

2019

# Summary Report

Partnership-building dialogue on work outside of the convention relevant to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

OCTOBER 2019 |

# **Partnership-building dialogue on work outside of the Convention relevant to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform**

Summary Report  
21 June 2019, 13:00-14:30  
World Conference Center Bonn

## **Executive Summary**

A partnership-building dialogue took place at SBSTA50 in June of 2019 on work relevant to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) outside of the Convention. During the dialogue, representatives from various UN entities, civil society organizations and other stakeholders shared their views on how collaboration and coherence of actions could be enhanced.

Participants expressed their commitment to advance the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities in finding climate solutions. They emphasized the need to seek coherence and synergies between the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the LCIPP and other bodies outside of the Convention to maximize the resource- and operational-efficiency related to climate change policies and actions.

Collaboration with educational and research institutions was one of the key themes that emerged from the dialogue. Participants highlighted that co-producing new knowledge and connecting and braiding different knowledge systems and ways of knowing (e.g. indigenous knowledge, local knowledge systems, and western science) are essential steps towards bringing about the necessary transformative change. At the same time, they also acknowledged challenges with such endeavors and the need to find the right partners and mechanisms.

The need to involve the private sector in LCIPP-related activities was another area of interest highlighted by participants. Participants recognized that while negative attitudes often prevail, especially within and towards extractive industries, engaging the private sector through the work under the LCIPP could help to enhance climate ambition.

Finding the right entry-points to enhance the coordination between LCIPP-related activities was another central theme that emerged from the dialogue. Some participants were keen to emphasize that linking the LCIPP to a human rights or climate justice approach was a necessary step to achieving this goal.

An overarching theme that permeated the discussion was the question of scale. While participants recognized that it is important to harmonize the LCIPP's activities on an international level, it was also noted that the LCIPP should aspire to coordinate its activities with other entities on a regional and local level as well.

Harnessing the power of existing resources and networks was another recurring theme throughout of the dialogue. Participants offered to share knowledge resources, research collaborations, relevant country-level experiences, and technical networks to advance the

engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in a holistic and integrated manner.

## **I. Introduction**

The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) was established at COP 21 and further operationalized at COP 23 in 2017. This is a summary report of a partnership-building dialogue that took place at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2019 related to the implementation of all three functions of the Platform.<sup>1</sup> The report provides a written record of the informal open dialogue for future discussions and actions (Figure 1. Provides a summary of potential collaborative opportunities).

COP 24 encouraged the Facilitative Working Group “to collaborate with other bodies under and outside the Convention, as appropriate, aiming at enhancing the coherence of the actions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform under the Convention.” This informal dialogue was the first step towards finding coherence and opportunities for collaboration between the LCIPP and relevant entities outside of the Convention.

The next section provides a summary of the main topics that emerged from the dialogue, including themes such as education and research, the co-production of new knowledge, and complementary linkages between different knowledge systems and ways of knowing.

## **II. Discussion during the informal open dialogue**

The dialogue was opened with a ceremonial song by Viseni Waiãpi of the Wajãpi indigenous people from Brazil. The lyrics of the song depicted a worldview, in which the planet is supported by many invisible threads. Butterflies at the edge of such threads indicate the health of the Planet. People always take care of the butterflies. However, Mr. Waiãpi’s song suggested that this is changing. The butterflies are dying because of pollution. “If we don’t take care of the butterflies, humanity will disappear,” sang Mr. Viseni Waiãpi. The decline of the butterflies worries the Wajãpi indigenous people, knowing that the planet is under stress.

FWG Co-Chair Pasang Dolma Sherpa introduced the FWG and the composition of its membership, noting the historical significance of the equal representation between indigenous peoples and Parties. “This is a historical moment for indigenous peoples and for the struggle for almost thirty years to have this space to speak our concerns and issues,” said Ms. Sherpa. She emphasized that this was an informal dialogue and that she hoped to have fruitful engagements on enhancing the collaboration of the FWG with bodies outside of the Convention, on the functions of the LCIPP.

FWG Co-Chair Majid Shafiepour encouraged more bodies outside of the Convention to get on board and contribute to the work of the LCIPP. He shared with the participants the FWG’s successful efforts to draft an initial two-year workplan for consideration by SBSTA 51, and a

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<sup>1</sup> The Conference of the Parties, by decision 2/CP.24 paragraph 23, requested the secretariat to develop, under the incremental approach for the operationalization of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, activities related to the implementation of all three functions of the Platform, at each session of the SBSTA until the workplan is adopted.

dedicated web portal of the LCIPP. He indicated that several bodies are already working on issues related to local communities and indigenous peoples and invited participants to share concrete suggestions on potential collaborative opportunities.

Collaborative opportunities with educational and research institutions was one of the first recurring themes of the dialogue that came up. Tracy Osborne, an associate professor of the University of Arizona, offered to collaborate in research with a team of researchers to co-produce new knowledge on climate change.

Kenneth Deer, a representative of the Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee, welcomed the offer from the University of Arizona. He noted that universities are important sources of climate change solutions and as such there is a great value in developing partnerships with educational institutions.

Laura S. Lynes, President of the Rockies Institute, noted that “weaving together indigenous and scientific knowledge is essential.” The goal of her organization is to bring together the best available knowledge to inform innovative practices on adaptation. She indicated that there are many people who do not have access or do not want to have access to the Internet, which means that the co-production of knowledge can sometimes be challenging. Ms. Lynes invited the LCIPP to consider some alternative in-person opportunities to learn and share knowledge. She highlighted that there is a pressing need to start talking about best practices and the contexts in which these connections work. In relation to the project “Fire with Fire”, she pointed out that it has taken years for her organization to understand the knowledge on a particular climate change threat within one community (wildfire). It is therefore important to understand the people and organizations that have a trusted relationship with the communities in order to find the best possible partners to involve.

Furthering the discussion on the indigenous/scientific knowledge nexus, Abdalah Mokssit, Secretary of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), offered to share the communication and review processes of the IPCC with indigenous peoples and local communities. He noted that the IPCC is keen to ensure that their reports reach every segment of the population, both in terms of geographical space and linguistic accessibility.

Mr. Mokssit also noted that the IPCC is open to using a variety sources in addition to peer reviewed literature, and it welcomes studies and authors who can assess them in the languages in which they are written. He encouraged indigenous peoples and local communities to provide input as part of the IPCC’s open review process and recommend relevant experts that could be involved in the overall IPCC process.

During the dialogue, participants also highlighted the role of the private sector and the pressing need of including these partners in future collaborative opportunities. Rodion Sulyandziga, FWG Vice Co-Chair, noted the absence of the private sector in these discussions. He emphasized that involving businesses has also had its challenges, sometimes associated with extractive industries and their difficult relationships with indigenous peoples and local communities. Mr. Sulyandziga proposed to create a joint venue to enhance the private sector’s participation. He suggested to organize a special session at the annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, held in November in Geneva, on the intersection of climate change and the private sector.

The importance of using existing mechanisms and bodies for collaborative opportunities was emphasized by Janene Yazzie, co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG). She noted that the IPMG oversees the participation of indigenous peoples from the seven sociocultural regions of the UN and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ms. Yazzie stated that the IPMG not only has resources to offer to the LCIPP, but it also has some shared goals with the Platform, which she hopes to explore more in depth. One such particularly important goal is to protect indigenous knowledge systems and build better pathways for local communities to participate. Ms. Yazzie also noted that the Global Landscapes Forum is focusing on the theme of a rights-based approach to land-based development. This is an ideal forum for collaboration with educational institutions, the private sector, and other landscape organizations around the globe to address adaptation, mitigation, and the protection of indigenous knowledge systems.

Celina (Kin Yii) Yong, representative of the UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD), noted that the UN-REDD Programme supports 65 partner countries and has developed numerous capacity-building materials. The programme is now looking to work with indigenous partners to document lessons that will be useful for the implementation of UN-REDD. She noted that this is also an effort to work with the private sector. Ms. Yong emphasized the emerging lessons to consider and invited the LCIPP to collaborate with the UN-REDD programme on consolidating the available knowledge.

Participants discussed the importance of coordination on a global level. Yon Fernandez-de-Larrinoa, Team Leader of the FAO Indigenous Peoples Team, pointed out that one of the key challenges is coordinating parallel processes at the international level. In particular, it is important to identify relevant processes that might not be directly connected to climate change. FAO, for example, has an important normative role in standard setting. It has a Committee on World Food Security. Mr. Fernandez-de-Larrinoa also noted that the FAO has a number of technical committees on fisheries, forestry, agriculture, and a Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. While these efforts often focus on sectoral challenges, it is important to explore how some of the work of the LCIPP can influence these ongoing processes in these areas, otherwise, there is a risk of creating several parallel processes.

Another key issue that emerged from the discussions was the question of scale. Mr. Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, Focal Point for the Indigenous Peoples Organizations constituency, suggested that participants consider how these discussions could translate to the local, national and regional levels. He noted that the discussion had been primarily focused on the international level. It is therefore important to map some of the existing regional networks that are working on the relevant LCIPP functions.

Mr. Sherpa, in his capacity as a representative of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pack (AIPP), also offered to share the outputs of a number of mapping exercises as well as existing capacity-building resources of the AIPP through the LCIPP.

Yusra Khan, a representative of Indonesia, expressed appreciation for the effort made to build partnership related to the LCIPP. Indonesia has recorded a number of local communities that work on climate change mitigation and adaptation. He offered to share relevant experiences

and noted the importance of finding the right mechanism and making collaborative opportunities easy for local community engagement.

Yow Mulala, FWG member, echoed the importance of transmitting this work at the regional level. He noted that it will be important to engage multiple technical bodies where representatives can discuss issues involving indigenous peoples and climate change. He expressed his gratitude for the comments on local communities and highlighted the thematic workshop that had taken place two days previously<sup>2</sup> on enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the LCIPP.

The need to include safeguards and human rights in the work under the LCIPP was another central topic discussed by participants. Ghazali Ohorella, a representative from the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, pointed out that there is an opportunity for the LCIPP to show that protecting the rights of indigenous peoples is the same as protecting biodiversity. The challenge is to raise awareness on human rights. He indicated that there are several institutions that focus on the human rights of indigenous peoples, which presents an opportunity for the LCIPP to interact with them. He also noted that creating synergies is important for the co-creation of new knowledge to fight climate change and it is an opportunity to provide equity between science and traditional knowledge, "because for indigenous peoples, traditional knowledge is science".

The informal dialogue also touched on the question of finding the right entry-points and approaches to collaboration. Mr. Fernandez-de-Larrinoa, for example, indicated that it is important to be strategic and identify the ideal entry-points to elevate the activities related to the LCIPP. In November 2018, FAO convened a High-level Expert Seminar on Indigenous Food Systems and brought indigenous knowledge to the forefront. Some research institutions that were less interested in these topics before became engaged following the dialogue. Mr. Fernandez-de-Larrinoa emphasized that while a human-rights-approach is important, it may not always be the right entry-point. Instead, he suggested that the LCIPP could look for the right interlocutors and move the interests of the private sector. He also invited LCIPP representatives to take part in the Forty-sixth session of the FAO's World Committee on Food Security, which will take place in October 2019.

Participants also touched on the notion of climate justice and the ways in which indigenous people's rights are intertwined with it. Dorothy Kwek from Cardiff University noted that the university has an environmental justice research unit. She echoed a point raised earlier that sometimes indigenous knowledge is seen as incompatible with the methods of natural scientists. Ms. Kwek indicated that through her work as a political theorist, she is keen to change this preconception. She expressed her commitment in showing her students that indigenous knowledge is an important way of knowing about ecology and the environment.

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<sup>2</sup> An in-session thematic workshop was held in Bonn (June 19, 2019) on enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) (decision 2/CP.24 paragraph 22).

**Figure 1. Summary of potential collaborative opportunities**

<b>Relevant actors</b>	<b>Collaborative action-items</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
<b>University of Arizona and LCIPP</b>	Co-producing new knowledge	
<b>IPCC and LCIPP</b>	Sharing the communication and review processes of the IPCC with indigenous peoples and local communities  Inviting indigenous peoples and local communities to provide inputs as part of the IPCC’s open review process and to recommend relevant experts that could be involved in the overall IPCC process	
<b>Indonesia</b>	Sharing country-level experience in engaging local communities in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts	
<b>UN Forum on Business and Human Rights and the LCIPP</b>	Organizing a special session at the annual UN Forum on Business and Human Rights on the intersection of climate change and the private sector	November 2019
<b>IPMG and the LCIPP/FWG</b>	Collaborating on protecting indigenous knowledge systems and building better pathways for local community participation	
<b>UN-REDD programme and LCIPP</b>	Engaging indigenous partners to document lessons that will help inform the implementation of the UN-REDD programme	
<b>AIPP and LCIPP</b>	Sharing the outputs of AIPP’s mapping exercises and capacity-building resources	
<b>FAO and FWG</b>	Inviting the FWG to take part in the Forty-sixth session of the FAO’s World Committee on Food Security as well as integration of LCIPP-related issues into the work of its technical committees on forestry, fisheries and genetic resources.	October 2019

### **III. Conclusion**

In his closing remarks, Mr. Shafiepour expressed appreciation for the range of issues discussed and the participants’ willingness to collaborate. He highlighted some of the key takeaways from the dialogue. First, he expressed his gratitude for universities and research institutions for their offers regarding the co-production of new knowledge. He noted that while the private sector is one of the key drivers of climate change, it also plays an important role in achieving our

common goals. Mr. Shafiepour welcomed the interests of diverse entities outside of the Convention to contribute to the work of the LCIPP. He reiterated the challenge of coordination and the need for the FWG to liaise with relevant entities to avoid duplication of work and to enhance resource- and operational-efficiency. The Co-Chairs of the FWG invited participants, both in the room and participating remotely, to continue this dialogue beyond the walls of the conference venue and translate the opportunities into concrete collaborative actions.



## **Annex**

### **List of Parties represented at the dialogue**

- Australia
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Canada
- Ecuador
- France
- Germany
- Indonesia
- Malta
- Myanmar
- Norway
- Poland
- United Kingdom
- United States

### **List of Non-Party Stakeholders and organizations represented at the dialogue**

- Amazonian Cooperation Network (RCA)
- Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
- Brazil's Indigenous People Articulation (APIB)
- Cardiff University
- Climate Action Network (CAN) International
- Coharyima
- Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB)
- Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin (COICA)
- Engineers Without Borders (EWB)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Foreign Community of Indonesia (FPCI)
- Germanwatch
- Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG)
- Institut für Ökologie und Aktions-Ethnologi (INFOE)
- Instituto Iepe
- International Collaborative Aerospace & Energy Development (CANEUS)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)
- Islamic Relief Pakistan
- Macquarie University
- Maleya Foundation
- Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIfG)
- The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
- Native American Rights Fund (NARF)
- Norwegian University of Life Science (NMBU)

- Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC)
- Perempuan AMAN
- Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organization's Forum (PINGO's Forum)
- Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK)
- The Rockies Institute (TRI)
- UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- University of Arizona
- University of Bonn
- United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD)