

Concept note: LCIPP workplan activity 4

Capacity for engagement: annual thematic training workshops to build capacity for engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in the relevant work under and outside the UNFCCC process

Version of 27 October 2020

1. Introduction:

The initial two-year workplan for implementing the functions of the LCIPP, under function 2 “Capacity for Engagement”, specifies that the FWG will “Organize annual thematic training workshops to build capacity for engaging indigenous peoples, and local communities in the relevant work under and outside the UNFCCC process”. The LCIPP workplan includes one thematic training workshop per year “with indigenous peoples, local communities, Parties and other relevant stakeholders”. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 and 2021 a series of virtual webinars will be held, and will complement an in-person training workshop planned to be held in conjunction with a UNFCCC session in 2021.

2. Objectives

General objectives of this activity

Through its function on “Capacity for Engagement”, the LCIPP aims to “build the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to enable their engagement in the UNFCCC process as well as the capacity of Parties and other relevant stakeholders to engage with the platform and with local communities and indigenous peoples, including in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other climate change related processes. Activity 4 of the initial two-year workplan also specifies that it will focus on both aspects of this function.

As a first step, first the workshop will focus on building capacity for engagement of Parties. As a second step, trainings will focus on the capacity of engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, as a continuation of the same activity. The detailed concept note for such trainings will be developed by the FWG in 2021, integrating lessons learned from the webinars and the first workshop.

The webinars and first workshop do not directly address the topic of local knowledge based on the principle that indigenous peoples only speak to their knowledge and cannot speak on behalf of other groups. Over time an understanding of local knowledge may be developed. When local community representatives join the FWG as members (pending the mandated review), further consideration on how to build Parties’ capacity on engaging local knowledge can be initiated as a separate and distinct area of work from Indigenous Knowledge (IK).

Objectives of the webinars and the first workshop

A key objective is to increase the capacity of Parties and relevant institutions toward understanding, respecting, recognizing and increasing their potential for ethical engagement of indigenous knowledge in the context of averting, minimizing, and addressing the adverse impacts of climate change. This objective is consistent with the findings of the IPCC reports highlighting the adverse impacts of climate change upon indigenous communities, and the significance and value of indigenous knowledge of their respective relationships with diverse and biologically rich ecosystems across the globe. In addition to operationalizing the LCIPP’s function of capacity for engagement, this activity will also inform the knowledge function thereby making linkages between these two functions of the Platform.

3. Approach/methodologies for planning and implementing this activity

Training webinars:

A series of four webinars (1.5-2 hours each) will be hosted over the duration of several months (see table below). A facilitator will moderate a panel consisting of 3-4 speakers who will each provide a short training. Opportunities for interaction between speakers and participants will be prioritized. These will include opportunities to discuss, as well as share via the chat function. ‘Supplementary’ material will be provided to participants after each webinar and will be posted on the LCIPP web portal.

While the training webinars will be able to engage some who are not able to attend UNFCCC in-person meetings, the virtual format will prove challenging for some people. As a result, the training webinars will be organized as a way to complement the in-person training to take place in 2021. They will also present an opportunity to disseminate information and materials to a diverse audience. All webinars will be recorded and available on the LCIPP web portal.

They will be organized in the following order:

Webinar #1: Trust and Respect: Contours of Indigenous Knowledge

- Human rights framework
- Definitions of Indigenous Knowledge
- Core elements of Indigenous Knowledge?
- Examples of where we can see specific references to Indigenous Knowledge, traditional knowledge

Webinar #2: What does ethical and equitable engagement of Indigenous Knowledge in the context of climate change look like?

- What are examples of Indigenous Peoples’ protocols and guidelines for co-production of knowledge and knowledge synthesis that have been respected and thus successfully put into practice?
- What are challenges encountered in co-production of knowledge and knowledge synthesis?
- What does this mean for ethical engagement of Indigenous Knowledge

Webinar #3: Utilization of Indigenous Knowledge in knowledge synthesis and co-production of Indigenous Knowledge

Webinar #4: Opportunities and Moving Forward: Substantive and procedural measures to ensure the ethical engagement of Indigenous Knowledge holders and use of Indigenous Knowledge within the context of climate change policy and action

- Recommendations from/for constituted bodies
- Co-leads and partners from Activity 7 to speak on mandate of mapping exercise

In-person training workshop:

The first workshop will be held over one day, at the earliest opportunity in 2021, and in conjunction with a UNFCCC session.

It will present an opportunity to summarize the webinar discussions, open a space for dialogue and questions, and ensure that the information and perspectives that are shared have been fully understood. The session content will not duplicate the webinar content. This in-person workshop is especially important to ensure that nuances, diversity, and outstanding gaps or issues raised during the webinars are identified, reinforced, and addressed. Those who are unable to access the webinars but able to attend the meeting will also have this opportunity to engage. It also allows for resource people such as government/intergovernmental representatives to be available in-person, which is of great value in and of itself, and it helps with framing the discussion in a broader context outside the UNFCCC.

Sessions may include formats such as panels, presentations and group discussions. They will consist of brief summaries of webinars (20 min each) and then will focus on fostering productive dialogue for the remainder of the time. This dialogue will focus on deep discussion of one particular question – “What does ethical and equitable engagement of Indigenous Knowledge in the context of climate change look like?” This will especially focus on good practices of ethical engagement and products or examples that are respectful of IK and be a unique opportunity to capture diverse regional perspectives from all seven UN Indigenous sociocultural regions.

The workshop format should allow for the face-to-face interaction of participants. The number of participants envisioned to attend is 100-120. The event will be webcast and recorded to post on the LCIPP web portal. The outline of the agenda is found below. A detailed agenda will be shared by the FWG closer to the time.

IK Workshop Draft Agenda	
10:00-10:15	Welcome and opening remarks
10:15-11:30	Recap of webinar series
11:30-13:00	Deep Dive into the question: “What does ethical and equitable engagement of Indigenous Knowledge in the context of climate change look like?” - Bringing to forefront discussion on approaches to safeguard sensitivities
14:00-17:30	Continuation of Deep Dive
17:30-18:00	Recap of the workshop, main messages and recommendations for moving forward. Closing remarks

4. Deliverables and results

The training webinars and the first workshop sessions will be devoted to developing greater understanding in the context of climate change, of (1) the content of individual and collective human rights of indigenous peoples; (2) contours of indigenous knowledge through provision of an introduction of indigenous knowledge; (3) Indigenous peoples’ protocols and guidelines; and (4) important substantive and procedural measures to ensure the ethical engagement of indigenous knowledge holders.

Insights will be applicable and relevant to ongoing regional and international discussions/processes and consideration of the co-production of knowledge and climate policy as well as the reporting, communication, and synthesis of existing climate knowledge. This event will provide a space to gather indigenous peoples, Parties, local communities and academia together to discuss issues related to indigenous knowledge and recommend ways forward.

At the conclusion of the in-person workshop, the FWG would prepare a workshop **summary report** outlining the key outcomes and recommendations from the workshop, including links to materials that are presented at the workshop (e.g. protocols, definitions).

5. Timeline and milestones for the training webinars and the first training workshop

The timeline will be adjusted when there is more clarity on the date of the in-person workshop.

Month	Task
April 2020	Draft concept note
August-October 2020	Finalize the conceptualization of the training webinars, including the agendas and proposed speakers Outreach to speakers and facilitators begins
19 November 2020	Training webinar #1
January 2020, date tbc	Training webinar #2
February 2021, date tbc	Training webinar #3
March 2021, date tbc	Training webinar #4
2020, Date tbc	Hold the in-person training workshop
2020, Date tbc	Summary report

6. Partners

United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), multilateral development banks (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, etc.), Indigenous Peoples Organizations, individual experts and resource persons from Parties, indigenous communities and local communities, other constituted bodies of the UNFCCC, research Institutions/academia.

7. Linkages with other activities

Taking into consideration the initial two-year work plan in its entirety, Activity 4 is linked with a number of other activities, including those serving the function “capacity for engagement”.

Activity 4 can be directly connected with Activities 3 and 5 in addition to the results from the mapping activities that are currently underway. In discussion with the co-leads of these activities, strategies will be developed to promote and complement other LCIPP activities.

Furthermore, the recommendations coming out of the workshop could feed into Activity 6 of the LCIPP workplan, at FWG 4: “Develop recommendations for consideration at SBSTA 54 on the engagement and input of indigenous peoples and local communities across the UNFCCC process”.

It is also closely linked with Activity 1 (i.e. 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). As these annual meetings are directed to focus on “traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples, and local knowledge systems” it is imperative that they are designed, delivered and received with a clear understanding of these distinct knowledge systems. An expected outcome of this workshop is to build a collective and clear understanding of indigenous knowledge and related aspects, that will provide a strong and important foundation to the forthcoming annual meeting to take place at COP 26 and more broadly to operationalize various aspects of the work plan and the three functions of the Platform. Taking this approach will allow for consistency and ease of building on previous work with clear and tangible links between Platform activities.