

# LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLATFORM

## Concept Note: LCIPP Workplan Activity 1

**Under the Function of “Knowledge”: Organize annual meetings in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, with the participation of indigenous peoples, on traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples, and local knowledge systems on cross-cutting themes related to addressing and responding to climate change.**

Version of 14 June 2021

### 1. Introduction

As part of the two-year workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) is tasked with organizing “annual meetings in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, with the participation of indigenous peoples, on traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples, and local knowledge systems on cross-cutting themes related to addressing and responding to climate change”.

This activity falls under the LCIPP’s function of “Knowledge” whereby the platform promotes “the exchange of experience and best practices with a view to applying, strengthening, protecting and preserving traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, as well as technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, taking into account the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices”.

### 2. Objectives

The objective of this activity is to make progress on two main topics: “existing rights of indigenous peoples related to the exchange and safeguarding of traditional knowledge, and on indigenous peoples’ protocols, in the context of the LCIPP” and “the use of local knowledge systems”. The deliverables mandated for this activity (below) lay out how this should be done.

### 3. Approach/methodologies for planning and implementing this activity

This activity focuses on organizing an annual meeting in conjunction with the sessions of the COP featuring participation of indigenous and local knowledge holders.

The central approaches for implementing this activity include the following guidelines for participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to their knowledge, for both the development of the compilations and the meeting held during COP26:

- The sharing and exchange of knowledge, best and good practices and experiences by indigenous peoples throughout the UNFCCC process should be carried out taking into account the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of such knowledge, innovations, and practices.
- This engagement should be based on the recognition that each indigenous people and socio-cultural region is distinct and unique with its own knowledge systems, customary institutions and protocols for such engagement, based on the right to self-determination.
- Engagement with indigenous peoples for knowledge sharing and exchange should recognize that indigenous peoples’ knowledge and ways of knowing are collective, experiential, time tested and

inter-generational, bridging both what are sometimes termed “tangible” and “intangible” cultural heritage, and are therefore distinct in many ways from other knowledge systems.

The meeting held under this activity is intended to take place during COP26 in November of 2021 in Glasgow, and will include the participation of indigenous knowledge holders and practitioners from each UN indigenous sociocultural region. The meeting will be split into two sessions. The format will be a roundtable sharing with the knowledge holders, sharing their experiences in the context of climate change. Considering this format, this meeting would not be effectively virtually; however, knowledge holders who may not be able to travel may be invited to attend virtually in hybrid form based on their needs conveyed. The first full day of the meeting will feature indigenous knowledge holders and indigenous elders sharing their experiences and good practices in regards to climate change, with the participation of Indigenous representatives as observers, including members of the IIPFCC.

The second half of the meeting will be a half-day session incorporating the participation of indigenous knowledge holders and indigenous elders, Parties to the UNFCCC, and representatives of UNFCCC Constituted Bodies. The event will focus on discussion of the recommendations proposed by the knowledge holders and practitioners during the first session addressing the two topics presented above under “objectives”. This meeting will specifically foster the inclusion and full participation of indigenous knowledge holders, indigenous elders and practitioners who have not historically had the opportunity to participate in UNFCCC sessions. The agenda will be primarily organized in thematic roundtable discussions and sharing, rather than formal presentations. There will also be the opportunity for invited knowledge holders to do a virtual presentation if they are unable to be physically present COP26 in Glasgow due to logistical constraints or public health concerns. The second half of the meeting will be coordinated with the “Multi-stakeholder in-session workshop” under Activity 8, so that both meetings may complement one another appropriately. The co-leads have proposed that the first full day session be held on one of the weekend days in between the first and second week of the COP, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> half-day session taking place on Monday November 8 or Tuesday November 9 during the second week of the COP. The 7 FWG members representing indigenous peoples will be requested to work with their regions to nominate 4 knowledge holders/practitioners/elders as participants and presenters, two primary participants and two additional alternates in total for each region. The co-leads will serve as the primary meeting co-chairs/facilitators, although other FWG members may be requested to moderate specific sessions and roundtables.

Prior to the meeting at COP26, three compilations of documents will be created. First, the compilation of information on existing rights of indigenous peoples related to the exchange and safeguarding of traditional knowledge, will be developed based on the FWG’s existing draft of the rights, safeguards, and knowledge-sharing protocols. The final version of this compilation should be compiled through inputs by all FWG members on these existing rights. The second mandated compilation, of information on the use of local knowledge systems, will be compiled through a Call for Submissions whereby local communities will be invited to submit examples of the use of local knowledge systems in relation to addressing climate change. Lastly, a third compilation featuring the experiences from indigenous knowledge holders and indigenous elders will be compiled with FWG Members’ input from excerpt statements from knowledge holders from their regions. This will be supported with rich experience and stories from the community-level perspective, illuminating how indigenous knowledge plays important role and contributions for climate change resilience and is in need of enhanced recognition by the parties.

Following the meeting during COP26 with the participation of indigenous knowledge holders and indigenous elders, the Co-leads will develop a summary report based on the key takeaways from the presentations of the participating knowledge holders, elders, and practitioners. This report should include good practices, obstacles, and proposed solutions, with recommendations to the FWG. The report should

also be accessible to the broader audience of UNFCCC stakeholders, including via the LCIPP Web Portal. This report will include building a strategy of communicating to Parties and other negotiators on the important role and contributions of indigenous peoples' knowledge and cultural practices are for climate resilience and protecting their safeguards that have been enshrined by international treaties and conventions, reflected in Compilation 1 and 3. This strategy will be developed in advance of COP26.

#### 4. Deliverables and Results

- A compilation of information on existing rights of indigenous peoples related to the exchange and safeguarding of traditional knowledge, in the context of the LCIPP, to inform the 1st annual meeting;
- A compilation of information on the use of local knowledge systems, to inform the 1st annual meeting;
- A compilation featuring the experiences from indigenous knowledge holders and indigenous elders;
- A meeting;
- A summary report on the meeting, which could include recommendations to the FWG and broader UNFCCC members and constituted bodies on good practices, obstacles and proposed solutions.

#### 5. Timeline and milestones

The meetings were mandated to take place in-conjunction with COP 26 and COP 27. COP 26 was postponed to 2021.

Month and year	Deliverable
June 2021	Finalize Concept Note and publish online.
July 2021	Develop strategy for outreach to indigenous peoples and input from local communities.
August 2021	Compile the deliverables.
November 2021	Hold meetings in conjunction with COP 26 and develop a summary including examples, good practices and recommendations.
Dec 2021	Draft the final summary report.

The FWG decided, by consensus, not to hold the first annual meeting in 2020 virtually, but rather to agree on a safeguards statement, which has been uploaded to the LCIPP web portal, and to hold the meeting in 2021 if possible.

#### 6. Resource implications

Four knowledge holders or practitioners from each of the seven socio-cultural regions could serve as resource contributors to support and attend the meeting. Contributors could be invited to informally translate the two envisioned compilations in Spanish, French, and Russian so that they are as accessible as possible to indigenous peoples and local communities around the world. For an in-person meeting during the COP26, financial resources for the participation of these knowledge holders would be requested.

#### 7. Partners

Indigenous peoples, knowledge holders and other relevant bodies under and outside the Convention.

## **8. Linkages with other activities**

This activity has linkages with LCIPP workplan activities 2 and 3, which also deal with “knowledge”, as well as with the LCIPP web portal.

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