

Concept note: LCIPP workplan activity 2

Regional gatherings with the participation of indigenous peoples, Parties and local communities, as appropriate, focused on threats to and impacts on specific ecosystems from climate change, and on sustaining livelihoods

Version of 14 June 2021

1. Introduction

Please note: This concept note discusses the regional gatherings in general. Work on the first regional gathering has been postponed due to the COV-19 pandemic. Information on, and planning for, the first regional gathering will be included in the concept note when possible.

The initial two-year workplan for implementing the functions of the LCIPP calls for the organization of “**regional gatherings with the participation of indigenous peoples, Parties and local communities, as appropriate, focused on threats to and impacts on specific ecosystems from climate change, and on sustaining livelihoods**”. In addition, it specifies that at least one regional workshop is to be held per year “for and in a different UN sociocultural indigenous region or UN regional group”.

These regional gatherings will advance implementation of the three distinct and inter-related “Purposes of the LCIPP” (adopted in para 5 of decision 1/CP.23):

- 1) *“To strengthen the knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change”;*
- 2) To facilitate *“the exchange of experiences and the sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner”* (also included in para 135 of the decision by which the Paris Agreement was adopted, decision 1/CP.21); and
- 3) *“To enhance the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process”.*

2. Objectives

The primary focus of the Regional Gatherings will be on the LCIPP’s Function 1, Knowledge: “promote 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.”

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports on land and oceans recall that indigenous peoples all over the planet have a significant role to play both in adaptation and mitigation of climate change by protecting and restoring ecosystems with their unique traditional knowledge.

3. Approach/methodologies for planning and implementing this activity

General approach to all the regional gatherings

The FWG, in implementing this activity, will need to also take into account the COVID-19 Pandemic and the need to protect human life.

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The regional gatherings will aim to gather 50-75 knowledge-holders and practitioners from various eco- and food systems within each region; as per the mandate: “with the participation of indigenous peoples, Parties and local communities, as appropriate” to:

- 1) Share and exchange knowledge, experiences and practices for adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change using indigenous and local knowledge, practices, methods, science, technologies, values, and ways of knowing;
- 2) Identify impacts to indigenous practices, eco-systems and lifeways from the causes and impacts of climate change within each region;
- 3) Identify threats to and impacts on indigenous livelihoods, food- and ecosystems and exacerbated by climate change and recommend policies to address these challenges;
- 4) Recommend rights safeguards for the protection of indigenous knowledge and practices at the national, regional and international levels in the context of climate change; and
- 5) Renew and revitalize indigenous peoples networks for the ongoing exchange of knowledge, methods and resources and for revitalizing traditional trade relations to increase resilience and capacity for adaptation.

FWG members from the respective regions can coordinate: Party FWG representatives can also be involved in the coordination including in fundraising efforts and building regional participation by Parties, working in coordination with the indigenous FWG members from that region.

The UNFCCC Secretariat supports and facilitates the work of the FWG. This includes support for coordination of travel and logistics for the gatherings, working in coordination with the indigenous FWG members from each region who will be the lead co-organizers. The cost estimations for the gatherings are important, as paragraphs 30 and 32 of decision 2/CP.24 mention that the support is subject to the availability of financial resources, and so fundraising will be required.

Cost estimations for each gathering will be approximately \$150,000 (for one region) and \$250,000 (for combined regions) including venue, travel, communication and other costs (i.e. translation if needed for multi-lingual regions). While the expectation is that funds may be available through additional funding sources, supplementary funding to the UNFCCC secretariat would complement such support. Cost- and emissions- savings are also encouraged, and can be realized through, for example, reducing participation costs by holding the gatherings back-to-back with other climate change relevant meetings where indigenous peoples and local communities are already planning to participate

The indigenous FWG member(s) from each region are encouraged to establish a representational regional organizing committee to assist with designating participants, developing agendas etc.

The regional gatherings can also invite Parties in the region to participate in specific parts of the agenda focused on dialogues and exchanges of view with the participants, focused on the creation of proposals and commitments for improved relations and effective engagement by indigenous peoples and local communities in national and international plans, programs and policy-development, including the development, evaluation and implementation of NDCs and NAPs.

4. Deliverables and Results

- 1) Input to the FWG meetings in the form of summary reports which could include recommendations. These could also give input to the annual meeting, see “linkages” below.
Elements of the outcome document can include:
 - a) Recommendations for positively impacting national policies on climate change and UNFCCC processes for realizing the objectives of paragraph 135 of decision 1/CP.21;

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- b) Recommendations for ongoing meaningful engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in NDCs, NAPs and other climate change-related national-level policy development within each country, and sharing of current good practices in this regard;
 - c) Recommendations for rights safeguards and their implementation at all levels relevant to climate change, with a special focus on the regional level;
 - d) Sharing of good practices and recommendations for climate solutions;
 - e) Recommendations for next steps and continued work at the local/community/tribal, state, regional and international levels incorporating regional perspectives and experiences.
- 2) Tool on the dedicated LCIPP web portal for highlighting the work and recommendations of indigenous peoples, and indigenous-led gatherings and conferences
 - a) Compilations of best practices and successful programs that were shared at the gathering on the local, tribal, community and regional levels using and implementing traditional knowledge, practices and methods regarding food and water protection and adaptation, inter-generational transmission of knowledge, ecosystem protection and restoration, revitalization of indigenous systems for trade and exchange of knowledge, seeds and other essential elements. All documentations and presentations will be shared strictly in accordance with the rights to FPIC and Article 31 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
 - b) Contributions and presentations shared at the regional gatherings can also be uploaded to the LCIPP web page/portal based on FPIC, highlighting the work, recommendations and innovations of indigenous peoples including outcomes of other indigenous-led gatherings and conferences that have taken place and that were shared at the regional gatherings.
 - 3) New opportunities for collaboration addressing climate policy between indigenous peoples and government policy-makers in the respective region.
 - 4) Renewed alliances among indigenous peoples within each country and region to continue sharing and exchanging adaptation methods, innovations, traditional and new/sustainable technologies, seeds and food resources, teaching and learning techniques and to increase resilience and adaptive capacity, in the face of the climate crisis.

5. Partners

Regional indigenous peoples networks, knowledge-holders and practitioners, relevant bodies both under and outside of the UNFCCC, Parties and private and individual funding entities

6. Linkages with other activities

The regional gatherings will also contribute to advancing the implementation of the other two LCIPP Functions as follows:

“Capacity for engagement”. The regional gatherings will provide an opportunity for indigenous knowledge holders, practitioners and leaders to better understand the UNFCCC process in general and the LCIPP in particular and to have input into these processes through the outcome document and other inputs as detailed under “Deliverables and results” below.

“Climate change policies and actions”. The regional gatherings will provide opportunities for input into policy implementation within each region by setting aside time at each gathering for interchange with policy makers on the tribal, municipal, state and international levels and by making recommendations for policy change that respects and protects their knowledge, practices and rights. While responses and recommendations may vary from region to region, there is an expectation of commonalities arising from the regional gatherings which can be shared at the annual meeting (activity 1 of the LCIPP workplan) which will have the themes of food and water in 2020, where multi-regional solutions can be discussed. They can also feed into Activity 6, as appropriate.

