouraging co-creation of knowledge based on both Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge systems together with the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems.

Events

February 2024

[Meeting of the three mechanisms on Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNPFII, EMRIP and SRIP): to strengthen the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and address the problematic use of the term “local communities” in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples.

May 2024

4th Pacific Ocean Climate Change Conference: FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participation built momentum for strengthening FAO's work with Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific, and its relationships with key partner institutions.

October 2024

Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems Meeting and Indigenous Peoples' Advocacy Nomadic Tent: Besides the technical session of the meeting of the Global-Hub, in the Advocacy Tent hosted various sessions aimed to give visibility to Indigenous chefs, musicians, activists, and experts from all over the world to showcase their traditional cuisines, exchange knowledge, and raise awareness about the importance of preserving Indigenous peoples' food and knowledge systems.

Pillar 5: Governance of natural resources and collective rights

- In 2024 the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems drafted a **new collective paper on the importance of Indigenous Peoples' mobility, nomadism, transhumance, and collective rights for biodiversity**. The paper presents evidence on the importance of Indigenous Peoples' collective rights and access to resources. It was presented during the 2024 meeting of the Global-Hub that took place in October in Rome, and during a side-event at [UNCCD COP 16 in Riyadh](#).
- In 2024 FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit started collaborating with the newly-created [Aim4Forests](#) programme: a five year-long programme that aims to support forest monitoring based on modern monitoring technologies and technical innovation, as well as the use of space data and remote sensing. This programme includes a component on Indigenous Peoples, making sure that technology is transferred to them to enhance the level of control and monitoring of the forests of their territories.
- In 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit has finalized a **report titled Indigenous Peoples: From discrimination and marginalization to inclusive, meaningful, and effective participation**, which contributes to the RITI (Shaping priorities for investment in Resilient, Inclusive Rural Transformation) initiative within FAO's Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division. The report was presented at the meeting of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples food systems, as well as during a dedicated side event at the 52nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security, both held in October in Rome.
- FAO Technical Working Group on Indigenous Peoples' Collective Rights to Natural Resources, Land and Territories continued to map positive FAO experiences related to Indigenous Peoples' collective rights.
- PRAYOG and the University of Cambridge are working with FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the FAO Land Tenure team to develop a **Technical Guide on Indigenous Peoples Governance of Land Tenure** alongside a key policy brief on Indigenous Peoples and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure principles. The two products will be co-published in 2025 following peer-review by the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit contributed to the [Integrated Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines](#), Second Edition, launched in July 2024. The guidelines recommend strategic actions to support the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and other local knowledge holders, who contribute valuable, site-specific practices and insights that enhance fire management decisions. Their active engagement is crucial for preventing wildfires, promptly addressing fire outbreaks, and restoring areas devastated by severe burning, according to the publication.

FAO Programme

- Under the UK-funded [AIM4Forests](#) project, the FAO Land Tenure team is leading a component on enhancing Indigenous engagement in forest monitoring and carbon standards, providing technical training in participatory land mapping.
- FAO Land Tenure team developed a headline indicator (HI 22.1) to track land tenure changes on Indigenous territories as part of the AIM4Forests project. This indicator (land tenure and land use indicator as headline indicators for T22 on traditional knowledge) has been adopted into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with countries set to begin reporting on it in 2026.

- FAO also supports the global Indigenous mapping initiative, [LandMark](#), establishing Communities of Practice for participatory mapping in Indigenous Peoples' territories, helping communities to protect their land rights and secure tenure.
- FAO is developing a new flagship report on the State of Land Tenure and Governance which will quantify Indigenous custodianship of land and natural resources, highlighting the linkage between customary land rights, climate, and biodiversity conservation. FAO aligns its land indicators with SDG 15.3.1, focusing on Indigenous Peoples' lands, to reinforce sustainable land use and conservation efforts.
- The FAO Land Tenure team has contributed to the capacity development of Indigenous Peoples' communities, ethnic groups and afro descendants for documenting their tenure rights and for internal management of their territories using geospatial technologies such as Open Tenure in Guatemala, Myanmar and Colombia.

Events

October 2024

FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized a side event at the **CFS52** entitled "[Rethinking poverty and rural transformation to include Indigenous Peoples' views and their food and knowledge systems](#)" to address Indigenous Peoples' rights, values, and needs in the design, implementation, and monitoring of rural transformation policies and projects.

December 2024

FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit co-organized a side event at the **UNCCD COP 16** in Riyadh to present on the findings of a new collective paper on the importance of Indigenous Peoples' mobility, nomadism, transhumance, and collective rights for biodiversity.

Publications

- FAO (forthcoming, 2025). Collective Paper on the importance of Indigenous Peoples' mobility, nomadism, transhumance, and collective rights for biodiversity. Rome.
- FAO (forthcoming, 2025). Indigenous Peoples: From discrimination and marginalization to inclusive, meaningful, and effective participation. Rome.
- FAO (forthcoming, 2025) Technical Guide on Indigenous Peoples' Governance of Tenure after 12 years of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT). Rome.

Pillar 6: Advocacy and Capacity development

10th anniversary of the Indigenous Peoples Unit

- 2024 marked the **10th anniversary of the Indigenous Peoples Unit**, which was created (firstly as the Indigenous Peoples Team) in 2014. This anniversary was commemorated during a dedicated session during the October World Food Forum at FAO headquarters.
- In connection with the anniversary, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit launched an [Indigenous Peoples art contest](#). The aim of the contest was to indigenize FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit future publications and

communication material, which often display graphics and artworks of artists belonging to dominant cultures. The art contest received 27 submissions from artists belonging to 25 different Indigenous Peoples, 12 countries and 4 socio-cultural regions of the world.

- In September 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit published “[Indigenous Peoples and FAO: A Narrative for working together](#)”. This publication is an important advocacy tool that will help to guide FAO colleagues and other development practitioners that work alongside Indigenous Peoples. The Narrative presents the key concepts and terminology to use in the work with Indigenous Peoples, as well as an overview of FAO work with Indigenous Peoples over the years.
- In 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit launched a [new, updated version of its website](#), which serves as a knowledge and advocacy portal for Indigenous Peoples, FAO colleagues, development practitioners and the general public.

Indigenous Peoples' Advocacy Nomadic Tent

- In October 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized a [full week of advocacy-oriented events and activities](#). On the sidelines of the 2024 meeting of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples’ food systems, which took place in an Indigenous Nomadic tent, a second tent was set up for the purpose. It hosted 15 side events on a wide range of topics, from the essential role of Indigenous Peoples’ beekeeping techniques to the implications of social protection for Indigenous Peoples.
- The Indigenous Advocacy Tent also hosted six “**TENT Talks**” and four “**Fire Talks**”. The TENT Talks were short, inspiring speeches delivered by world-class experts on Indigenous Peoples’ issues, whom - in just 10 minutes - amazed the public by sharing the knowledge acquired in years of research. Later in the evening, the Fire Talks were intimate moments of experience sharing. They recalled the warmth of the hearth and allowed emotions to enrich the conversations, providing meaningful insights on several topics.
- During the [World Food Day](#) Week and [World Food Forum in October 2024](#), the FAO Office of Communications supported the [Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems](#) by issuing a media advisory and [press release](#), and sharing [photos](#), which successfully boosted engagement and awareness. The press release garnered significant media attention, reaching an impressive audience through various coverage of more than 3.5 million people.
- Media outlets across the globe also published coverage, including [Sweden’s Sami broadcaster SVT](#), [India’s DioTV](#), and [Italy’s Agenzia Parlamentare](#), reporting that Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, experts, and officials had gathered at the Global Hub to discuss topics relating to Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems. [EFE](#) quoted FAO Chief Economist, Maximo Torero, who emphasized that Indigenous Peoples focus not only on production but also on biodiversity, climate, environment, culture, and ecosystems. He noted that these communities possess “many experiences of resilience to climate shocks,” from which we can learn to “avoid pests and diseases.” This widespread coverage reflects strong public interest and the effectiveness of FAO’s outreach, amplifying our message across diverse media channels.

PSUI engagement in International Fora

- In 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participated in several high-level events held in different fora, including, amongst others, the [23rd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues \(UNPFII\)](#), the [Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(EMRIP\)](#), the [CBD COP 16](#) and the [UNCCD COP 16](#).

- The theme of the 23rd Session of the UNPFII was “**Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth**”. During the two weeks of the Forum, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized three side-events that highlighted the importance of the [UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum \(UNGIYF\)](#), of which FAO holds the Secretariat (see Pillar 4 on Coordination), as well as the outcomes of its II Session, held in 2023 in Rome.
- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit debriefed the UNPFII experts and UNIASG about the outcomes of the II Session of the UNGIYF, requesting that the Indigenous Youth Declaration be included in the UNPFII.
- Other relevant side-events organized by FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit in 2024 took place on the sidelines of CBD COP 16 and of UNCCD COP 16, with a focus on the transformative potential of the [Indigenous Peoples’ biocentric restoration programme](#) and on the [importance of mobility for Indigenous Peoples](#).

Toxics and Pesticides

- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit has been collaborating with the Right to Food Team, the Legal Office, and Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) to respond to the UNPFII call to FAO and WHO to review and amend the [International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management](#) to bring it in line with the UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 standards (paragraph 82 of the report on the twenty-first session (25 April–6 May 2022) of UNPFII, E/2022/43-E/C.19/2022/11), particularly on free, prior and informed consent. As part of this effort, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the Right to Food Team co-organized a speakers' corner during the 29th session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture on this topic.

Indigenous Peoples and FAO Communications Strategy

- Over the past year, FAO Office of Communications (OCC) and FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit have proactively communicate initiatives related to Indigenous Peoples through various platforms, including a dedicated thematic webpage and social media channel.
- This year, OCC communications have emphasized the critical role of Indigenous Peoples in achieving global food security, preserving biodiversity, and the resilience and sustainability of Indigenous People’s food systems. On social media, FAO shares updates, success stories, and key messages about the importance of Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and practices. These communications focus on the threats faced by Indigenous Peoples’ communities, such as climate change and biodiversity loss, and advocate for the value of and need to preserve their food systems.
- Recognizing the importance of ensuring impactful and timely reporting and messaging on FAO's work with Indigenous Peoples during the UNPFII in April 2024, the Communications Team at FAO Liaison Office with the UN in New York (FAOLON) supported the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit delegation at UNPFII and the OCC technical focal point, providing a dedicated event [website](#) featuring all FAO engagements, a daily blog update covering key issues raised around FAO's participation, daily live and thematic X coverage from the @FAONewYork account, the FAO intranet, and promotion ahead of and after UNPFII on the April and May 'FAO in New York newsletters', all helping to raise the profile of FAO's work among the UN and Permanent Missions audience in New York. This messaging has continued to inform follow-up meetings, negotiations, consultations, and media and social media presence from New York around FAO's work on Indigenous Peoples.

- FAOLON Communications Team has worked with OCC technical focal point this year to ensure that FAO's messaging around Indigenous Peoples was featured on LON X account during the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, to raise visibility of FAO's work and be part of ongoing conversations during this high-level moment.
- In June 2024, FAO Director-General QU Dongyu delivered the opening remarks at the seminar "*Amazon: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology*," organized by the Holy See and hosted at FAO's Rome headquarters. In his address, the Director-General reaffirmed FAO's commitment to partnering with Indigenous Peoples, underscoring the Organization's dedication to respecting their rights and supporting the preservation and enhancement of their food and knowledge systems, in line with the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. A [press release](#) was published for the event.

2024 International Day of The World's Indigenous Peoples

- The 2024 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, observed annually on 9 August, focused on **Protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact**. For the occasion, the OCC Publications team developed a dedicated webpage featuring FAO resources on the theme. The page served as a comprehensive resource hub, highlighting publications and tools that reinforce FAO's dedication to this important issue. Additionally, OCC supported the celebrations with extensive social media coverage, including tweets [from the Director-General](#), amplifying the message of Indigenous Peoples' rights.
- OCC also created tailored social media and web content for other major events, including UNPFII, UNGA79, the State of the Future (SOTF), and Climate Week. This content featured engaging social media cards and web stories aimed at raising awareness about Indigenous Peoples and the issues they face. This includes the following:

<https://twitter.com/FAONewYork/status/1782527274870317248>

<https://twitter.com/FAONewYork/status/1782526680021471538>

<https://twitter.com/FAONewYork/status/1782526297828192323>

<https://twitter.com/FAONewYork/status/1782525730351456305>

<https://x.com/FAONewYork/status/1838246957221040489>

<https://x.com/FAONewYork/status/1838653880269168853>

<https://x.com/FAONewYork/status/1838662185184301543>

<https://x.com/FAONewYork/status/1840748180423549147>

<https://x.com/FAOIndigenous/status/1821806116512334050>

<https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/news/detail/When-Isolating-is-a-Voluntary-choice-by-Indigenous-Peoples/en>

Events

June 2024

"*Amazon: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology*," organized by the Holy See and hosted at FAO's Rome headquarters.

Publications

- FAO (2024). *Indigenous Peoples and FAO: a narrative for working together*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd2070en>

Pillar 7: Indicators for food security

- In August 2024, members of FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participated in the **Expert Group Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition Data and Statistics**, which brought together colleagues from FAO, UNICEF and WHO. FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit presented during the meeting, offering important insights on the data invisibility of Indigenous Peoples within Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) data, the need for data disaggregation by Indigenous status, as well as the need for culturally relevant indicators on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN). The outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting will be presented at UN Statistical Commission in March 2025.
- This year, FAO has also restarted conversations with the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) to finalise the **first dedicated global report on Food Security and Nutrition among Indigenous Peoples**, to be published in 2025. FAO has assembled a taskforce, comprising members of the Global-Hub, FAO Statistics Division and FAO Nutrition Division, to update the report (originally drafted in 2021) and ready it for publication.
- In collaboration with IWGIA, FAO is preparing for to hold **regional dialogues** on the contents of the draft report in early 2025 to better understand the different conceptualisations and experiences of food insecurity held by Indigenous Peoples, and to co-develop a set of culturally relevant indicators and policy recommendations to better address food insecurity and nutritional challenges among Indigenous Peoples.
- This year, in conversation with the Indigenous Navigator, FAO has started to explore the further ways that the platform could support the collection of useful and culturally meaningful indicators of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) for Indigenous Peoples.

FAO Programme

- The FAO Right to Food (RtF) Team is collaborating with FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit to clarify what the RtF entails for Indigenous Peoples, focusing on the relevance of the cultural acceptability aspect of the RtF for Indigenous Peoples and the collective dimension that this right has specifically for this group with reinforced protection under international law. A Policy Brief on the Right to Food and Indigenous Peoples is being finalized to be released in 2025.

Events

May 2024

Indigenous Peoples unit meeting with Food Security and Environment, Global Affairs Canada.

June 2024

Forests for food security and nutrition: FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participated to this event, organized by the FAO Technical Network on Nutrition (TNN) and the Forestry Division (NFO), highlighting the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples in relation to these topics.

August 2024

FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participated in the *Expert Group Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition Data and Statistics*, which brought together colleagues from FAO, UNICEF and WHO.

Publications

- FAO and IWGIA (*forthcoming*, 2025) Food Security and Nutrition among Indigenous Peoples.
- FAO (*forthcoming*, 2025) Policy Brief: Anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Issues. A Review of Developments, Advances and New Challenges.

Focus area: Indigenous women

- Coinciding with International Women's Day 2024, [Thompson Rivers University \(TRU\)](#), together with FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, [hosted a special event focused on Indigenous Women](#). The conference celebrated and marked the completion of the [Volume 8 - Special Edition of the Knowledge Makers Journal – "Indigenous Women, Indigenous Peoples' Food and Knowledge Systems, and Climate Action"](#). The Indigenous research conference was part of the Letter of Agreement between FAO and Thompson Rivers University to support an Indigenous Women's research cohort through the TRU Knowledge Makers program. Four of the Indigenous women researchers from the cohort travelled to Kamloops to present their research articles. The conference brought together Indigenous Elders of the region including the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and T'exelc First Nations, Indigenous professors and students for research presentations, discussions, and exchange of knowledge. FAOLOW presented on the work of the Global Hub on Indigenous Peoples and facilitated discussions with the Indigenous Women in the research cohort. The [journal](#) has now been published through the FAO publications work stream.

FAO Programme

- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit contributed to the 2024 FAO Publication, "[Intersectionality: A pathway for more inclusive, youth-oriented and gender-responsive agrifood systems](#)". It has a special focus on Indigenous Women since they face specific constraints based on the intersectionality of gender and ethnicity, including the systematic lack of respect for their collective rights to land and natural resources, the persistent lack of disaggregated data that makes them invisible in research and policies, and their under representation in decision-making and policy processes. These intersecting factors shape access to services, resources, opportunities and more. For example, health is one of the key aspects affected by the negative impacts on climate change and the health vulnerability of Indigenous women is intensified due to their limited access to health services and infrastructure.
- In Ecuador, FAO Ecuador, through the **Forest and Farm Facility**, has supported Kichwa Indigenous women and producers by strengthening their capacities with technical assistance agreements. In partnership with the Women's Committee of Unorcac, Kichwa women formed a national network of forest and farm organizations and developed:
 - A basic management plan for Ecuador's National Network of Agricultural and Forestry Organizations (ROPAGE).
 - A study on women's participation in decision-making across network organizations.
 - An action plan to promote women's roles in organizational decision-making.
 - A national "Muyu Raymi Cotacachi" seed fair, including training sessions, gastronomy, and representation from ROPAGE.
 - A workshop to enhance financial education across the national network.

Events

March 2024

Knowledge Makers Conference – "Coyote Brings the Food: Healing the Land, While Healing from the Land": hosted by Thompson Rivers University – All My Relations Center with FAO. The Indigenous research conference celebrated and marked the completion of the Volume 8 - Special Edition of the Knowledge Makers Journal –

“Indigenous Women, Indigenous Peoples’ Food and Knowledge Systems, and Climate Action”.

Publications

- Thompson Rivers University and FAO.2024. **Knowledge Makers Special Edition: Indigenous Women, Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems, and Climate Action.** *Knowledge Makers Journal*, Vol. 8, 2023. Est.2016. Kamloops, Canada. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd3373en>
- FAO. 2024. **Intersectionality: A pathway for more inclusive, youth-oriented and gender-responsive agrifood systems.**<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3c6c2d75-833f-4817-8efa-f46089577c63/content>

Focus area: Indigenous Youth

- 2024 falls in the intersessional period of the **UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF)**: the II Session was held in 2023 and the III will take place in 2025. FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit facilitated spaces for Indigenous Youth to voice their priorities and to report on the outcomes and the recommendations stemmed from the II Session of the UNGIYF, enshrined in the 2023 **Rome Declaration on Safeguarding Seven Generations in Times of Food, Social and Ecological Crisis**.
- In April 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit actively participated to the 23rd Session of the UNPFII in New York, which was guided by the overarching theme “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth”. During the UNPFII, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized two side-events with a specific focus on Indigenous Youth: “[Calls to Action for Safeguarding Seven Generations in Times of Food, Social, and Ecological Crises: Reporting on the Outcomes of the 2023 UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum \(UNGIYF\)](#)”, and “[Indigenous Youth as game-changers in biodiversity conservation, nutrition and food systems transformation: Insights from the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' food systems](#)”.
- In October 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit worked with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) delegation Indigenous Youth to engage in the participation to different events and discussions during the 2024 **World Food Forum (WFF)** in Rome and the 2024 meeting of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples’ food systems. The Indigenous Youth delegation built on their previous work of launching the global campaign, “My Food Vision...” and the outcomes of the biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum.
- During the World Food Day Week & World Food Forum, the Indigenous Youth delegation spoke in more than participated in 22 events including mainstage events with the Youth Policy Board, and masterclasses. Additionally, a young Indigenous women leader from Guatemala spoke on the Young Women Scientists panel on the importance of supporting young Indigenous women’s knowledge and leadership. Furthermore, the Indigenous Youth delegation engaged in dialogues and working sessions with the Youth Policy Board, thematic youth assemblies and regional Youth Assembly workshops to share their feedback on regional priorities and pilot initiatives of the 2025 - 2026 **Global Youth Action Plan**. The GIYC hopes to continue building their working relationship with the Youth Policy Board and regional youth leadership.
- During the World Food Forum, the Right to Food team co-organized with the Office of Youth and Women (OYW) and FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit a side event on “**The right to adequate food - tools for youth to ensure this right for all**”. The event involved the participation of young Indigenous Peoples leaders and explored the collective dimension of the right to food of Indigenous Peoples linked to local and environmentally sustainable production practices.

- During the **2024 ECOSOC Youth Forum**, FAO, the Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD) and Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) co-led a session on SDG 2: *Feeding The Future: Youth and Sustainable Food Systems for All*. The session showcased youth-led best practices and scalable solutions related to SDG 2, including Indigenous Peoples' ones, while discussing young peoples' role in the implementation of SDG 2 and their inclusion in national youth consultative bodies. The session also identified practical steps to take young people and future generations meaningful engagement systematically into account in global decision-making processes. In this session, Indigenous youth from the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus played a significant role in supporting the overall process. Additionally, the panel discussion provided an opportunity for Indigenous youth to share their perspectives and experiences in agrifood systems.
<https://ecosoc.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/Feeding%20the%20Future.pdf>
<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k11/k11991cnt1>
- In the context of the 2024 meeting of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems, there were **three side-events dedicated to Indigenous Youth**. Two of them focused on the outcomes of the II Session of the UNGIYF and on the way forward to the 2025 III Session by delivering the regional priorities identified in the 2023 Indigenous Youth Rome Declaration, "Safeguarding Seven Generations in Times of Food, Social, and Ecological Crisis". One side-event was held in the Indigenous Nomadic Tents, while the other was [broadcasted live](#) from the FAO media centre. The third side-event, instead, focused on the impacts of ultra-processed foods on Indigenous Youth diets, cultures and health. Indigenous Youth leaders also contributed to the technical discussions in the Global-Hub meeting on poverty paper, as well as side-events about Indigenous Biocentric restoration and the connections between biodiversity and culinary traditions of Indigenous Peoples.
- During the Mainstage Event in the FAO media centre, mentioned above, the Director General delivered closing remarks. His speech can be found here: [WORLD FOOD FORUM 2024 GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM Mainstage Event: Indigenous Youth Voices in the Implementation of the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum Outcomes Closing Remarks](#).
- With a drafting committee of the Global-Hub and task force of Indigenous Youth, they will be delving into a research process and **collective paper on the impacts of ultra-processed foods on Indigenous Peoples' wellness**. The impacts of ultra-processed foods on Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Peoples' food systems are a priority that emerged from the II session of the UNGIYF in 2023 and will be a topic of focus in 2025.
- In 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit published several videos aimed to give visibility to Indigenous Youth's challenges, proposals, recommendations and to the transformative power of the UNGIYF. These videos, featuring interviews and footage from the II Session of the UNGIYF, were published on FAO corporate YouTube:
 - [The II Session of the UNGIYF](#);
 - [Indigenous Youth voices from the II Session of the UNGIYF, held at FAO in October 2023](#)

Events

October 2024

Indigenous Youth participated in the World Food Forum 2024.



2024 FAO REPORT TO UNDESA/UNPFII

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES AND INPUT TO THE 2024 SESSION

- i) Please provide information on measures taken since your last update to the Forum, on the implementation or planned implementation of the recommendations of the PFII

2024 UNPFII/UNDESA Recommendations to FAO

The 23rd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues (UNPFII) was held from 15-26 April 2024. This year's session had as its priority theme "'Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: emphasizing the voices of Indigenous youth".

The 23rd Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues in 2024, issued the following specific recommendation to FAO:

Green: Completed

Yellow: Ongoing

Red: Unresolved

Grey: Unrelated to FAOs mandate

2024 UNDESA-UNPFII Recommendation to FAO and status of implementation
Recommendation
43. The Permanent Forum welcomes the 2023 Indigenous youth Rome Declaration on Safeguarding Seven Generations in times of Food, Social, and Ecological Crisis that resulted from the second session of the Global Indigenous Youth Forum organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Forum encourages FAO and the Global Indigenous Youth Forum to hold regional consultations in all seven Indigenous regions before the third session of the Global Indigenous Youth Forum in 2025.

FAO is coordinating with the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus to hold regional consultations in the seven socio-cultural regions in early 2025.

2023 UNPFII/UNDESA RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO

The Twenty second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues in 2023, issued two specific recommendations to FAO.

UNDESA Recommendations to FAO resulting from the UNPFII 2023
Recommendations
39. The Permanent Forum encourages FAO to support the recognition and protection of Indigenous knowledge and systems related to food production and food generation, which include, inter alia, forestry, shifting cultivation, fisheries, whaling, livestock, pastoralism and hunting-gathering systems. (ongoing/completed)

81. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the progress made on its recommendation to FAO and WHO to revise the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management to include Indigenous Peoples' views. The Permanent Forum urges FAO and WHO to develop guidance notes on the risk of pesticide use in Indigenous Peoples' territories, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples.

Rec 39. The Permanent Forum encourages FAO to support the recognition and protection of Indigenous knowledge and systems related to food production and food generation, which include, inter alia, forestry, shifting cultivation, fisheries, whaling, livestock, pastoralism and hunting-gathering systems (ongoing/completed)

- Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems have been included in the **CFS Programme of Work** for the first time, marking an important milestone since the creation of the CFS and its subsequent reform in 2009.
- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit is the Secretariat of the [Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#), endorsed by the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in 2020. The Global-Hub is a space of co-creation of knowledge on Indigenous Peoples' food systems, blending scientific and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, which are considered at the same level of respect and consideration. Its objective is to enhance the learning, preservation, and promotion of Indigenous Peoples' food systems worldwide by (1) bridging the knowledge gap on Indigenous Peoples' food systems and (2) providing evidence-based information to ongoing policy discussions that affect Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- In October 2024, the [Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#), convened its second in-person meeting (14-18 October; see Annex). The 2024 in-person meeting brought together 53 Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts from 14 Universities, research centres and institutes, 13 Indigenous-led/co-led organizations and networks. Almost half of the experts were Indigenous experts. The meeting offered an opportunity to celebrate the Global-Hub's achievements since its creation, review the ongoing work of the drafting committees established at the 2023 Global-Hub in-person meeting, and consider the desired next steps and milestones for the coming years.
- **Four new drafting committees and five existing drafting committees:** four new drafting committees were established on 1) Indigenous Peoples and food security; 2) ocean and freshwater-based food systems; 3) food composition of Indigenous Peoples' foods; 4) hunting-gathering-fishing and pastoralism. The work of the already five established drafting committees will continue on 1) co-creation of knowledge and ethical research engagement; 2) Indigenous Peoples and poverty; 3) Collective paper on the importance of mobility nomadism, transhumance, collective rights for biodiversity; 4) ultra-processed food products and Indigenous Peoples' health; 5) Contributions to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. These committees play a crucial role in bridging the gap between Indigenous Peoples' traditional

knowledge systems and scientific knowledge, with the aim of producing evidence that addresses issues related to Indigenous Peoples' rights and their food and knowledge systems.

- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit served as Secretariat of the first-ever global Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, which was launched at FAO headquarters in Rome, resulting from the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. Seven Member States (Canada, Dominican Republic, Finland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, and Spain) and seven Indigenous Peoples from each of the seven socio-cultural regions of the world called upon the urgency to join forces to respect, preserve and promote Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems as game-changers for the benefit of all of humanity. The president of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues chairs the Coalition. In April 2024, the Secretariat moved to WFP.
- The Coalition played a key role during the UNFSS+2 Stocktaking Moment (2023) with the Special Session focusing on "Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems for the Future of Food, Biodiversity, and Climate Action" and in advocating for the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- In 2023, the FAO Forest and Farm Facility (FMM) financial and technical support has helped Indigenous Women to improve the marketing of diverse products, promoted the sustainability of diverse, traditional and Indigenous ancestral foods, and contributed to food security and high-quality nutrition in the face of climate change.
- FAO North America, with support from the FAO Nutrition Division, is completing a case study on the Canada Food Based Dietary Guidelines and the participatory process with Indigenous Peoples in formulation of the nutrition policy and guidelines in 2007 and 2019. This case study, involving key informants like Health Canada, Indigenous Services Canada, and Indigenous Nutritionists, aims to serve as a reference for other country governments interested in leading participatory processes with Indigenous Peoples for national food guides and nutrition policy.
- FAO continues to profile Indigenous Peoples' food systems using an established methodology. Until now, 8 profiles have been completed and more will be completed into a fourth edition of [The Indigenous Peoples' food systems](#) in 2025.

Rec 81. The Permanent Forum acknowledges the progress made on its recommendation to FAO and WHO to revise the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management to include Indigenous Peoples' views. The Permanent Forum urges FAO and WHO to develop guidance notes on the risk of pesticide use in Indigenous Peoples' territories, in consultation with Indigenous Peoples (ongoing).

- Different reports by the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Rights as well International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) have documented that Indigenous Peoples are particularly vulnerable to chemical exposure, including pesticide exposure. It is important to acknowledge the potential

negative impacts of pesticides in human health and environment of Indigenous Peoples. FAO (NSP, PSU, LEG), together with WHO have taken a series of activities to address the issue and have made concrete progress and results.

- **ITEM 2.7 of the 29th Session of the COAG (2024):** FAO technical units have been collaborating to respond to the UNPFII call to review and amend the [International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management](#) to bring it in line with the UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 standards, particularly on Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
- **During the 22nd session of the UNPFII**, following the recommendations of the 15th JMPM, FAO and IITC jointly organized a **side-event** on *Reforming of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management: Including Indigenous Peoples' perspective and Rights*. Within this context, a group of discussions was established to advance the amendment of the International FAO/WHO Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management. The objective was to incorporate provisions that respected the rights and concerns of Indigenous Peoples.
- This has been a priority issue of **FAO and WHO joint programme on pesticide management**. FAO together with WHO colleagues had several technical meetings with IITC on discussions on technical matters of development of the Guidance document and approach of amending the CoC in March, April, May, and August 2023. On this regard, the outcome is that IITC developed a document: *Guidance Information for Consideration By The Joint Meeting On Pesticide Management As A Basis For Amending The International Code Of Conduct On Pesticide Management – “Pesticides And The Rights Of Indigenous Peoples”* as an important source for JMPM discussion.
- In September 2022, a **technical meeting on the impact of toxic and pollutions on Indigenous Peoples** was organized at FAO headquarters with participation of the Chair of UNPFII, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Special Rapporteur on toxics and rights, FAO, WHO and Indigenous Peoples relevant colleagues. The meeting agreed about the need to amend the Code of Conduct on Pesticides management and on the need to strengthening pesticide management for better protection of Indigenous Peoples.
- In November 2022, the Development Law Service of the FAO Legal Office (LEGN) and the WHO Gender, Equity and Human Rights Team explicitly addressed the topic of human rights, and in particular, the rights of Indigenous Peoples at the **15TH FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM)**. For this, FAO and WHO developed a joint paper on *“Human rights in the context of pesticides management”*, which was presented at the meeting. The paper explains the international law obligations of States on human rights in the context of pesticide management, explains the implementation of these legal obligations and standards through concrete case law at national and international jurisdictions, and puts forward concrete recommendations to modify the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management according to the

international human rights law.

- The 15th FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management (JMPM) invited Mr Marcos Orellana, the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, and Ms Andrea Carmen, the Executive Director of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) to discuss their Proposals for the inclusion of reference to Indigenous Peoples and Safeguards for Human Rights in the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (CoC). During the 15th JMPM session, two important recommendations were made:
 - The JMPM recommends the initiation of the process of revision of the Code of Conduct of Pesticide Management (CoC), taking into account issues, such as Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights.
 - The development of separate FAO/WHO Guidance documents on protecting Indigenous Peoples from negative impacts of pesticides.

2022 UNPFII RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO (UPDATED FROM 2022 FAO REPORT TO UNDESA/UNPFII)

The Twenty-first Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues in 2022, issued six specific recommendations to FAO. One of them has been implemented (green) and five are ongoing (yellow).

UNDESA Recommendations to FAO resulting from the UNPFII 2022
Recommendations
9. The Permanent Forum recommends that the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant United Nations system agencies, in cooperation with the Permanent Forum, study and summarize practices regarding the implementation of free, prior and informed consent globally, that they widely disseminate successful experiences and that they present their findings to the Permanent Forum at its twenty-fourth session, to be held in 2025.
57. The year 2022 is the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. The Permanent Forum therefore recommends that FAO prepare a study on the impacts of industrial fishing on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in regard to traditional fishing. The Permanent Forum invites the Organization to share the findings of said study at the twenty-third session of the Permanent Forum, to be held in 2024.
73. The Permanent Forum recommends that, in the context of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, FAO and ILO conduct a study on the human rights violations suffered by Indigenous Peoples in the fishing sector. The Permanent Forum invites those organizations to present their findings at the annual session of the Permanent Forum to be held in 2024.
77. The Permanent Forum requests that FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme, with the participation of Indigenous Peoples, develop a technical policy paper on Indigenous Peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and natural resources in the context of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security for submission to the Committee on World Food Security.

82. The Permanent Forum calls on FAO and WHO to amend the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management to take into account the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples. (refer to UNDESA Rec. 81 from 2021)

91. The Permanent Forum applauds the creation of the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems and will contribute to its efforts. Furthermore, the Permanent Forum will invite discussions on indigenous peoples' preparations for the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Rec 9. The Permanent Forum recommends that the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant United Nations system agencies, in cooperation with the Permanent Forum, study and summarize practices regarding the implementation of free, prior and informed consent globally, that they widely disseminate successful experiences and that they present their findings to the Permanent Forum at its twenty fourth session, to be held in 2025 (ongoing).

- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is essential in FAO's work. In fact, FPIC is the cornerstone of [FAO's Policy on Indigenous Peoples](#), and it is made operational by the [FAO Manual on FPIC](#). FPIC is reflected in [FAO's Environmental and Social Management Guidelines](#) and in the Programme and Project Review Committee.
- FAO, together with the European Union, is chairing the **FPIC donors task force**, established in 2019, and has taken the leading role for the organization of the FPIC Donor Task Force Workshop in FAO headquarters in early 2025.
- FAO is about to recruit a **FPIC dedicated officer** to coordinate the implementation of the FPIC pillar of work at FAO and to provide technical support/analysis and advice to various assessments, studies and initiatives of projects and programmes involving FPIC policies/procedures and Indigenous Peoples.
- In 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit review 44 projects of the **Programme and Project Review Committee** (PPRC) to ensure that FPIC was appropriately integrated. This effort entailed several meetings with project developers to provide guidance and support.
- In **Panama**, FAO, the Government and Indigenous Peoples have elaborated a **regulation** on the Free Prior and Informed Consent procedure and presented it to the Indigenous Council in Panama in 2022. In 2023, the regulation was presented to the Panama government for adoption.
- In 2023, FAORLC organized a Virtual course with tutor about "[Fundamental elements of Free, Prior and Informed Consent \(FPIC\): A view from Latin America and the Caribbean](#)". 186 participants from 15 countries in the region completed the 60 hours of technical content spread across seven weeks. It is aimed at designers, planners and implementers of FAO projects and programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its main purpose was to recognize the basic

aspects of FPIC and its methodological application (the 6 fundamental steps) according to standards proposed by FAO.

- At the 21st Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized the event [FPIC for Climate Action: Acknowledging Indigenous Peoples as guardians for biodiversity](#) to discuss the current challenges and good practices in the implementation of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes in climate action projects.
- In Panamá, a **step-by-step approach to develop FPIC was developed as guidelines for REDD+** projects that consider the different Indigenous Peoples governments in Panama.

Rec 57. The year 2022 is the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. The Permanent Forum therefore recommends that FAO prepare a study on the impacts of industrial fishing on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in regard to traditional fishing. The Permanent Forum invites the Organization to share the findings of said study at the twenty-third session of the Permanent Forum, to be held in 2024 (ongoing).

- At the margins of the 22nd session of the UNPFII, FAO technically supported DIHR and IWGIA that convened a hybrid [Expert Meeting](#). The meeting focused on examining the **impacts of fisheries governance and related policies on Indigenous Peoples' rights about traditional fishing**. It aimed to inform the response to recommendation 57, covering sub-themes like: a. Governance of tenure in fisheries b. Conservation measures c. Socio-economic impacts d. Fisheries subsidies 6. Criminalization of Indigenous Peoples' fisheries 7. Links to global policy processes and initiatives, including the Global Biodiversity Framework, the advancement of the SSF Guidelines, the UN High Seas Treaty, among others.
- FAO participated in the plenary expert panel for **Item 8** of the **16th Session of the EMRIP**: "[Panel discussions on the right of Indigenous Peoples to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities, with a focus on fishing practices; and on the impact of the legacies of colonialism on LGBTQIA+ members of Indigenous Peoples](#)".
- In 2023, FAO in collaboration with Duke University and WorldFish published a study titled [Illuminating Hidden Harvests. The contributions of small-scale fisheries to sustainable development](#). This global study uncovers the contributions and impacts of small-scale fisheries through a multidisciplinary approach to data collection and analysis. It was carried out in support of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), which they developed in recognition of the plight of small-scale fishers, fishworkers and associated communities and released as a contribution to the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022.

- The International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, led by FAO, aimed to raise awareness on Indigenous Peoples fisheries. In this sense, different activities have been developed:
- The August 2022 newsletter edition was dedicated to Indigenous Peoples, featuring an interview of the newly appointed President of the UNPFII.
- The **UNPFII 2022 side event** on '[Collective and tenure rights for sustainable Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems in the context of the 10th anniversary of the VGGT and the IYAFA 2022](#)', was jointly organized by FAO, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), Ekta Parishad, and the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) 2022.
- The UN Oceans conference in Lisbon (June/July 2022) side event on "[Small in scale, big in value: Stocktaking, partnerships, and solutions in support of small-scale fisheries. A IYAFA 2022 event](#)" featured Indigenous Peoples.
- Indigenous Peoples fisheries had a dedicated session in the [Small-Scale Fisheries Summit](#), held in Rome on 2-4 September 2022, and organized by the IPC Working Group on Fisheries, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), SSF Hub with support from FAO (see [report](#)). The FAO Committee on Fisheries recommended to organize such Small-Scale Fisheries Summit every two years, prior to the Committee's meetings which provides an important future opportunity for Indigenous Peoples fishers to engage in global policy processes related to fisheries and other related issues.
- Indigenous Peoples representatives attended the [FAO Committee on Fisheries](#), from 5-9 September, and held dedicated meetings with staff from the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Division and the Indigenous Peoples Unit to discuss priority areas of support. Securing access to sources was identified as a key area, as well as the support of indigenous youth.
- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and FAO Fisheries Unit had a full-time expert dedicated to follow up the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.
- FAO's Liaison Office with the Russian Federation (FAOLOR) has been promoting the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA), specifically, by involving regional partners and increasing awareness. One of them is the Murmansk region as a potential regional partner.
- FAOLOR, together with the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), held a Roundtable on "Small-scale Fisheries: Challenges and Successes" moderated

by FAOLOR director. The panelists and participants paid special attention to Indigenous Peoples of the North and their fishing rights.

Rec 73. The Permanent Forum recommends that, in the context of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, FAO and ILO conduct a study on the human rights violations suffered by Indigenous Peoples in the fishing sector. The Permanent Forum invites those organizations to present their findings at the annual session of the Permanent Forum to be held in 2024 (ongoing).

- FAO has approached ILO to discuss this recommendation.
- The upcoming **Collective Paper on the importance of Indigenous Peoples' mobility, nomadism, transhumance, and collective rights for biodiversity** by the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems considers the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples' fishers and the importance of respecting these rights.

Rec 77. The Permanent Forum requests that FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme, with the participation of indigenous peoples, develop a technical policy paper on Indigenous Peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and natural resources in the context of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security for submission to the Committee on World Food Security (ongoing)

- A **Collective Paper on the importance of mobility nomadism, transhumance, collective rights for biodiversity** is being coordinated by the [Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#), with the support of FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, and with the contributions of Indigenous Peoples across the seven socio-cultural regions. The policy paper will highlight the importance of securing collective rights to land, territories, water and natural resources for Indigenous Peoples' food security and livelihoods, and their fundamental roles in biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. This paper aims to amplify Indigenous Peoples' voices, expertise, knowledge systems and recommendations in global discussions on conservation, climate change, and food security.
- A **Technical Guide on Indigenous Peoples' Governance of Tenure after 12 years of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)** will be released in 2025.
- The Chair of the UNPFII participated in the 50th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to lead the request to start the process of discussion to have drafted Voluntary Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples.
- During the 50th Session of the CFS, a side event on ["Collective rights to lands, water, territories, and natural resources for sustainable Indigenous Peoples' food systems and biocentric](#)

[restoration](#)” was organized by FAO to call attention to the urgency and immeasurable cost of insecure rights of Indigenous Peoples on their lands, waters and territories in form of lost opportunities for climate mitigation, conservation, ecological restoration and sustainable food systems for the global community.

Rec 82. The Permanent Forum calls on FAO and WHO to amend the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management to take into account the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples (ongoing).

- See Rec. 83, 2022 UNPFII Recommendations to FAO

Rec 91. The Permanent Forum applauds the creation of the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems and will contribute to its efforts. Furthermore, the Permanent Forum will invite discussions on Indigenous Peoples’ preparations for the high-level political forum on sustainable development (complete/ongoing)

- FAO was the secretariat of the first-ever global [Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, from its launch in 2022 up to April 2023. It is made up of seven Member States \(Canada, Dominican Republic, Finland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway and Spain\)](#) and seven Indigenous representatives from each of the socio-cultural regions of the world, [selected during the 2022 regional consultations](#). The president of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples chairs the Coalition.
- After establishing strong governance in 2022, the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems developed a detailed workplan with nine key focus areas. Until when FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit held the Secretariat, the Coalition reached 14 Members, with Brazil as the most recent member to have joined in March 2024, enhancing the Coalition's efforts and strengthening its impact. This growth was a significant step forward in supporting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems.

2021 UNPFII RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO (UPDATED FROM 2021 FAO REPORT TO UNDESA/UNPFII)

The Twentieth Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues in 2021, issued six specific recommendations to FAO. Two of them have been implemented (green) and four are ongoing (yellow). For the 2022 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture, the update is included in the 2022 recommendations.

UNDESA Recommendations to FAO resulting from the UNPFII 2021
Recommendations
29. The Forum also calls upon the United Nations system and specialized agencies, including FAO to support Member States in the protection of Indigenous Peoples’ habitats and cultures in the Amazon region in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples.

76. The Permanent Forum welcomes the launching by FAO the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems. It recommends that FAO continue to facilitate the work of the Global-Hub. The Permanent Forum welcomes the White/Wiphala paper on Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
78. The Permanent Forum recommends that FAO organize dialogues for Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic, North America, Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, and the Pacific region to support Indigenous Peoples in preparing for the Summit.
79. The Permanent Forum recommends that FAO develop an action plan to identify priorities with Indigenous Peoples to support their participation in the 2022 International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture [Updated under 2022 Recommendation 57].
80. The Permanent Forum welcomes the decision by FAO to observe an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 and encourages Member States to support the participation of Indigenous Peoples in events leading up to the year.
97. The Permanent Forum recommends that WHO and FAO, together with the Inter-agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, promote dialogue forums at the national and regional levels between government ministries and Indigenous Peoples to establish culturally relevant strategies for addressing the epidemiological risks and the food and environmental crises resulting from the pandemic, as well as for addressing access to justice and the safeguarding of Indigenous Peoples' territorial control.

Rec 29. The Forum also calls upon the United Nations system and specialized agencies, including FAO to support Member States in the protection of Indigenous Peoples' habitats and cultures in the Amazon region in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples (ongoing).

- In June 2024, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See at FAO organized the event [Amazon: New paths for the Church and for an integral ecology](#), where FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit presented on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration at the event.
- In **Colombia**, the GCF is implementing a project titled "**The Vision Amazonia**", which ensures Indigenous participation through structured consultation processes on key program documents, including the Indigenous Pillar (PIVA). A pedagogical tool translates technical content into accessible formats using ecological calendars rooted in Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, increasing understanding and engagement. This innovative approach enhances participation, especially among women and youth, while facilitating sustainable Amazonian conservation.
- In August 2023, in Brazil, as part of the **Amazon Dialogues initiative** promoted by the Government of Brazil, FAORLC supported the organization of a technical event called "**Dialogues on Amazon Bioeconomy and Inclusive Rural Transformation**", which took place in the city of Belém, state of Pará, Brazil. The event featured key participants such as the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, Sonia Guajajara, Dario Mejia, President of The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Fanny Kuiu, General Coordinator of COICA, as well as a wide participation of Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and ancestral authorities to ensure that the rights and ancestral knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples are well represented.
- The FAO Forest and Farm Facility and the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forest organized an **international knowledge exchange on community mechanisms for territorial climate**

financing in México (7-9 October 2022) with the participation of organizations from Mesoamerica, Amazonia, Brazil, Africa and Asia.

- FAO implemented in partnership with the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR) the **Indigenous Peoples Biocentric Restoration Programme in the Amazon basin** in Ecuador.
- The **FAO-EU FLEGT Programme (Phase III)**, which closed in 2022, took steps to address the recommendations of the UNPFII. The Programme worked closely with Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon region, establishing platforms and training independent monitoring (Peru), developing FPIC protocols (Honduras), and improving the scope and enforcement the land, forest and timber tenure or user rights of Indigenous Peoples. This work showcased the importance of partnerships with government authorities to achieve the sustainability of processes conducted in the communities. The FAO-EU FLEGT Programme's work in the Amazon region, as well as in Asia and Africa, enabled partnerships with a wide array of relatively new and unknown grantees, including Indigenous Peoples' organizations, who gained valuable project management experience and enabling access to future grants. Many Indigenous Peoples' organization who received Programme funding now have improved credibility leading to a stronger voice and greater access to national processes.
- In Colombia, a joint workplan with the [Organización Nacional de Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Colombia \(OPIAC\)](#), has been developed and covers several topics: i) food security and Indigenous Peoples' food systems, ii) sustainable forests management with an Indigenous Peoples approach and iii) opportunities to strengthen capacities of Indigenous Peoples on REDD+.
- In Colombia, in the framework of the implementation of REDD+ RBP project, FAO has accompanied two discussion spaces between Colombia's national government and the [Mesa Regional Amazónica \(MRA\)](#) as a guarantee of due process of Prior Consultation to [Programa Visión Amazonía](#). In this context, FAO has provided information related to its Indigenous Peoples Policy and its guidelines for FPIC.
- In Ecuador, FAO has joined forces with the National University of Loja, [PROAMAZONIA](#) (Ministry of Environment and Water of Ecuador, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and UNDP) to strengthen capacities of 77 Indigenous Peoples communities for the conservation and management of the forest. Additionally, edu-communicational booklets and infographics were elaborated.

Rec. 76: The Permanent Forum welcomes the launching by FAO the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems. It recommends that FAO continue to facilitate the work of the Global-Hub. The Permanent Forum welcomes the White/Wiphala paper on Indigenous Peoples' food systems. (complete/ongoing).

- Created in 2018 and endorsed in 2020 by the Technical Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the [Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#) is an active think-tank capable of co-creating knowledge and providing evidence-based contributions on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems in critical moments, by bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts, scientists and researchers. It aims to identify research gaps on Indigenous Peoples' food systems; to mobilize scientific and traditional knowledge systems and provide evidence on the sustainability of Indigenous Peoples' food systems and most of all contribute to the global debate [on sustainable food systems and climate change](#).
- During the [27th session of FAO's Technical Committee on Agriculture \(COAG\)](#), [FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit along with Member Countries launched the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#), within the plenary discussions on "Operationalizing a food systems approach to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda". It has been endorsed by representatives of Argentina, Algeria on behalf of the Africa Regional Group, Australia, Canada, Germany, on behalf of the European Union-27, Guinea, Dominican Republic, New Zealand, Malaysia, and the Russian Federation.
- Its flagship publication, the [Wiphala Paper](#), revolutionized the understanding of Indigenous Peoples' food systems and enabled scientists to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples as game changers for sustainability and the overall transformation of food systems.
- In October 2024, the [Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#), convened its second in-person meeting (14-18 October; see Annex). The 2024 in-person meeting brought together 53 Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts from 14 Universities, research centres and institutes, 13 Indigenous-led/co-led organizations and networks. Almost half of the experts were Indigenous experts. 20 out of the 31 Global-Hub members were represented. The meeting offered an opportunity to celebrate the Global-Hub's achievements since its creation, review the ongoing work of the drafting committees established at the 2023 Global-Hub in-person meeting, and consider the desired next steps and milestones for the coming years.
- Following this meeting **4 new members and 3 new collaborators** joined the Global-Hub, bringing the total number to **35 member institutions and 5 individual collaborators**.
- The meeting agreed to open a stream of work to support the work of the [High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition](#) (HLPE-FSN) on its upcoming report on "Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems, and traditional practices for sustainable food systems".
- **Four new drafting committees** were also created established on 1) Indigenous Peoples and food security; 2) ocean and freshwater-based food systems; 3) food composition of Indigenous

Peoples' foods; 4) hunting-gathering-fishing and pastoralism. The work of the five existing drafting committees will continue on 1) co-creation of knowledge and ethical research engagement; 2) Indigenous Peoples and poverty; 3) Collective paper on the importance of mobility nomadism, transhumance, collective rights for biodiversity; 4) ultra-processed food products and Indigenous Peoples' health; 5) Contributions to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. **Two areas of work** on a) narrative and b) approaches within the Global-Hub and policy recommendations were also opened.

- In 2023, the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems had its **first-ever face-to-face meeting**, where it had been discussed and agreed the urgent need for evidence generation that would influence policymaking. More than 80 participants from seven global regions, including universities, research centers, and 13 Indigenous Peoples' organizations, gathered. Representatives from seven FAO members, six UN agencies, and 15 of the 20 founding Global-Hub members were present, making this a significant and collaborative event.
- The Global-Hub was spotlighted as an important platform for targeted research and evidence generation in the 42nd Special Edition of the scientific journal Agriculture for Development (Ag4Dev42) on Food Systems Transformations for Inclusive and Sustainable Development.
- The Global-Hub was [recognized by FAO Director-General Dr. Qu Dongyu, during the FAO Council 166th session](#), as one of FAO's main coordination efforts to provide evidence on resilience and sustainability, due to its ability to inform the global debate on the transformation of current food systems to make them sustainable and resilient especially in the context of the UN Food Systems Summit, which took place in September 2021.
- [UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, at the Food Systems Science Days](#), recognized and congratulated the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems for its work and exchanges with the scientific group to ensure Indigenous Peoples' food systems are included in the UNFSS.
- The [White/Wiphala Paper on Indigenous Peoples' food systems](#) was a collective effort involving more than 39 different organizations in 6 socio cultural regions of the world. The White/Wiphala paper was drafted and coordinated by The Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems. The Technical Editorial Committee of indigenous and non-indigenous experts went through the 60 different inputs and contributions received and structured the paper in support of the five action tracks of the UNFSS. The White/Wiphala paper was recognized as a key reference and evidence-based document for the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) and was among the technical papers used by the Scientific Group to inform the UNFSS. The Global-Hub and the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized a series of Exchange of Knowledge with the Scientific Group and the technical committees of the Action Tracks to present the White/Wiphala paper. These exchanges and technical dialogues were fundamental in complementing the national and regional dialogues and ensure the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems in the September UN food systems Summit. [Further expanded under 2019 Recommendation on

Indigenous Peoples' food system]

- Under the leadership of the University of Cambridge within the Global-Hub, a journal article [“Rethinking hierarchies of evidence for sustainable food systems”](#), was written and published in November 2021 in Nature Food. In the context of the UN Food Systems Summit, this article call the attention, to the lack of inclusiveness in regards to Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge systems in policy making. The article warns of the continuous consequences of marginalization of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge, calling for a necessary mind-shift for global food system transformation agendas and actions. The article invites the reader to shift perspective and consider the accumulated evidence on the validity of traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples for sustainable food systems and resilience.

Rec. 78: The Permanent Forum recommends that FAO organize dialogues for Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic, North America, Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, and the Pacific region to support Indigenous Peoples in preparing for the Summit (complete).

FAO organized in chronological order the following dialogues with Indigenous Peoples:

- **Contributions from Indigenous Peoples' food systems to Action Track 2 and the shift to healthy and sustainable consumption patterns**, 7 April 2021. FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized a technical exchange of knowledge between the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems and Action Track 2 of the UN Food Systems Summit. The objective was to discuss the main findings from the ongoing research on Indigenous Peoples' food systems, providing key proposals to support Action Track 2 on Healthy and Sustainable consumption patterns.
- **Contributions from Indigenous Peoples' food systems to Action Track 1 and ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all**, 18 May 2021. FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized the technical discussion between experts of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems and the technical committee of the Action Track 1 of the UN Food Systems Summit. During this exchange of knowledge, the Global-Hub experts provided feedback and inputs on the proposed game- changing solutions presented by Action Track 1. The technical discussion resulted in key recommendations and inputs of “game-changing” nature from Global-Hub experts to support the work of Action Track 1. Specifically, on expanded social protection, access to crop diversity, protection of Indigenous Peoples' seed knowledge, intercultural perspectives for food system transformation, and intercultural co-creation of knowledge.
- **First Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Regional Dialogue on Food Systems**, 3-4 June 2021, The Inuit Circumpolar Council, Saami Council, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, and UNPFII co-organized the first regional dialogue with Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic in preparation for the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit and Summit. The objective of the session was to identify contributions, key messages, and “game- changing” solutions from Arctic Indigenous Peoples to inform the sustainable food systems debate. This was one of the dialogues organized by and for Indigenous

Peoples to advance their inputs and engagement in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. The dialogue resulted in the [Arctic Region Declaration in Preparation for the Global Food Systems Summit](#). The full report can be found [here](#).

- FAO North America coordinated with FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the UNPFII Regional experts to coordinate the [North American regional dialogue](#) to support Indigenous Peoples in preparing for and contributing to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. Indigenous representatives from North America who had attended the first regional dialogue of the December 2020 High-level Expert seminar organized by FAO and the UNPFII, reconvened now to consolidate actionable recommendations from Canada and United States to the UN Food Systems Summit. The recommendations were organized around the five action tracks and emphasized the importance of Indigenous leadership and expertise in all mechanisms and proposals from the UN Food Systems Summit. Full report [here](#).
- [Global Indigenous Youth Forum](#). June 2021. In accordance with this UNPFII recommendation, the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus co-organized, the first biennial Global Indigenous Youth Forum. The Forum gathered over 150 indigenous youth from the seven sociocultural regions of the world and resulted in the “Indigenous Youth Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems” in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). [Further expanded under 2019 Recommendation on Indigenous Peoples’ food system].
- **Rome UN Food Systems Pre-Summit**. July 2021. The FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit supported the delegation of Indigenous leaders that attended the UN Food systems Pre-summit, organized by the Government of Italy and hosted in FAO headquarters. The Indigenous Peoples delegation consisting of 9 delegates in Rome and 4 participating virtually from the different regions, took part in 14 sessions. The main Indigenous Peoples Plenary session “Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems: Game-changing solutions for the world” was opened by one minute of silence in memory of the indigenous youth found dead in boarding schools across the world. The Global-Hub participated in 3 affiliated sessions, out of which one was dedicated to the White/Wiphala paper on Indigenous Peoples’ food systems (organized by FAO and the Global-Hub). The Global-Hub also participated in the People’s parallel Summit.

Rec 80. The Permanent Forum welcomes the decision by FAO to observe an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 and encourages Member States to support the participation of Indigenous Peoples in events leading up to the year (ongoing).

- In 2024 the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples’ Food Systems drafted a new **Collective Paper on the importance of Indigenous Peoples’ mobility, nomadism, transhumance, and collective rights for biodiversity**. The paper presents evidence on the importance of Indigenous Peoples’ collective rights and access to resources. It was presented during the 2024 meeting of the Global-Hub that took place in October in Rome, and during a side-event at UNCCD COP 16 in Riyadh.

- The FAO Liaison Office for Russia (FAOLOR) welcomes the decision to observe an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 and will continue supporting the preparation of ‘dossiers’ for GIAHS sites in the Russian Federation. In 2022, FAOLOR is working to promote a proposal from the Sakha Republic “The Tuimaada, Erkeeni, Ensieli Herding Systems Valleys”. Traditional practices of the Indigenous Sakha People – herd horse breeding, pastured meat and dairy cattle breeding – will be considered an important agricultural heritage system in need of acknowledgement and preservation.

2019 UNPFII RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAO (2020 UNPFII SUSPENDED DUE COVID19)

All of the recommendations to FAO issued during the 19th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues in 2019 have been implemented (green).

UNDESA Recommendations to FAO resulting from the UNPFII 2019
Recommendations
90.a Indigenous young people towards the creation of a forum on Indigenous young people in the coming years;
90.b Indigenous food systems, in particular in relation to the links with traditional knowledge, climate change and the respect of Indigenous Peoples’ rights to their lands, territories and resources;
90.c Indigenous women (the global campaign on Indigenous women and the leadership and food security schools for Indigenous women).

Rec. 90.a: The creation of a forum on Indigenous Youth (complete).

- 2024 is an intersessional period between the II and the III Session of the biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF). This year has been strategically important to capitalize on the II Session of the UNGIYF (2023) and its outcomes, making the voices and messages of Indigenous Youth heard in international fora like the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the World Food Forum (WFF).
- From the 16 to the 20 of October, FAO hosted the [II Session of the Biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum](#), the first one held in-person. Organized by the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, the Association of the World Reindeer Herders, the Indigenous Nomad FoodLab and Docip with the secretariat support of FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, this historic event brought together 184 Indigenous Youth from the seven socio-cultural regions. For the first time in UN history, face to face to discussions took place on Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems. The Forum’s discussions between Indigenous Youth and FAO Member States, UN agencies, and various stakeholders, revolved around Indigenous Peoples’ food and knowledge systems, climate and biodiversity action, the impact of ultra-processed foods and pesticides on

Indigenous Peoples' health, the safeguarding of Indigenous Peoples' plant genetic resources, and Indigenous-led education.

- The UNGIYF resulting Indigenous Youth Declaration “**Rome Declaration on Safeguarding Future Generations in times of Food, Social, and Ecological Crisis**” will be read at COP 28 and was already pre-shared during the CFS session in October with the member countries. It focuses on policies and actions necessary for the present and future of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems.
- A comprehensive media outreach strategy was employed to increase awareness and highlight the importance of the Forum. This included a media advisory, two press conferences, one before and the other [after, a press release](#), and a [podcast](#). The outreach effort resulted in 48 articles being identified, including coverage from Indonesia, India, Norway, India, United States, and Australia, among others. The articles reached a total of 172.784.022 readers worldwide.
- FAO Director General at his opening remarks during FAO council in December 2023 highlighted the relevance of the UNGIYF in 2023 gathering more than 186 Indigenous Youth in FAO Headquarters in October 2023.
- During the 20th session of the UNPFII, the Network of Indigenous Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red de Jóvenes Indígenas (LAC), the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (LAC Region), FAO, UN Food Systems Summit Champions, FILAC and the International Land Coalition (ILC) hosted the side event “Contributions of Indigenous youth in the strengthening of Indigenous Peoples' food systems”, showcasing the initiatives and concerns of Indigenous youth with regards to Indigenous Peoples' food systems.
- In attendance of the UNDESA/UNPFII's recommendation to organize a UN Forum on Indigenous Youth, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, [Global Indigenous Youth Caucus \(GIYC\) and the Indigenous Champions of the UN Food Systems Summit 2021](#) co-organized the Global Indigenous Youth Forum leading up to the UN Food System Summit (16-18 June 2021). The Forum was held in a virtual format with more than 150 participants each day and thousands of viewers following the livestream. Indigenous youth from all socio-cultural regions gathered over the three days in 3 global sessions, as well as five regional consultations. Their input resulted in the “[Indigenous Youth Global Declaration on Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems](#)”, which was delivered to the UN Food Systems Summit Secretariat and other relevant policymakers and stakeholders. The declaration highlights the importance of meaningful engagement of Indigenous youth in food systems policy processes, the need for intercultural education and the need to recognize Indigenous youth's innovative approaches in new policy development.
- At the [G20 Youth 20 Summit July 2021](#), [Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of FAO](#) presented the organization's work on youth, with substantial focus on Indigenous youth, with inputs from FAO

Indigenous Peoples Unit.

- In celebration of the International Youth Day, UNDESA and FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit hosted a roundtable on Indigenous youth and food systems transformation with Indigenous youth from the Pacific and Asia. The roundtable focused on climate change; Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and interculturality; land and natural resource management; Indigenous Peoples' food systems; and biocentric ecosystem restoration.
- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit worked closely with the World Food Forum (WFF) secretariat to ensure inclusion of Indigenous youth on the following engagements: i) Indigenous youth in High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development side event: From Strategy to Action: Youth leadership in agri-food systems transformation and innovation for a better food future for everyone, everywhere. ii) Indigenous youth's participation in the Food Security Session at the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth's #YouthLead Innovation Festival. iii) A dedicated session on Indigenous youth's contribution to food systems transformation. And iv) a side event in North America on [Food is Medicine: North American Indigenous Chefs & Youth Leading the Way](#). The World Food Forum was open with a spiritual ceremony, after the Holy See intervention, from an Indigenous young shaman.
- The FAO Liaison Office for Russia (FAOLOR) held a webinar on "[Youth Vision on Future Consumer Trends and Food Systems](#)" as an Independent Dialogue in preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021. Indigenous Peoples' leaders from Russia spoke of the importance of traditional economic activities for educating younger generations. In addition, FAOLOR hosted two Indigenous youth interns from the Russian Federation focused on Indigenous Peoples' food systems of Russia.

Rec. 90.b: Indigenous Peoples' food systems (complete)

- See also Rec.76, 2021.
- In June 2021, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT released the third volume of the Indigenous Peoples' food systems FAO series titled, [Indigenous Peoples' food systems: Insights on sustainability and resilience from the front line of climate change](#). This flagship publication presents profiles of eight traditional Indigenous Peoples' food systems providing an overview of the common and unique sustainability elements and climate resilience of Indigenous Peoples' food systems in looking into adequacy of diet and livelihoods, management of natural resources, conservation of nature, traditional governance systems and links to traditional knowledge and Indigenous Peoples' languages. It also depicts some drivers affecting present and future of Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems. The book received the 2021 Best in the World Sustainability Report Hall of Fame award by the Gourmand Awards of the Hallbars Sustainability Research Institute at the Alfred Nobel Museum in Karlskoga, Sweden. A

Virtual Award ceremony took place in September 2021, awarding all those who took part in the research and creation of the book.

- FAO continues its work of profiling Indigenous Peoples' food systems across the world. Since the [third volume](#) of the Indigenous Peoples' food systems was published in 2021, eight new Indigenous Peoples' profiles have been finalized as follows: i) Nomadic pastoralist food system of the Malikler tribe, Shahsevan Confederacy, Iran; ii) marine fishers food system of the Soheili village of Qeshm Island, Iran; iii) nomadic hunter-gatherers food system of the Orang Rimba in the rainforest in Jimba, Indonesia; iv) traditional rice cultivation food system of the Kasepuhan Cibedug, and food systems of the Dayak in Kalimantan, Indonesia; v) cultivation and wild edibles food system of the Tujia, China; vi) Indigenous People's food system of the Kiwcha people, Kichwa Casco Valenzuela community, Imbabura province, Ecuador; vii) Pastoralist food system of the Kyrgyz people, Kara-Suu village, Ak-Kya Rural District, Kochkor region, Naryn Oblast, Kyrgyzstan; viii) Ju/'hoansi Indigenous hunter-gatherer people of the Nyae Nyae Conservancy. With these new profiles, the aim is to produce a new publication with evidence on sustainability and resilience of Indigenous Peoples' food systems in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the SDG2.

Rec. 90.c: Recommendations on Indigenous Women (complete)

- [Special Edition of the Knowledge Makers](#): FAO and Thompson Rivers University launched an edition of the Knowledge Makers program, which brought together an international cohort of 21 Indigenous Women to strengthen and increase skills for Indigenous-led knowledge sharing and research. FAO North America is supporting the publication of the first international Indigenous Women's Knowledge Makers research cohort and journal, focusing on Indigenous Women, Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems, and climate action. This pilot project includes an online research course, culminating in a journal publication and launch seminar, addressing multiple needs by increasing building capacity and sharing a scalable methodology. In this framework, FAOLOR published an [interview](#) with one of the programme finalists, an Indigenous Woman from the Sakha Republic.
- In early March 2024, Thompson Rivers University – All My Relations Center with FAO hosted the **Knowledge Makers Indigenous Research Conference** at the Kamloops campus in British Columbia, Canada. The conference celebrated and marked the completion of the Volume 8 - Special Edition of the Knowledge Makers Journal – “Indigenous Women, Indigenous Peoples' Food and Knowledge Systems, and Climate Action”.
- The 2024 FAO Publication, "[Intersectionality: A pathway for more inclusive, youth-oriented and gender-responsive agrifood systems](#)", has a special focus on Indigenous Women since Indigenous women face specific constraints based on the intersectionality of gender and ethnicity, including the systematic lack of respect for their collective rights to land and natural resources, the persistent lack of disaggregated data that makes them invisible in research and

policies, and their under representation in decision-making and policy processes. These intersecting factors shape access to services, resources, opportunities and more. For example, health is one of the key aspects affected by the negative impacts on climate change and the health vulnerability of Indigenous women is intensified due to their limited access to health services and infrastructure.

- The 2023 FAO Report, "[The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#)," has a special focus on Indigenous Women. This report, rooted in a blend of quantitative and qualitative data, thoroughly examines the underlying causes of inequalities that hinder women's participation in both economic and social aspects. Furthermore, it offers concrete recommendations for ensuring women's equality.
 - FAOLOR joined the [Northern Women Forum](#) (5-7 June), where the fundamental role of Russia's Indigenous women in preserving Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and languages was discussed.
 - In the framework of the 49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), SEWA, IFPRI and FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit organized a [CFS side-event: Women farmers and Indigenous Women's views on climate change, COVID-19 and the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment](#). The event offered an opportunity for Indigenous and rural women to provide comments about the challenges faced by women farmers and Indigenous women from climate change and Covid-19. These comments were to be incorporated into the CFS Zero Draft Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition.
 - In Bolivia, FAO Bolivia, in coordination with the local government supported women of Moncoxon nation Lomerio in strengthening their capacities with the technical assistance of the Association of Beekeepers of the Department of Santa Cruz (ADAPICRUZ). The women organized themselves into groups of producers, strengthened their technical capacities for honey production and made beehives using wood from their land. This year, this women group have started harvesting honey from native bees and apis. As a result of the support, the Women association has the capacities and equipment for producing honey and value-added products such as propolis, shampoo, and honey for medicinal purposes.
 - In North America, on March 8th 2021 International Women's Day, FAO North America and the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit co-hosted a webinar, "[Honouring Indigenous Women as Change-makers in Indigenous Peoples' foods systems](#)". North American Indigenous women, leaders in research, policymaking, land, water, and seed stewardship, food systems and public health joined the discussions as distinguished speakers.
- i) **The theme of the 2025 PFII session is "Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within United Nations Member States and the United**

Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges". Please include information on any publications, projects, reports, or activities relevant to this theme.

- FAO recognizes Indigenous Peoples as key allies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In FAO's mandate, Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems are considered pivotal in addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and food security. Therefore, it is fundamental for FAO not only to facilitate the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings on issues affecting them, but also to ensure their engagement. By involving Indigenous Peoples in fora such as the UN Food Systems Summit, COP climate meetings, the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, FAO supports the realization of Indigenous Peoples' rights to their lands, territories, and natural resources as well as their knowledge, as outline in art. 26 and art. 31 of the UNDRIP.
- FAO actively ensures that Indigenous Peoples' rights are respected and integrated into its work, aligning with the **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**. Since 2014, FAO has a dedicated Unit to implement the **2010 FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples**, in alignment with the **2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**. In 2015, the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit collaborated with Indigenous leaders from seven socio-cultural regions to draft a participatory work program structured around **7 pillars of work**, and Indigenous Youth and women as **two priority areas of work** (Free Prior and Informed Consent; Indigenous Peoples' food systems; Voluntary guidelines on the governance of tenure; Indicators for food security; Advocacy and capacity building; Coordination; and Traditional Knowledge and Climate change).
- Regarding Free, Prior and Informed Consent, in 2018, FAO created an FPIC task force with the main aim of build capacity within and outside FAO with external partners on how to implement FPIC, providing training and prioritizing the inclusion and promotion of Indigenous Peoples' issues in the various programmes and projects. It also developed the "Manual for project practitioners on Free, Prior and Informed Consent" in 2016.
- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit serves as the **secretariat of three key platforms**: the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems, the UN Rome Group of Friends on Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum. These venues play instrumental roles in facilitating the involvement and engagement of Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and knowledge into global policies on food security, climate resilience, and biodiversity protection, which directly contributes to the implementation of the UNDRIP, particularly the rights to self-determination (art.3) and participation in decision-making (art.18). In addition, FAO has an Interdepartmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples that allows the technical units/divisions to synergize efforts aimed at integrating Indigenous Peoples into all relevant venues and agendas.

- FAO demonstrates a consistent commitment to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by actively seeking to incorporate Indigenous Peoples into all agendas. This inclusive approach ensures that Indigenous Peoples' voices are heard and valued in decision-making processes, including the **voices of Indigenous Women and Youth**. Initiatives such as the Violet Chair Campaign and the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum ensure their empowerment and engagement in decision-making processes (art. 22).
 - In addition, to enhance capacity building and involve Indigenous Youth, FAO initiated an **internship programme for Indigenous Youth**. Following this experience, many interns went on to establish careers within the international system, including the UN one.
 - As main challenge, there is the lack of resources. In particular, the main challenge for FPIC is its effective implementation for three main reasons: capacity building, lack of resources and the divergency that FPIC may create with the main donors.
 - In occasion of the 80th anniversary of FAO, FAO is planning to draft and publish a report/monography on the best projects and programmes at FAO level on Indigenous Peoples to identify good practices and highlight FAO's successes.
- ii) **Please provide information on efforts to ensure the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the international decades declared by the General Assembly, such as the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", the International Decade of Indigenous Languages and other relevant international decades and processes, including CEDAW General recommendation 39 on Indigenous women and girls.**

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

- See Pillar 3 of work of the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, *Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and climate change*.
- In 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and members of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems contributed to an important publication: [Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration – A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#), co-published by FAO, SER (Society for Ecosystem Restoration) and IUCN. This publication recognizes Indigenous Peoples as game-changers for ecosystem restoration and introduces the concept of Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration as an inclusive and rights-based approach when involving Indigenous Peoples in restoration projects.

- FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations in New York (FAOLON) invited indigenous speaker, Ms Charitie Ropati, Scientist and Researcher at Harvard Forest and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, to present during the [World Soil Day](#) observance in December 2023. The speaker focused on how Indigenous Peoples care for soil and contribute to its health.

UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- In 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit participated in the **4th Pacific Ocean Climate Change Conference**, Samoa, strengthening FAO's work with Indigenous Peoples in the Pacific, and its relationships with key partner institutions. A dedicated **Pacific Research Network** has been established by FAO, FAOSAP and members of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems. Conversations are now underway to co-organize with the Network a conference on Indigenous Peoples' food systems in the Pacific region in 2025.

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR ACTION “WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

- During 2024, FAO Chile collaborated with Chilean government institutions in the development of **Chile's first Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Water Resources sector**, incorporating the demands of Indigenous Peoples. Twenty workshops were held (11 face-to-face and 3 virtual) with the participation of approximately 250 Indigenous Peoples, 60 per cent of whom were women. With the support of the National Council for Indigenous Development (CONADI) and the General Water Directorate (DGA) and ensuring respect for the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), the workshops promoted intercultural dialogue and voluntary participation and allowed Indigenous Peoples to define their own representatives and spokespersons. Among the key issues highlighted in this process were the need to regularize Indigenous Peoples' water rights and to create an Indigenous working group to continue to work with DGA on these issues. The importance of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge related to water management and their need for better information to assess risks and impacts on water security and access to water was also highlighted. The process resulted in the identification and inclusion of adaptation measures and commitments in priority areas such as access to safe drinking water, strengthening water user organizations, building more resilient infrastructure, and restoring watersheds, while respecting cultural meanings. Among the lessons learned were the importance of specific processes for Indigenous Peoples within national frameworks, the need to establish agreements that facilitate participation and binding decision-making, the value in promoting gender equality and recognizing the role of Indigenous women in water management, and the relevance of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles adapted to local contexts.
- Under the **FAO-UNESCO MOU**, which was extended for another 5 years in July 2023, priority

areas for future collaboration on Indigenous Peoples between the two UN agencies have been delineated. One of the priority areas of the joint work plan is water.

INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

- In 2022, the **Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure (VGGT)** were translated into three Indigenous languages in India ([Sadri](#), [Kurux](#), and [Gondi](#)) and presented in the framework of the 10th Anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure (VGGT). The Santhali translation is on the way and will be published soon.
- FAO cooperates with UNESCO LINKS programme within the framework of the Intersectoral Programme 3 on Indigenous knowledges, cultures and languages. Further cooperation is to be explored in relation to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Joint Programme of Work on the links between Biodiversity and Cultural Diversity. It is an FAO priority to emphasize the interconnectedness of biodiversity protection with food and knowledge systems, including languages.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS 2024

- This year highlights how camelids are key to the livelihoods of millions of households in over 90 countries, particularly Indigenous Peoples.
- In 2024, the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems drafted a new **Collective Paper on the importance of Indigenous Peoples' mobility, nomadism, transhumance, and collective rights for biodiversity**. The paper presents evidence on the importance of Indigenous Peoples' collective rights and access to resources. It was presented during the 2024 meeting of the Global-Hub that took place in October in Rome, and during a side-event at **UNCCD COP 16** in Riyadh.
- During the second in-person meeting of the Global-Hub, the Secretariat of the International Year of Camelids organized a side event titled "**International Year of Camelids 2024: Celebrating the key role of camelids in the livelihoods, food security and culture of Indigenous Peoples**".
- Relevant side-events, organized by FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, with a focus on the transformative potential of the [Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration programme](#) and on the [importance of mobility for Indigenous Peoples](#), took place at UNCCD COP 16.
- For the period 2022-2024, UNCCD and FAO have launched a joint initiative about integrating tenure security into land restoration initiatives. Within this initiative, FAO seeks to support inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches at national and local levels, with specific attention given to women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.

CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION 39 ON INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

- Coinciding with International Women’s Day 2024, [Thompson Rivers University \(TRU\)](#), together with FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, [hosted a special event focused on Indigenous Women](#): The conference celebrated and marked the completion of the Volume 8 - Special Edition of the Knowledge Makers Journal – “Indigenous Women, Indigenous Peoples’ Food and Knowledge Systems, and Climate Action”. The Indigenous research conference was part of the Letter of Agreement between FAO and Thompson Rivers University to support an Indigenous Women’s research cohort through the TRU Knowledge Makers program. The conference brought together Indigenous Elders of the region including the Tk’emlups te Secwepemc and T’exelc First Nations, Indigenous professors and students for research presentations, discussions, and exchange of knowledge. FAOLW presented on the work of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples and facilitated discussions with the Indigenous Women in the research cohort. The journal has now been published through the FAO publications work stream.
- In 2024, FAO published, "[Intersectionality: A pathway for more inclusive, youth-oriented and gender-responsive agrifood systems](#)", which has a special focus on Indigenous Women, highlighting that they face specific constraints based on the intersectionality of gender and ethnicity, including the systematic lack of respect for their collective rights to land and natural resources, the persistent lack of disaggregated data that makes them invisible in research and policies, and their under representation in decision-making and policy processes. These intersecting factors shape access to services, resources, opportunities and more. For example, health is one of the key aspects affected by the negative impacts on climate change and the health vulnerability of Indigenous women is intensified due to their limited access to health services and infrastructure.
- In 2024, FAO Ecuador, through the FFF, has supported Kichwa Indigenous women and producers by strengthening their capacities with technical assistance agreements and formed a national network of forest and farm organizations in partnership with the Women’s Committee of Unorcac.
- In 2023, FAO together with IWGIA launched officially the publication “[Territorial Management in Indigenous Matrifocal Societies](#)”, where four case of matrilineal and matrilocal Indigenous societies (Khasi, Wayuu, osso and Shipibo-Conibo people) are analyzed.
- The 2023 FAO Report, "[The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#)," has a special focus on Indigenous Women. This report, rooted in a blend of quantitative and qualitative data, thoroughly examines the underlying causes of inequalities that hinder women's participation in both economic and social aspects. Furthermore, it offers concrete recommendations for ensuring women's equality.

- CFS endorsed the [Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition](#).
- Since Indigenous Women face the triple burden of discrimination, because of their gender, their situation of poverty and for being Indigenous, FAO believes that the key to reverse this situation is supporting processes of empowerment of Indigenous Women, who can become the leaders of tomorrow. Guided by these ideas, FAO and the International Indigenous Women Forum (IIWF-FIMI) joined forces in 2014 to devise a capacity building programme that has been highly successful at the global level and needed to be transformed for implementation at national levels. In the implementation at national levels (Bolivia, Peru, India, Philippines, Panama, El Salvador and Paraguay), FAO integrated a new module on Food Security and Nutrition that seeks to strengthen the participants' capacities in food security and Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems.
- In 2018, FAO launched the [Global Campaign for the empowerment of Indigenous Women for Zero Hunger with the International Indigenous Women's Forum and the News Agency of Indigenous and Afro-descendent Women](#). The highlight of this campaign has been the Violet Chair initiative, a call to ensure the participation of Indigenous women in policy and decision-making processes. A violet chair is placed at a meeting to highlight the presence or absence of an Indigenous Woman, making this call more visible.

iii) has your entity responded to the 2022 unpfi recommendation 2 paragraph 85. the permanent forum urges all united nations entities and states parties to treaties concerning the environment, biodiversity and the climate to eliminate the use of the term "local communities" in conjunction with indigenous peoples, so that the term indigenous peoples and local communities" would be abolished.

- FAO acknowledges the importance of affirming the distinctive rights of Indigenous Peoples, including both their collective and individual rights. FAO understands the potential to prejudice and misstate the nature and scope of the distinct rights of Indigenous Peoples under international law.
- In February 2024, FAO hosted and participated to a three-days meeting, called by the UNPFII, EMRIP and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The whole [Inter-Agency Support Group \(IASG\) on Indigenous Issues](#) was invited to the meeting, which discussed the implications of the conflation, association, combination, or equating of Indigenous Peoples with non-Indigenous entities, in particular with "local communities". The meeting resulted in a [joint statement from the three mechanisms](#) which recommends stopping the use of Indigenous Peoples in conjunction with categories or terms different from their own denomination such as "local communities".
- In September 2024, FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit published "[Indigenous Peoples and FAO: A](#)

[Narrative for working together](#)". This publication is an important advocacy tool that will help to guide FAO colleagues and other development practitioners that work alongside Indigenous Peoples. The Narrative presents not only an overview of FAO work with Indigenous Peoples over the years, but also the key concepts and terminology to use in the work with Indigenous Peoples, including the importance of stopping the use of "Indigenous Peoples" in conjunction with "local communities".

SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN TO ACHIEVE THE ENDS OF THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (UN-SWAP), 6 KEY ACTION AREAS

KEY ACTION AREA 1: RAISING AWARENESS OF THE UN DECLARATION

GLOBAL

- The **2024 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**, observed annually on 9 August, focused on *Protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact*. For the occasion, FAO developed [a dedicated webpage](#) featuring FAO resources on the theme. The page served as a comprehensive resource hub, highlighting publications and tools that reinforce FAO's dedication to this important issue. Additionally, FAO supported the celebrations with extensive social media coverage, including tweets [from the Director-General](#), amplifying the message of Indigenous Peoples' rights.
- FAO also created tailored social media and web content for other major events, including UNPFII, UNGA79, the State of the Future (SOTF), and Climate Week. This content featured engaging social media cards and web stories aimed at raising awareness about Indigenous Peoples and the issues they face.
- In 2023, the Chair of the UNPFII and FAO Director General had an in-person bilateral to exchange views and discussed the interconnectivity between food, health, knowledge, culture, language and environment. During this meeting, FAO mentioned again its recognition of Indigenous Peoples as key allies on food systems and offered a platform at FAO for Indigenous Peoples to be more heard and valued for their ancestral knowledge systems.

AFRICA

- FAO is committed to hold a **High-Level Seminar in Africa on Indigenous Peoples' food systems**, aimed to raise awareness and drive policy discussions and processes on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems in the region of the world with the second highest proportion of Indigenous Peoples - but the one with lowest levels of recognition. Meetings and consultations with Indigenous Peoples in the region are ongoing as part of the continued efforts to achieve this objective.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- The FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean continues the [regional strategy for the collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent](#) to foster greater collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, promote cultural relevance, full participation and the co-creation of sustainable rural development public policies, and respect and protect individual and collective rights to land tenure, territory and natural resources.

- An **inter-sectoral humanitarian response actions** (protection, human rights, education, food security and nutrition) have been implemented in Colombia, Honduras and Guatemala with Indigenous Peoples and UN agencies (FAO, UNHCR, IOM, UNHCHR, UNICEF, WFP). In addition to strengthening capacities of governments and strategic partners, the actions have raised awareness in the importance of including Indigenous Peoples in the anticipatory actions and facing disasters.

NORTH AMERICA

- The FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations in New York continues to participate in the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee) of the **79th Session of the UN General Assembly** under the Agenda item: Rights of Indigenous Peoples and covers the resolution on “Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. FAOLON also spoke at an event held in the margins of UNGA79 titled, “The LandMark Mapping Platform: New Data and Tools for Securing Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities’ Land Rights”.

EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, CENTRAL ASIA AND TRANSCAUCASIA

- Under the auspices of the Resilient and Inclusive Transformation Initiative (RITI), FAO collaborated with Gesellschaft Fur Bedrohte Volker Schweiz on a **research paper on the impacts of the energy transition on Indigenous Peoples and their territories worldwide**. This paper is particularly relevant since it highlights that Indigenous Peoples are finding themselves sidelined from meaningful participation and consultation in so-called “green projects”, which deeply affect their lands, territories, and natural resources.

KEY ACTION AREA 2: SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN DECLARATION, PARTICULARLY AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

GLOBAL

- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is essential in FAO’s work. In fact, FPIC is the cornerstone of [FAO’s Policy on Indigenous Peoples](#), and it is made operational by the [FAO Manual on FPIC](#). FPIC is reflected in [FAO’s Environmental and Social Management Guidelines](#) and in the Programme and Project Review Committee (PPRC).
- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA, the International Treaty), supports Indigenous Peoples through the [Benefit-sharing Fund \(BSF\) programme](#). The BSF aims to assist communities in developing countries to enhance their livelihoods, promote food security, and encourage sustainable agriculture by conserving and utilizing plant genetic diversity, and ensure that monetary benefits derived from the use of genetic resources are shared.
- In the last year, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on PGRFA published the ***The Options for Encouraging, Guiding and Promoting the Realization of Farmers’ Rights as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty***, available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). This publication contains 32 options for

protecting and promoting the rights of farmers and Indigenous Peoples to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA). These rights include the protection of traditional knowledge; the right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilization of PGRFA; and the right to participate in making decisions, at national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA; and the rights that farmers and Indigenous Peoples have to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/ propagating material, subject to national law and as appropriate.

- The Secretariat of the International Treaty also shared [The Proceedings of the Global Symposium on Farmers' Rights](#), from late 2023. This publication summarizes the various events and presentations from the three-day global symposium attended by more than 700 participants from more than 50 countries worldwide. It encapsulates a wealth of insights, best practices, practical experiences, and perspectives on realizing Farmers' Rights as outlined in Article 9 of the International Treaty. The publication also highlights the recognition of the Indian tribal farmers and communities for their contributions to the development and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture from the President of India.
- In the framework of the FAO Mountain Partnership, the main outcome of the **International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development 2022** was the declaration of 2023-2027, [Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions](#). Activities planned for the period aim to enhance the international community's awareness of issues affecting mountain countries and communities, including Indigenous Peoples in mountain areas.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- In Indonesia, the **IFish Project Team of FAO-Indonesia** in collaboration with the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), worked in 2024 to establish a legal basis for **Indigenous Peoples' management of high conservation-value freshwater ecosystems and their biodiversity**. Following intensive meetings and discussions on inland fisheries management conducted by IFish Project, Ninik Mamak – the customary leader of the Indigenous Peoples from Indonesia– agreed to discuss the potential development of formal customary law for Lubuk Larangan practices, a tradition of open-closure fishing activity in one designated area in each village. The process gathered 20 Ninik Mamak from 20 villages to share their views and concerns on the need to **formalize the verbal customary law to ensure the sustainability of tradition and resources** in the future. The meeting agreed to create **general principles** that can be applied to all villages, in addition to existing specific rules which had been applied specifically to each village. The general rule says that each village must reserve an area known as Lubuk Larangan Raja as a no-fishing zone to protect fish stock. Other agreed rules include prohibition of unsustainable fishing gear during the 'open period'. From these meetings, ten villages developed written customary laws while three villages chose to create village regulations on the customary practices. The iFISH project has now supported the development of ten written customary laws and three village regulations related with inland fisheries management in Kampar district, Riau province, Sumatra Island.
- In South Barito, Indonesia, community leaders involved in IFish initiated the establishment of customary conservation area of Lake Mengkatip and other inland waters. This aimed to ensure the successful restocking of arowana and that inland waters can provide sustainable livelihood. The leaders developed the Kademangan regulation that required all villages under its authority to reserve 10% of their inland water area for conservation and Danau Mengkatip is managed under customary law. The customary leaders also formed a customary group

called BATAMAD to safeguard customary law compliance and participating in maintaining the preservation of fishery natural resources. They also established a conservation community group to continue the conservation activity initiated by IFish.

- In the framework of FAO cooperation agreements with international financing institutions, especially World Bank and IFAD, **FAO Investment Center** supports several projects focused on Indigenous Peoples in India:
 - **FAO/IFAD Cooperation: Odisha PVTG Empowerment and Livelihoods Improvement Programme – OPELIP** (USD 123 million, IFAD – 44.0 million) – the project targeted the particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG) in approx. 500 villages of Odisha. The project was successful in providing land rights to approx. 1100 household under the *Forest Rights Act of the Government of India*. For effective project monitoring the project issued PVTG identity cards that enabled the households to access other government entitlements as well.
 - **FAO/IFAD Cooperation: Fostering Climate Resilient Upland Farming Systems in the Northeast** (Mizoram and Nagaland States) (USD 141.7 million; IFAD – 49.7 million) – The project is working exclusively with the Indigenous Peoples in Mizoram and Nagaland and supporting the improvement of shifting agriculture practices (jhum). The project has been successful in ensuring land rights to landless jhum farmers (on a group level) and implementing an Integrated Farming model.
 - **FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme: Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth Project** (USD 239.6 million; IFAD – USD 67.0 million, World Bank USD 100.0 million) – The project is targeting tribal areas in the north and south of Chhattisgarh and is focused on promoting a bottom-up approach to integrated nutrition sensitive agriculture development. CFI is supporting the M&E of the project with a special focus on nutrition.
 - **FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme: Tripura Rural Economic Growth And Service Delivery Project** (USD 175 million; World Bank USD 140.0 million) – The project aims to promote socio-economic development and improve the quality of life of rural communities in targeted tribal blocks through an integrated approach across multiple sectors. It utilizes an area-based approach to tackle multi-dimensional poverty, focusing on four key areas for intervention: i) increasing agricultural productivity and improving livelihood opportunities; ii) strengthening transport connectivity; iii) addressing schooling transitions from primary to secondary levels; and iv) focusing on institutional capabilities for planning, service delivery and governance.
 - **FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme: Odisha Integrated Irrigation Project for Climate Resilient Agriculture** (USD 235 million) – The project enhances agricultural production, water productivity, and climate resilience in Odisha. Its five components include: i) Climate-Smart Intensification; ii) Irrigation and Water Productivity; iii) Institutional Strengthening; iv) Project Management; v) Emergency Response. Odisha has a significant presence of Scheduled Tribes and to ensure their targeting and inclusion, a Tribal Peoples Planning Framework (TPPF) has been prepared in accordance with OP 4.10 (Indigenous Peoples). The TPPF provides guidance on conducting assessments, preparing, and implementing action plans in tribal areas.

- **FAO/World Bank Cooperative Programme: Jharkhand Opportunities for Harnessing Rural Growth Project (JOHAR)** (USD 142 million, World Bank USD 100 million) – The project aims to increase and diversify incomes in targeted areas of Jharkhand. The project works in Jharkhand, a tribal dominated state of India and is targeting 70 percent Indigenous Peoples coverage. The project has been successful in increasing incomes by 30 percent (in real terms) and providing market access to more than 150,000 households.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- Currently, the Secretariat of the International Treaty at FAO is supporting two projects in Latin America and the Caribbean with Indigenous Peoples, which seek to **promote and protect traditional knowledge related to crop genetic resources**, and support the management, conservation, and sustainable use of crop genetic resources. These two projects are:
 - I) **Conservation and sustainable use of local plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) to contribute to the food security of smallholder farmers in Argentina (on-going, until 2025).** The project focuses on preserving plant genetic diversity and traditional knowledge among Indigenous communities and small-scale farmers in the Northwest, Northeast, and Northern Patagonia regions of Argentina. The project beneficiaries are the Tekoha Kaa Guy Poty Indigenous communities. The project supports the Tekoha Kaa Guy Poty communities in building their capacities to conserve local varieties of beans, potatoes and maize, including establishing and managing community seed banks/seed houses.
 - II) **Sustainable Use of Agro-Biodiversity in Indigenous and Peasant Communities of Central America: A Strategy for Food Security and Climate Adaptation (on-going, until 2026).** This project is dedicated to enhancing the local seed systems of 135 communities across Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, thereby enabling these communities to effectively address the impacts of climate change. The project encompasses the establishment of 24 community seed banks and the development of 200 community garden areas that focus on the cultivation of neglected and underutilized crop species critical for food security and nutrition. Furthermore, the project involves the provision of training for communities on various aspects of conservation and management of genetic resources, which includes fostering knowledge exchange and seed sharing among farmers at the community level. As of this reporting, 15 seed fairs were organized, directly benefitting 11,000 rural and Indigenous families from 58 producer organizations.
- FAO's Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division, in partnership with ILO, UNICEF, and ITC, is implementing the EU-funded project "**CLEAR Supply Chains – Ending Child Labour in Supply Chains**" project in Lempira and Copán Ruinas, Honduras, where the Lenca and Maya Chortís Indigenous communities reside (May 2023 – August 2026). This project targets the coffee sectors in Uganda and Honduras, aiming to eradicate child labor by boosting climate resilience and economic independence among Indigenous farmers. FAO leads climate change and livelihood components, strengthening farmers' resilience and reducing economic dependency on child labor. Following Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles ensures active

involvement and decision-making by Indigenous communities, aligning with UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169. Implementing the FPIC process in the two departments will ensure that the Indigenous Peoples communities will be involved and participate in the project's decisions and implementation, thereby maximizing the activities' positive impact on their lives.

NORTH AMERICA

- In 2024, [Thompson Rivers University \(TRU\)](#), together with FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, [hosted a special event focused on Indigenous Women](#). The conference celebrated and marked the completion of the Volume 8 - Special Edition of the Knowledge Makers Journal – “Indigenous Women, Indigenous Peoples’ Food and Knowledge Systems, and Climate Action”. The Indigenous research conference was part of the Letter of Agreement between FAO and Thompson Rivers University to support an Indigenous Women’s research cohort through the TRU Knowledge Makers program. The journal has now been published through the FAO publications work stream.

KEY ACTION AREA 3: SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GLOBAL

- Indigenous Peoples are key partners for implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 seeks to support Members in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 1 and SDG 2 to ensure food security and reduce poverty. To transform the agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, FAO continues to strengthen its engagement with Indigenous Peoples.
- In the lead up to the **UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment** in 2023, the [Stakeholder Contribution Report](#) was developed as a shadow report to gather valuable insights regarding stakeholder experiences in implementing and supporting food systems transformations leading up to the UNFSS+2, and follow-up actions of the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. In this report, insights from stakeholder groups, including Indigenous Peoples (as rights holders) were highlighted. Based on the responses to the [100 Voluntary Country Progress Reports](#) received to the UNFSS+2, it is identified that engagement with Indigenous Peoples’ groups at the national level in designing and implementing food systems transformation remains limited (37 percent).
- The UN Food Systems Coordination Hub engages with Indigenous Peoples through the Stakeholder Engagement and Networking Advisory Group (SENA Group) of the Hub. Based on the findings of these documents, the UNFS Coordination Hub, in liaison with the SENA Group, is developing an engagement plan that aims to facilitate better quality of engagement with all Stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples at the national level, as well as to gather data on this better to assess the quality of current engagement at the national level.

- The Food Systems Solutions Dialogues are purposeful and organized events that bring together National Convenors and other food systems actors to share their experiences and insights on food systems hosted by the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub. On September 18, 2024, the fourth Dialogue of the year was held on “[Inclusive Participatory Design to Transform Food Systems](#)”. The Dialogue explored innovative and collaborative efforts to empower stakeholders as agents of change in food systems, focusing on grassroots groups such as Indigenous Peoples, farmers, youth, and women. Through discussions, it examined inclusive initiatives supporting economic, social, and cultural development tailored to national contexts.
- Through the Land and Water Division (NSL), FAO has been investigating the regulation of access to water for all legitimate water users, and measures to improve water security. This includes for Indigenous Peoples. This work is supported by the German-funded project “[ScaleWat: scaling up capacities for responsible governance of water tenure](#)”. In 2022, FAO was mandated by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to organize a Global Dialogue on Water Tenure, as an inclusive multistakeholder process including representatives of Indigenous Peoples, civil society, academia and private sector. The first regional consultations in Asia and Latin America will be held during 2025 and will include Indigenous Peoples representation.
- Indigenous Peoples’ representatives were involved in discussions on water security at events during the [World Water Week](#) in August 2024.
- For the period 2022-2024, UNCCD and FAO have launched a [joint initiative](#) about integrating tenure security into land restoration initiatives. Within this initiative, FAO seeks to support inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches at national and local levels, with specific attention given to women, youth and Indigenous Peoples.

ASIA

Green Climate Fund (GCF) funded projects in Latin America

- In **Cambodia**, the GCF PEARL project integrates Indigenous Peoples in Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, and Oddar Meanchey provinces as key beneficiaries in Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs). Social inclusion is prioritized by ensuring 25% of High-Functioning ACs and 50% of Normal ACs include Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth. The project facilitates Indigenous Peoples’ involvement through agrometeorological data services, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives while respecting their traditional knowledge systems, particularly in climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management.
- In **Nepal**, the BRCRN project is incorporating Indigenous Peoples’ concerns into critical ecosystem restoration plans. A standalone river system-level Indigenous Peoples Plan was developed through active participation, detailing Indigenous communities’ locations, roles, and collaborative approaches. Monitoring by Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO) and the National Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) ensures feedback, accountability, and adaptation during implementation.

- In **Philippines**, the APA Project dedicates 12.5% of benefits to Indigenous Peoples, focusing on women and youth. It provides gender-responsive and culturally appropriate adaptation technologies, entrepreneurial capacity-building, and safeguards through the development of the Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP). The project also integrates ancestral domain knowledge into Climate Information Services (CIS) and Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) enterprises, ensuring sustainable agricultural and biodiversity practices aligned with Indigenous traditions. The process also included consultations and focus group discussions to address province-specific needs and draft action matrices. Following FPIC protocols, these matrices will be validated next year and consolidated into the final project plan.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- During 2024, FAO Chile collaborated with Chilean government institutions in the development of **Chile´s first Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Water Resources sector**, incorporating the demands of Indigenous Peoples. Twenty workshops were held (11 face-to-face and 3 virtual) with the participation of approximately 250 Indigenous persons, 60 per cent of whom were women. With the support of the National Council for Indigenous Development (CONADI) and the General Water Directorate (DGA) and ensuring respect for the principles of FPIC, the workshops promoted intercultural dialogue and voluntary participation and allowed Indigenous Peoples to define their own representatives and spokespersons.
- At the national level, FAO Chile has worked with all 11 Indigenous Peoples recognized by the State during 2024, in a participatory and consultative process developed to update and elaborate the National Climate Change Adaptation plan, as well as sector-specific adaptation plans for the water resources and biodiversity sectors. In keeping with FPIC principles and national legislation on Indigenous Peoples' rights, Indigenous Peoples' proposals were included in the measures and actions of these plans, which are soon to be implemented at national, regional and local levels.

Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded projects in Latin America

- **FAO Chile** is implementing GEF and GCF-funded projects in partnership with the Chilean government, communities and local actors, in eight regions of the country with Changos, Diaguitas, Mapuche, Lavkenche, and Pehuenche Indigenous Peoples, who are actively involved in the design and implementation of the projects. Through these projects, FAO has helped to develop models of intercultural co-governance with Indigenous Peoples' communities and local stakeholders and conducted awareness-raising and training of institutions to work in these contexts, to foster sustainable and community management of landscapes, biodiversity and forests. These models of Indigenous co-governance and leadership have been developed in different territorial contexts including, in several cases, in territories marked by historical conflicts. In such cases, FAO's presence has been key to facilitating dialogue between communities and government agencies to establish legitimate agreements. Such experiences, strategies and good practices are being considered in the implementation of the newly

established National Biodiversity and Protected Areas Service (SBAP) in Chile.

- In **Venezuela**, the GEF-funded “**Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Caroni River basin of Bolivar state**” (Project GCP/VEN/023/GFF; GEF ID: 10971) is seeking to improve management and governance, and enhance institutional and communities’ capacities for the integrated and sustainable use of the landscape, the conservation of biological diversity and provision of ecosystem services, to generate socio-economic and environmental benefits in the Caroní River Basin (Venezuela) and contribute to the global sustainable development agenda (SDGs 2.4, 6.6, 13.1 and 15.4). The project has implemented social mapping for the determination of areas and approaches for restoration in six Indigenous communities (Santa Cruz de Mapaurí, Agua Fría, San Camilo, San Antonio de Morichal, Maurak, Waramasén and Santo Domingo de Turasen), applying FPIC. The project acknowledges several good practices:
 - Review of updated and disaggregated information on Indigenous communities, as well as their needs related to the scope of the project.
 - Inclusion of all sectors that occupy the territory covered by the project.
 - Compliance with the protocol and uses and customs for entering the communities.
 - Promotion of Indigenous women's participation.
 - Participation of Indigenous authorities and other community stakeholders in the FPIC process.
 - Incorporation of local partners for the implementation of activities in the field, which represents an opportunity for the incorporation of local indigenous labor.
 - Incorporation of Indigenous professionals through partnerships and letters of agreement for the implementation of activities.
 - Identification of local bilingual partners to facilitate communication with Indigenous communities and adaptation to the communities' preferred means of communication.

Green Climate Fund (GCF) funded projects in Latin America

- In **Argentina**, the GCF has developed three Community Integration Projects (PICs) targeting Indigenous Peoples. These projects benefit approximately 14,000 Indigenous persons. Furthermore, progress is being made in the development of projects in 8 forest basins, where work is being done to effectively integrate the needs of Indigenous Peoples through a rigorous Free, Prior, and Informed Consultation (CLPI) process. On the other hand, the technical team of the PPR+ has been strengthened with the addition of a specialist in Indigenous Peoples, responsible for promoting and monitoring the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Cultural Heritage Plan.
- In **Chile**, the GCF **+Bosques project** involves participatory and intercultural approaches to territorial interventions on Indigenous Peoples’ lands. Interventions focus on restoring

ecosystems of cultural importance, using culturally significant species, and strengthening forest-based livelihoods. These projects are carried out through participatory processes for the co-design of interventions, by implementing FPIC. An important part of these efforts has been directed at improving ecosystems or sites of cultural significance, prioritizing the use of culturally important species. Additionally, the project is developing initiatives to strengthen and sustain livelihoods associated with forests for the people, families, and communities benefiting from +Bosques, with 40% of those trained belonging to an indigenous people. Finally, in some cases, the project has developed direct hiring processes for Indigenous beneficiaries, which, in addition to direct monetary contributions, is allowing them to diversify their income sources by acquiring skills for forestry work through training and support for the creation of forestry contracting businesses.

- In **Colombia**, the GCF is implementing a project titled “**The Vision Amazonia**”, which ensures Indigenous participation through structured consultation processes on key program documents, including the Indigenous Pillar (PIVA). A pedagogical tool translates technical content into accessible formats using ecological calendars rooted in Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge systems, increasing understanding and engagement. This innovative approach enhances participation, especially among women and youth, while facilitating sustainable Amazonian conservation. In addition, the first government-led FPIC process was undertaken for this project. This process included 32 consultations across local, departmental, and national levels, ensuring participation from Indigenous Peoples in remote areas.
- In **El Salvador**, **RECLIMA** develops inclusive processes for the integration of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendant peoples who self-determine in the 114 districts (formerly municipalities) where the RECLIMA project operates. As of 2024, 11% of the beneficiaries (2,476 farmers) are Indigenous, including 42% women. Eight climate-resilient agricultural practices based on Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and wisdom were validated with Indigenous groups, such as the Salvadoran National Indigenous Coordinating Council (CCNIS), Guatajiagua Lenka Community Association (ACOLGUA), Chilanga Lenka Community Association (ACOLCHI), ASEINKA-Kakawiras, Pokomames Association for the Environment (APOKAM), and the Nahua, Lenka, and Kakawira Indigenous Peoples, to integrate cultural practices into adaptation strategies. Indigenous Peoples are key agents in climate resilience, contributing ancestral knowledge to land restoration under the RECLIMA project. They are involved in establishing climate-adapted native species nurseries, validating sustainable practices, and developing native seed banks.
- In **Guatemala**, the **RELIVE** project focuses on resilience-building through drought-resistant crop systems and adaptation strategies. With Indigenous Peoples comprising 43.8% of the population and 79% of communities living in poverty, the initiative prioritizes economic empowerment, household income improvement, and self-financing opportunities for climate-resilient agriculture. By reducing vulnerabilities, the project helps Indigenous Peoples improve livelihoods while maintaining their cultural and ecological practices. Additionally, tailored capacity-building sessions, training programs, and communication materials in local languages are being prepared to ensure the full inclusion of Indigenous communities.

KEY ACTION AREA 4: MAPPING OF EXISTING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, CAPACITIES, TRAINING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNDRIP

GLOBAL

- In 2024, [the publication Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration – A contribution to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030](#), was co-published by FAO, SER (Society for Ecosystem Restoration) and IUCN. This comes as the result of the targeted consultations FAO developed with Indigenous Peoples in 2023. This publication recognizes Indigenous Peoples as game-changers for ecosystem restoration and introduces the concept of Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration as an inclusive and rights-based approach when involving Indigenous Peoples in restoration projects.
- INFOODS (International Network of Food Data Systems) is a worldwide network of food composition experts set up to promote activities to improve food composition data quality and availability globally. In 2024, a new drafting committee was established by the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems, seeking to work closely with INFOODS in 2025-2026.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- The FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean continues the process of implementation of [a regional strategy for the collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent](#) to foster greater collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent. This aims to recognize and protect their knowledge and contributions to the transformation of agrifood systems, achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); promote cultural relevance, ensure full participation in policymaking, and respect and protect individual and collective rights to land tenure, territory and natural resources, so that no one is left behind, as stipulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- FAO developed a [practical guide](#) for the Incorporation of the Intersectionality approach in sustainable rural development programmes and projects. In Latin America and the Caribbean, access to food and nutritional security, the poverty situation, and the capacity to respond to climate change are strongly related to gender, ethnic-racial origin, age group, and territory differences. The tool's objective is to give rise to innovative work methodologies that allow the identification of inequalities and the development of socio-territorially relevant and systemic solutions, aimed at eliminating the knots of inequality. Contributing in this way to the effective implementation of the FAO policy on Indigenous Peoples.
- In **Peru**, through the ongoing project GCP/PER/045/GFF, Sustainable Management of Agrobiodiversity **and Recovery of Vulnerable Ecosystems in the Andean Region of Peru through the World Agricultural Heritage Systems (SIPAM) Approach**, a document titled "**Methodological Guide for the Construction of Life Plans for the Original Peoples of the Cusco Region**" was published. The purpose is to ensure the implementation of culturally relevant local development projects in Andean areas.

KEY ACTION AREA 5: DEVELOPING THE CAPACITIES OF STATES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, CIVIL SOCIETY AND UN PERSONNEL

GLOBAL

- The **Forest and Farm Facility** (FFF) works with forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs), including Indigenous Peoples, by providing funding and fostering collaboration. Since its inception in 2012, and now in its second phase (2018–2025), FFF has strengthened the role of Indigenous Peoples as key agents in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing climate action. FFF provides grants to Indigenous groups, empowering them to gather evidence and influence global policies. This empowers Indigenous communities, giving them a stronger voice in shaping forest landscapes and ensuring their cultural and ethnic identities are respected. Traditional knowledge, passed down through generations, is integrated with scientific knowledge, creating a harmonious balance between tradition and innovation. Additionally, FFF supports Indigenous groups develop strategies such as diversification of products and value chains to preserve and enrich biodiversity. Through collaboration with governments, FFF addresses barriers to Indigenous rights and small-scale production, ensuring a more equitable environment for Indigenous Peoples in the forest-and-farm sector. In addition, FFF organizes peer-to-peer learning and exchanges between Indigenous Peoples and farmers. Indigenous Peoples organizations have extensive experience in locally led finance initiatives, which can be shared with forest and farm producer organizations to enhance their understanding of community mechanisms for finance. When these groups come together with common goals, they strengthen local capacity to design and implement financing mechanisms.
- In 2024, the FFF amplified Indigenous voices through an advocacy campaign with producer organization representing Indigenous Peoples and farmers. This initiative mobilized Indigenous leaders and smallholder farmers to advocate for their rights in global discussions on food systems and climate action. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which is a partner of the FFF, played a crucial role by leveraging its connections with conservation organizations and its specific membership for Indigenous Peoples' organizations.
- At the **60th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies** (SB60) in June 2024, discussions highlighted the importance of small-scale farmers and Indigenous groups, with campaign messages integrated into the farmers constituency's opening remarks and references made to climate finance for smallholder farmers and Indigenous groups. This campaign emphasizes the vital role of Indigenous Peoples and smallholder farmers in shaping climate policies and promoting sustainable food systems, supported by FFF's commitment to ensuring their voices are heard in global discussions.
- PRAYOG and the University of Cambridge are working with FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit and the FAO Land Tenure team to develop a **Technical Guide on Indigenous Peoples Governance of Land Tenure** alongside a **key policy brief on Indigenous Peoples and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure principles**. The two products will be co-published in 2025 following peer-review by the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems.

AFRICA

- In response to severe threats and shocks affecting Indigenous Peoples in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, FAO Office of Emergencies and Resilience conducted **a formative study to assess the nutritional and livelihood needs and preferences of Indigenous Peoples in DRC**. Conventional assessments, targeting and programming in DRC have often overlooked the specific needs, preferences, and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, limiting the effectiveness of humanitarian support. This study aimed to strengthen FAO's accountability and protection mechanisms by identifying specific needs and promoting culturally inclusive programming. The study incorporated literature reviews, culturally adapted FPIC, including interviews with key informants (government officials, NGOs, UN agencies, civil society) and focus group discussions across various community settings. Findings from both assessments were validated in a data quality workshop, enabling FAO and partners to develop programmatic recommendations to address acute malnutrition, support Indigenous Peoples' food systems, and reinforce community resilience in DRC.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

- FAO Indonesia is working closely with Indigenous Peoples and partners to build a sago processing shelter unit in Yoboi, a village of Indigenous Peoples from Indonesia in Sentani, Papua Province. This is a part of Project TCP/INS/3907 "**Capacity Building of Smallholders on Improved Sago Processing and Value Chains in Jayapura, Papua Province**". The project aims to improve the sago processing techniques, increase efficiency, and enhance the quality of the sago starch. Apart from the technical food processing, FAO has been collaborating with local partners to train men and women from Indigenous Peoples from Indonesia to (i) process sago into various derivative products; (ii) map the local sago market and value chain; and (iii) facilitate market agreements. These efforts aspire to improve overall food security and livelihoods of the Indigenous Peoples from Indonesia. The project also champions gender equality by targeting both women and men in skill development and economic participation.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

- In Bolivia, the FAO Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) supports the **Porvenir Forest Producers Association** (APB Porvenir) to strengthen the value chain for Amazonian forest fruits and oils, promoting sustainable conservation in Bolivia's Bajo Paragua Indigenous Territory. Through this project, 10 000 hectares of Amazonian forest have been certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), with management plans in place for sustainable harvesting of Asaí (*Euterpe precatoria*) and Royal Palm (*Roystonea regia*). These products, processed into freeze-dried pulp and oil, are now sold in national and international markets, enhancing children's nutrition, maternal and infant care, athletic supplements, and natural cosmetics.
- In 2024, under the Departmental Climate Change Strategy in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, FFF set up roundtables with representatives of Indigenous Peoples' government and other key stakeholders to develop **policy guidelines for the sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest products in Indigenous territories**, aiming to protect property rights and improve access to natural resources. With the support of FAO and FFF, the stakeholders are working to reform legal regulations for non-timber forest product use, which currently favor

private organizations, making it difficult for Indigenous communities to secure financial services and forest use rights. In the short term, these legal changes should grant indigenous communities prioritized access to their natural resources, reducing pressure to convert forest lands for other uses.

- In Ecuador, FAO, through FFF, has strengthened the capacities of Kichwa and Achuar Indigenous producers with targeted technical assistance. For the Kichwa Amazon Chakra Association Corporation, FFF supported enhancements to the Chakra Amazon label accreditation service by scaling up digital verification, accreditation, and monitoring processes, with special training for the Corporation's youth group. For the Achuar community in Kupatas, FFF partnered with ECOPAR to support sustainable forest management (SFM) in two designated forest areas. Insights from this project will contribute to the Ministry of Environment's (MAATE) efforts to develop and update public policy on community-led sustainable forest management, particularly for Indigenous Peoples.
- In Ecuador, the FAO FFF also partnered with the Kallari association to strengthen their internal control system, aligning with European deforestation-free standards (EUDR), Organic, SPG Chakra, and Fairtrade certifications. Kallari implemented **strategies to enrich natural resources, diversify crops with native species, and promote meliponiculture**, boosting ecosystem resilience and services.
- In November 2024, FFF, FAO offices and other partners from Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala, and Nicaragua organized a regional exchange in Ecuador in November 2024, bringing together 12 international and 18 national organizations of agricultural, forestry, and agroforestry producers. The event highlighted how the forests and ancestral knowledge of Indigenous, Native, and Peasant Peoples can strengthen agroforestry systems and support an inclusive, sustainable bioeconomy.

NORTH AMERICA

- The FAO Liaison Office for North America has developed a **strategic framework** to guide the work of the office in fulfilling the mandate of FAO in the North American context. This year, the Liaison Office's work with Indigenous Peoples of the region has been included in the strategic work with updated strategic objectives and indicators based on the pillars of work of the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, international frameworks including UNDRIP, and the priorities shared by Indigenous leaders across the region in through the 2020 introductory series. The Indigenous Peoples' liaison at FAOLW hosted a series of report back meetings in November 2024 to share this draft strategic framework for feedback from Indigenous leadership and partners across the region to shape the program of work going forward.
- In collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture - National Institute for Food and Agriculture, the Native Climate Group, and the Desert Research Institute, FAOLW is coordinating a **collective paper and policy brief with input from Native Climate Reports, Indigenous students, and Indigenous producers on the impacts of climate change on Indigenous Peoples' food, water, and knowledge systems** across the region and the actions underway to address the impacts. The goal is to present this paper and policy brief at the next UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum in 2025, as well as in national discussions in the region within the United States and Canada.

KEY ACTION AREA 6: ADVANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AT THE UN

GLOBAL

- FAO recognizes Indigenous Peoples as **key allies** for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In FAO's mandate, Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems are considered pivotal in addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and food security. Therefore, it is fundamental for FAO not only to facilitate the participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings on issues affecting them, but also to ensure their engagement.
- FAO actively ensures that Indigenous Peoples' rights are respected and integrated into its work, aligning with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Since 2014, FAO has a **dedicated Unit** to implement the **2010 FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples**, in alignment with the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). In 2015, the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit collaborated with Indigenous leaders from seven socio-cultural regions to draft a participatory work program structured around **7 pillars of work**, and Indigenous Youth and women as **two priority areas** of work (Free Prior and Informed Consent; Indigenous Peoples' food systems; Voluntary guidelines on the governance of tenure; Indicators for food security; Advocacy and capacity building; Coordination; and Traditional Knowledge and Climate change).
- FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit serves as the **secretariat of three key platforms**: the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems, the UN Rome Group of Friends on Indigenous Peoples, and the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum. These venues play instrumental roles in facilitating the involvement and engagement of Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and knowledge into global policies on food security, climate resilience, and biodiversity protection. In addition, FAO has an Interdepartmental Working Group on Indigenous Peoples that allows the technical units/divisions to synergize efforts aimed at integrating Indigenous Peoples into all relevant venues and agendas.
- The **Rome Group of Friends on Indigenous Peoples** expanded under Mexico's chairmanship, reached 43 FAO members that regularly convene to discuss Indigenous Peoples' issues. One of its main goals is to enhance participation of Indigenous Peoples to UN meetings, such as the FAO Committees on Agriculture (COAG), Forestry (COFO) and Fisheries (COFI).
- FAO offers hybrid participation in most events and meetings, which allows increased accessibility without the need for travel. When in-person participation is preferable, FAO provides travel assistance and accommodation. Whenever is possible, information is provided in multiple languages, including those spoken by Indigenous Peoples. However, this can be challenging due to limited resources. Additionally, finding interpreters for Indigenous languages is not always easy.
- FAO's policy is to respect Indigenous Peoples' rights, culture, knowledge, as well as providing support for their active engagement. **Meaningful, inclusive and safe participation** is guaranteed, including a respectful and

non-discriminatory environment where Indigenous Peoples can freely express their views, engage in dialogue with other stakeholders, and contribute to decision making processes.

- The organization actively prioritizes the participation of **Indigenous Youth**, as seen in the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum 2023 and the World Food Forum 2024. FAO also work for ensure gender balance, notably through initiative such as the Special Edition of the Knowledge Makers Programme, the Violet Chair Campaign and the Leadership Schools of **Indigenous Women** in Asia and Latin America. Since May 2015, more than 100 Indigenous women have been trained to become advocates for human rights, food security and nutrition.
- In terms of good practices, FAO consistently seeks to incorporate Indigenous Peoples' perspectives into agendas, ensuring their voices are heard and valued. FAO prioritizes the selection of Indigenous Peoples for meeting participation based on their expertise and relevant experience pertaining to the agenda topics. Diversity plays a crucial role in selection criteria, with a focus on achieving **gender and geographical balance**. Efforts are made to include representatives/organizations from as many of the seven socio-cultural regions as possible.
- The organization's **internship program for Indigenous youth** has also provided opportunities for career development within the UN system, though it is currently suspended due to resource limitations.
- As the organization of the III Session of the UNGIYF is approaching, FAO extends an invitation to the other UN Agencies to collaborate to enhance as much as possible the participation of Indigenous Youth to the forum.
- In 2024, there was a **significant increase in Indigenous Peoples' representation and involvement across all the WFF** activities and events, including technical panels, policy discussions, and cultural events. Key moments featured Indigenous Peoples' participants at the WFF Grand Opening Ceremony, the High-Level Opening of the FAO Science and Innovation Forum, WFF Youth Forum Opening, WFF Youth Concert, WFF Grand Closing Ceremony.
- A particularly remarkable development was the inclusion of Valmaine Toki, Chair of the Expert Mechanism on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, as a high-level speaker of the Science and Innovation Forum Opening, signifying a growing recognition of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems as game changers in the transformation of our food systems to be more resilient and sustainable.
- In fact, Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and Indigenous-led innovations are an integral part of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy and considered as key for more building more sustainable, resilient and efficient food systems. In October 2024, several sessions of the [Science and Innovation Forum](#) involved Indigenous Peoples. This included a fire side talk on the importance of co-creation of knowledge for Indigenous-led innovation, a session on [Closing the Science, Technology and Innovation Gap](#), and a session on [Inclusive AI to drive agrifood systems transformation](#). Regarding the latter, the FAO Digital Agriculture Unit invited Dr Carol Zavaleta-Cortijo, Co-Chair of the [Indigenous Peoples Observatory Network](#) (at the suggestion of FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit) as a speaker in this session that highlighted the transformative role of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in agriculture. It focused on the necessity of inclusivity and ethical practices for promoting transparency, fairness and trust that prevent the existence of any inequality that can be linked to the context of gender,



capacity or ability to access technology, among others.

- The FAO Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) supports regional and global Indigenous Peoples networks and organizations to increase their visibility and influence through regional and global events, communication activities and efforts to improve specific aspects of their work. In addition, the FAO FFF uses the analytical and communication capacity of four partner organizations (FAO, IIED, IUCN and AgriCord) to raise the international profile of these grassroots organizations and share lessons from their work, as well as leverage finance.

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

i) Please describe any activities your entity has organized since the last reporting period to accelerate progress across a range of SDGs, demonstrating the interlinkages across goals and targets and if applicable, providing examples of translating global goals into local actions. In your response, please consider referring to SDGs relevant to the theme of the 2025 session of the Forum, including SDGs 5,7,10,13 and 16.

- Indigenous Peoples and FAO's Strategic Framework:** Indigenous Peoples are key stakeholders in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031 seeks to support Members in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 1 and SDG 2 to ensure food security and reduce poverty. To transform the agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable, FAO continues to strengthen its engagement with Indigenous Peoples. This is particularly relevant to issues related to the impact of the use of pesticides in agriculture.
- Evaluation of FAO's contribution to SDG 14 (Life Below Water):** an evaluation on SDG 14 by FAO Office of Evaluation (OED), looking at 14 projects relevant to Indigenous Peoples, found no evidence of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) conducted. The evaluation thus revealed the critical need to empower key stakeholders – including (inter alia) Indigenous Peoples – to maximize their active participation in, and contributions to, SDG 14-related work. It recommended developing an action plan that values and leverages the knowledge, capacities, and needs of Indigenous Peoples. Such an action plan, the evaluation recommended, should embed FPIC in the project cycle.
- Evaluation of GCP/PAR/020/GCF “Poverty, Reforestation, Energy and Climate Change” (PROEZA) (SDG 13):** The evaluation [report](#) found that the project was only partially aligned with the holistic values of the National Plan for Indigenous Peoples (INDI, 2023). This generated challenges of ownership and inclusion. However, the evaluation found that the project had improved its approach towards Indigenous Peoples after learning from early lessons. The evaluation concluded that in the design stage, the project adequately addressed the vulnerability and differential impacts of climate change concerning (...) Indigenous Peoples. Although changes in the approach to Indigenous Peoples resulted in greater acceptance, the project still generated gaps in ownership and inclusion and did not fully align with the values of the National Plan for Indigenous Peoples (INDI, 2023). The evaluation recommended to: i) reconsider the beneficiary selection criteria to achieve greater inclusion of Indigenous Peoples; and ii) together with the regional indigenous coordinator, the Paraguayan Institute of Indigenous People (INDI), and the group of indigenous leaders, continue adapting the process of approaching and managing plantations according to the worldview, customs and practices of the Indigenous Peoples.
- Evaluation of GCP/GLO/645/NOR, “Enhancing the contribution of small-scale fisheries to food security and sustainable livelihoods through better policies, strategies and initiatives”.** The Costa Rica [case study](#) found that small-scale fishery (SSF) communities were prioritized thoroughly in the project, focusing mainly on women and Indigenous People. The project provided technical backstopping during workshops between INCOPESCA and SSF communities, as well as capacity building on SSF Guidelines which contributed to improve the relationship between the public institution and vulnerable groups and achieved positive collaborations with women and indigenous people. For example, during the project, INCOPESCA and the

cooperative *Coope Molus Chomes* worked closely together in obtaining the legal licensing that certifies mollusks extraction as a legal activity.

Although the government already had expressed its interest and intention to work closely with women and Indigenous People, the project enabled this to happen and stimulated significant synergies and collective action with multiple stakeholders, principally with the objective of enhancing empowerment of women and Indigenous Peoples at different stages of the SSF value chain. At the regional level, the project provided technical assistance to Indigenous Peoples' groups and contributed to the establishment of the Alliance of Central American Indigenous Fishers. This was a significant step, which helped Indigenous Peoples to transition from limited participation in the SSF Guidelines implementation and decision-making processes to becoming members of the inter-sectoral working group on SSF established by OSPESCA, the Confederation of Artisanal Fisherfolks of Central America (CONFESPESCA) and FAO to implement and monitor the uptake of the SSF Guidelines.

- **Evaluation of GCP/GLO/965/SWE “Creating an enabling environment for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries”:** In Costa Rica, the [project](#) took specific measures to meaningfully include and work hand in hand with Indigenous Peoples to harmonise the SSF Guidelines with Indigenous Peoples' visions of the world, recognising their territories, ancestral use of resources and cultural systems. Close coordination with Indigenous Peoples' organisations ensured effective and respectful interactions (particularly for Indigenous women). FAO's FPIC manual was extensively used, and its steps adhered to in the design and implementation of the activities with Indigenous Peoples. Reciprocally, the sharing of consultants hired with FAO_Indigenous Peoples Unit in HQ and the project has led to the inclusion of fisheries-specific recommendations from the most recent UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the joint organisation of webinars on Indigenous Peoples and inland SSF, and the start of conversations between the SSF Core Teams and some organisations of Indigenous Peoples in North and Latin Americas.

However, the evaluation found the participation of Indigenous Peoples was limited to only one country of the project [Costa Rica], although Indigenous Peoples also live in the project area in the Philippines (There are approximately 100,000 Higaonon Indigenous Peoples scattered in Misamis Oriental to Cagayan de Oro City according to the undated information from National Commission for Culture and Art). The problems facing SSF communities manifest differently in different marginalized groups, and they have different needs that need to be reflected in local plans and the project.

FAO is developing a new flagship report on the State of Land Tenure and Governance which will quantify Indigenous custodianship of land and natural resources, highlighting the linkage between customary land rights, climate, and biodiversity conservation. FAO aligns its land indicators with SDG 15.3.1, focusing on Indigenous Peoples' lands, to reinforce sustainable land use and conservation efforts.

ii) Please describe any activities your entity has organized in support of the 2024 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and/or reports and activities that supported SDG reporting and monitoring or a VNR process at the national, regional, or global level.

- LON continues to participate in the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee) of the 79th

Session of the UN General Assembly under Agenda item: Rights of Indigenous Peoples and covers the resolution on “Rights of Indigenous Peoples.” In its margins, LON spoke at an event titled, “*The LandMark Mapping Platform: New Data and Tools for Securing Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities’ Land Rights*”.

CHALLENGES AND AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT WITHIN FAO PROJECT AND/OR PROGRAMMES WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

OED officers reported the following challenges from evaluated projects:

- **Identifying the right experts:** In the context of evaluating projects that involve Indigenous Peoples, one of the main difficulties is finding experts who have a solid background in both Indigenous Peoples’ issues and evaluation methodologies. Building a team with the right mix of expertise is essential to ensure the evaluation is both culturally sensitive and methodologically sound, but such profiles are not always readily available, which can delay the process. This challenge is amplified in countries with diverse Indigenous Peoples, where different groups have distinct languages and cultural practices, necessitating multiple experts who can address the specificities of each community.
- **Time:** Additionally, interacting with Indigenous Peoples during evaluations requires more time than conventional data collection due to the need to respect traditional communication methods, establish trust, and adapt to cultural protocols. Evaluators must be sensitive to Indigenous practices regarding timing, ceremonies, and methods of dialogue, which often necessitates a slower and more flexible approach. This can be challenging when evaluations are conducted under tight timelines and can sometimes impact the depth of data collection.

Further challenges were identified by FAO Divisions and Offices during the completion of the questionnaire. These include:

1. Many Indigenous Peoples communities are located in remote or **hard-to-reach areas**, which complicates consistent engagement of the project's technical unit and timely delivery of support. This remoteness limits access to essential services, delays data collection, and makes monitoring and evaluation more challenging, often resulting in increased costs and logistical complexities.
2. **Building trust and effectively engaging Indigenous Peoples** require in depth cultural understanding and continuous relationship-building efforts. Conventional programming approaches sometimes lack the adaptability needed to respect Indigenous knowledge systems, languages, and decision-making processes. Co-designing interventions and integrating Indigenous perspectives from the outset can improve the relevance and impact of our programmes.
3. Institutions and technical project teams have **limited culturally relevant capacities** and lack the tools to work effectively with Indigenous Peoples. Specific time and resources need to be allocated in both Government and FAO projects and programs to work appropriately with Indigenous communities, in line with their systems of governance, decision-making and worldviews. The complexity of governance structures and indigenous

representation requires work with trained and experienced professionals and greater time dedication, which should be reflected in the work plans. Project timelines also need to take into consideration time flexibility needed to work with Indigenous Peoples, often related to the need to more extensive consultations, applications of instruments such as FPIC.

4. **Reliable data on Indigenous Peoples' specific needs**, risks, and vulnerabilities remains limited, impeding the customization of interventions. Standardized data collection methods often fail to capture critical social, economic, and cultural nuances. Enhancing data collection tools to be culturally relevant, while increasing local data management capacities, are vital steps toward addressing these data gaps.
5. **Land tenure insecurity** is a major issue for Indigenous communities, exacerbated by external pressures such as mining, deforestation, and agricultural expansion. Complex regulatory environments and limited legal recognition of Indigenous land rights further complicate efforts to secure lasting solutions. Strengthening advocacy and engaging legal and policy experts can support improved land rights security.
6. **Tailoring guidance and approaches** are essential in the context of emergencies and protracted crises, where heightened risks and complex operational conditions prevail. Engagement methods need to be adapted to ensure Indigenous Peoples' rights and preferences are safeguarded, even under time-sensitive or high-pressure scenarios. Addressing these issues will require sustained funding, strengthened partnerships, and a commitment to culturally informed, flexible approaches that ensure meaningful participation and protection of Indigenous Peoples in crises.
7. **Linguistic barriers** to communication may often exist with communities. Projects must identify local bilingual allies to support exchanges and activities with Indigenous Peoples and adjust their communication formats to the communities' preferred means of communication.
8. **Integrating traditional knowledge with scientific approaches** presents challenges, as cultural identities and development priorities vary among Indigenous groups.
9. **Lack of replicable cases** that can act as model projects. While there are many examples and case studies related to agriculture production, nutrition, etc. there are very few documented examples that cater to the specific issues of Indigenous Peoples, and the geographical areas within which Indigenous Peoples are situated, that can be used for raising awareness, conducting capacity building sessions, etc.
10. Most FAO projects struggle to **implement in practice the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)** requirement. Sometimes this is because project operators in the ground are not familiar with the provisions and procedures for its implementation. Other times, because the indigenous organizations and communities misinterpret the scope of FPIC which could lead to expectations beyond the reach of the project's objectives. Often, FPIC becomes highly politicized too.
11. Many Indigenous groups struggle to **secure broader financial support or access direct grants** from bigger programmes, limiting their ability to scale up activities. Indigenous communities also often face challenges with infrastructure and administrative hurdles, limiting their access to resources and decision-making processes. Indigenous Peoples' organization also often face financial and administrative capacity constraints that might delay project processes.
12. **Women face unique challenges** in decision-making and resource access. Sometimes, patriarchal structures in communities can lead to discrimination against indigenous women and the invisibility and underestimation of their social, cultural, economic, and environmental roles. Projects must ensure that Indigenous women are

represented.

13. **Persistent discrimination and conflict** hinder intercultural dialogue among indigenous communities and their representatives and other local actors, such as fisher and farmer associations. Furthermore, the fragmentation of indigenous communities' structures, identities, lands and territories, due to historical processes of colonization and commodification, make it difficult to reach representative and sustained agreements and consensus.
14. In some countries, **identifying Indigenous Peoples and their representatives is a complex issue**, often involving challenges and conflicts between key stakeholders due to differing interpretations of recognition and rights of Indigenous Peoples.

ANNEX 1: SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2024 MEETING OF THE GLOBAL-HUB AND THE INDIGENOUS ADVOCACY TENT

From the 14th to the 18th October 2024, FAO Headquarters in Rome hosted the second in-person meeting of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems.

The Global-Hub is an **innovative thinktank** that pioneers new ways to create knowledge by giving the same level of respect to academic and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge. It gathers Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems from across the world.

This transformative meeting took place in the Nomad Indigenous Foodlab, a set of Saami Indigenous Nomadic Tents that travelled all the way from Norway to Rome.

- One tent was dedicated to the meeting of the Global-Hub (**Technical Tent**),
- Another tent was dedicated to advocacy activities on themes related to Indigenous Peoples' issues (**Advocacy Tent**).



Technical Tent: the transformative potential of the Global-Hub:

- 53 Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts
- 14 Universities
- 13 Indigenous-led organisations
- New stream of work to support the work of the High-Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
- New drafting committees on:
 - Ocean and freshwater-based Indigenous Peoples' food systems;
 - Food composition of Indigenous Peoples' foods;
 - Indigenous Peoples' food security;
 - Hunting-gathering-fishing.

Advocacy Tent: Indigenous Peoples in the spotlight

- 15 side-events;
- 6 TENT Talks;
- 4 Fire Talks;
- 1 Indigenous Peoples' art exhibition;
- 1 movie screening;
- 11 Indigenous and non-Indigenous chefs;
- 8 Indigenous musicians and bands.

ANNEX 2: 2024 KEY WEBINARS, WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

Date	Event Title	Organiser(s)
February		
26 - 28 February 2024	Meeting of the three UN Mechanisms on the rights of Indigenous Peoples about terminology	UNPFII/EMRIP/Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
26 February 2024	IPON Management Committee Meeting	IPON
March		
05 March 2024	Meeting between FAO PSUI and FAO Paraguay on the work with Indigenous Peoples	FAO PSUI/FAOPY
05 Mar 2024	Contribution to the “Sustainability, food security and Indigenous Peoples” conference at University la Sapienza, Rome	La Sapienza University
06 March 2024	Launch event for Standards of Practice to Guide Ecological Restoration	FAO PSUI
11-12 March 2024	Launch of the Knowledge-Makers Journal first collaborative edition at the Thompson Rivers University	Thompson Rivers University/FAO PSUI
14-15 March 2024	Workshops on Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge and the Sciences: strengthening recognition to address global challenges	Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences
25 March 2024	First Meeting of the Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples	FAO PSUI
25 March 2024	Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG) on Biodiversity	IDWG
April		
10 April 2024	Meeting with SERFOR and CINDES	FAO PSUI
11 April 2024	Water tenure expert group meeting	
15-26 April 2024	Twenty-third session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)	UNPFII
May		
07 May 2024	FAO PSUI meeting with Keystone	FAO PSUI
10 May 2024	In person meeting of the IWDG on Indigenous Peoples	FAO PSUI

13 May 2024	Indigenous Peoples unit meeting with Food Security and Environment, Global Affairs Canada	
15 May 2024	Meeting between FAO PSUI and OER	FAO PSUI
20-24 May 2024	4 th Pacific Ocean Climate Change Conference, Samoa	National University of Samoa, SPREP, PCCC, TE Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington
June		
04 June 2024	Event -SINODO DELLA AMAZONIA.	Holy See Permanent Observer at the FAO
05 June 2024	Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration workshop in Latin America	FAO PSUI
12 June 2024	Meeting FAO PSUI – SINAC on biocentric restoration	FAO PSUI
17 June 2024	Forests for food security and nutrition	FAO TNN and FAO NFO
19 June 2024	Meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group (IDWG) on Biodiversity	FAO
27 June 2024	Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues meeting	IASG
July		
03 July 2024	Intercambio gobierno de Brasil - FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit	FAO PSUI
08-12 July 2024	Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – 17 th Session	EMRIP
11-20 July 2024	FAO PSUI Mission to Peru and Bolivia	FAO PSUI
August		
08-09 August 2024	Expert Group Meeting on Food Security and Nutrition Data	FAO/UNICEF/WHO
22-23 August 2024	Meeting to identify principles and methodology for the intercultural co-creation of knowledge	UIMQROO (Universidad Intercultural Maya de Quintana Roo)
25-31 August 2024	World Summit on Traditional Knowledge related to Biodiversity (TK Summit), Cali, Colombia	IIFB

Questionnaire to UN System

September

09 September 2024	Workshop on GIAHS and Traditional Knowledge	
10 September 2024	12 th meeting of the Rome Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples	FAO PSUI
20 September 2024	Indigenous Navigator Orientation Session	IWGIA

October

02 October 2024	COAG Speaker corner, code of Conduct on Pesticides	FAO COAG
03 October 2024	COAG Speaker corner, Indigenous Peoples	FAO COAG
14-18 October 2024	2024 Meeting of the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems and Indigenous Advocacy tent	FAO PSUI
25 October – 03 November 2024	16 th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Cali, Colombia	CBD

November

11-21 November 2024	FAO PSUI Mission in India and Nepal, focused on Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration	FAO PSUI
----------------------------	--	----------

December

04-08 December 2024	16 th Session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD	UNCCD
----------------------------	--	-------

ANNEX 3: 2024 FAO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES UNIT MEDIA ACTIVITIES

*Disclaimer: All links were accessed and working the last time on 30 November 2024**

FAO PSUI Website's news items

- [International Indigenous Women Research Cohort Completes Special Edition of the Knowledge Makers Journal Special Edition, "Indigenous Women, Indigenous Peoples' Food & Knowledge Systems, and Climate Action"](#)
- [FAO participation to the workshops on Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and the Sciences: strengthening recognition to address global challenges](#)
- [Brazil joins the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#)
- [Indigenous Youth at the center of the discussions in New York at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)
- [FAO's side-event on the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' food systems at the UNPFII](#)
- [FAO's side-event on the Outcomes of the UNGIYF at the UNPFII](#)
- [FAO at the 23rd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)
- [When Isolating is a Voluntary choice by Indigenous Peoples](#)
- [Call for submission of Side-Events for the Indigenous Advocacy tent](#)
- [Call for submissions: Indigenizing FAO publications art contest](#)
- [Heads up! The Indigenous Nomadic Tents are back in Rome](#)
- [FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit celebrates the creation of a Subsidiary Body on Article 8\(j\) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\) related to Indigenous Peoples at the CBD COP16 in Cali](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration gains global Momentum at CBD COP16, highlighting Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge as key to biodiversity conservation in Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador](#)
- [The 2024 meeting of the Global-Hub at FAO: a unique think tank advances on the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' food systems](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples' Biocentric Restoration: a call to preserve our ecosystems](#)

FAO Stories with regards to Indigenous Peoples

- [We are camelids! Have we met?](#)
- [Sacred plant helps forge a climate-friendly future in Paraguay](#)
- [Can playing games in the Congo Basin improve wildlife conservation?](#)
- [Innovating tradition to protect ancient forests in Papua New Guinea](#)

- [The potato's travel through ages and continents](#)
- [Healing Chile's Huapi island](#)
- [Taking pasture matters into their own hands](#)
- [Green businesses for biodiversity and climate action](#)
- [Knowledge and tradition coalesce at the Global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems](#)
-

FAO Podcasts with regards to Indigenous Peoples

- [Indigenous Peoples and the nexus of climate change, biodiversity and nutrition](#)
- [Pueblos Indígenas y el nexo entre cambio climático, biodiversidad y nutrición](#)

FAO PSUI YouTube Videos

- [Indigenous Youth voices from the II Session of the UNGIYF, held at FAO in October 2023](#)
- [The II Session of the UNGIYF](#)
- [The II Session of the UNGIYF \(Pacific\)](#)
- [The II Session of the UNGIYF \(Amazon\)](#)

Pictures

Pictures from the 2024 meeting of the global-Hub on Indigenous Peoples' food systems can be found [here](#)

