

LCIPP Biregional Gathering
for Asia and Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia
Regional Co-leads' summary notes

Agenda Item 5(d)

The Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) organized a biregional gathering for Asia, and Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia from 21 to 24 of April 2026. This gathering was held during the UNFCCC Climate Week in Yeosu, Republic of Korea.

This was the **first Regional/Biregional Gathering**:

- taking place as part of the Collective Approach 2 of the Baku Workplan of the LCIPP
- being organized for the Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia region
- taking place as part of UNFCCC Climate Weeks
- applying a multi-pathway outreach approach to ensure inclusivity and transparency in identifying knowledge holders and practitioners Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

This CA2 regional co-leads' informal summary notes document takeaways and reflections, collectively referred to as the *Yeosu Model* the application of multiple interconnected methods, as shown in this document, that highlight living interconnection rather than an engineered structure.

I. Advantages and disadvantages of holding the LCIPP biregional gathering during the UNFCCC Climate Week via-a-vis having it as a standalone event

Holding the biregional gathering during the UNFCCC Climate Week brought both advantages and limitations.

Substantively, the gathering was designed in a way that facilitated the engagement of knowledge holders in different Climate activities.

For example, LCIPP knowledge holders from the Philippines and Nepal spoke at the first session of the event focusing on loss and damage associated with the adverse impact of climate change. They shared how stronger cyclones, unprecedented wildfire, and the disappearance of plants have caused not only economic losses, but also loss of cultural practices and knowledge systems. When a plant disappears, so too may the cultural practices associate with it, the wisdom carried through it, and the stories that help communities navigate uncertainty in the face of climate change.

Two of the nine tables of the JTWP world café focused on *“Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, traditional knowledge and locally led approaches in the context of just transition pathways that enhance food security.”* Six LCIPP knowledge holders participated in the dialogue and the FWG Co-Chair moderated one of the tables.

At the event on halting deforestation, knowledge holders from Russia and Nepal shared stories from their communities as how they are regenerating grey mountains into green mountains, including through sustained community engagement.

In addition to the participation of knowledge holders and FWG members in relevant Climate Week activities, the FWG also invited representatives of constituted bodies and work programmes to the LCIPP gathering. These included representatives of WIM ExCom, KCI, and ACE, as well as the newly appointed PYCC and our colleagues supporting the GST process.

Convening the biregional gathering at Climate Week made the procedural and logistical process more efficient. Since the gathering was part of Climate Week programme, a standalone MoU wasn't needed.

At the same time, convening the gathering during Climate Week wasn't without its drawbacks. The broader Climate Week programme and attendance made it less conducive for LCIPP knowledge holders to interact informally during lunch and evening breaks and foster a stronger sense of LCIPP knowledge holders' community. This sense of community matters because the gathering and Climate Week engagement are not an end in and of themselves, but an important step in the ongoing process to facilitate the sustained engagement of knowledge holders and practitioners from Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process.

There were also some unanticipated situations. For instance, some youths among the LCIPP funded knowledge holders arranged impromptu meetings with the PYCC during the LCIPP biregional gathering sessions, making use of the Climate Week setting.

Coordinating the participation of more than 40 knowledge holders and practitioners from approximately 20 countries was a complex undertaking. These challenges were compounded by delays in ticket issuance, last-minute travel modifications, and, in some cases, overlooked transit visa requirements. In addition, despite the efforts of the secretariat, three funded participants from the Asia region were unable to secure entry visas to the Republic of Korea and therefore could not participate in the LCIPP biregional gathering.

II. Methodological approaches

As noted earlier in this document, the CA2 regional co-leads for the Asia and CEERFCAT regions applied multiple interconnected methods to promote inclusiveness, transparency, reach and impact. This section outlines these methodological approaches, collectively referred to as the *Yeosu Model*.

a. Multi-pathway outreach approach

The co-leads applied a **multi-pathway outreach approach** to support the FWG members in identifying knowledge holders and practitioners from Indigenous Peoples and local communities from the two participating regions.

The outreach approach followed multiple, complementary pathways to ensure openness, transparency and broad reach. It included an open call for expressions of interest to engage in and contribute to the LCIPP biregional gathering, disseminated through the LCIPP web portal, mailer and other relevant communication channels. This was complemented by targeted outreach through LCIPP mailing lists, including participants from the 2025 COP 30 Presidency dialogues and workshop on the engagement of local communities, as well as past mandated LCIPP events. Outreach was also extended to relevant global and regional IP and LC networks, including the newly launched Global Forum on Local Communities and Climate Change, to support wider dissemination without implying nominating authority or representational status. In addition, outreach was also extended to and

through relevant UN entities engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as through RCC Asia – Pacific. Following a robust outreach the Expression of Interest received were reviewed through a balanced selection criteria applied by the co-leads. Several knowledge holders were funded through the regional initiatives of the RCC, which further enriched the diversity of perspectives that the knowledge holders bring to the regional gatherings.

b. LCIPP Framework

Beyond the identification of knowledge holders, an **LCIPP framework** (see figure 1) ensured that each segment of this four-day gathering was carefully curated, both as a standalone module and as part of a coherent overall story.

Figure 1 LCIPP Framework



This framework moved through several interconnected dimensions or quadrants: observed climate impacts on peoples' livelihoods and ecosystems, practices grounded in diverse ways of understanding and relating to the land and waters, practical ways for bringing such worldviews and knowledge systems into the UNFCCC process. The aim was not only to inform, but also gradually to transform the global processes in shaping and enacting climate actions, including the global stocktaking of collective progress towards achieving the goals set out in the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

c. Case story template

To further enhance the impact of this gathering, a **case story template** was distributed amongst the knowledge holders to complete and submit before their in-person participation in the live event in Yeosu. The resulting compilation of more than 40 case stories helped ensure that the knowledge holders came prepared, not by their fluency of the UNFCCC process, but by articulating the stories their peoples and communities wished to share for the benefit of all. This approach also enhances the efficiency of implementing the deliverable related to case story compilation under the Baku

Workplan. Knowledge holders were provided with a guiding template; while retaining flexibility to adapt it as appropriate to their contexts.

d. Virtual Preparatory Briefing for knowledge holders

A virtual preparatory briefing was organized one week prior to the gathering to provide a detailed overview of the LCIPP Biregional Gathering agenda and to share information on potential engagement opportunities for knowledge holders during Climate Week. This approach proved highly effective, resulting in the sharing of concrete examples by knowledge holders. The briefing was well received, with many participants, particularly from the CEERFCAT region, expressing interest in additional intersessional training and briefings to support more effective engagement during events such as regional gatherings.

e. Living cultural and ceremonial expressions

The experiences, cultural practices and diverse ways of knowing and relating to each other and to nature among Indigenous Peoples and local communities are distinct, dynamic and living.

Such knowledge systems are often not written down. In some cases, knowledge holders from the LCIPP community pointed out that the very act of documentation may risk freezing, flattening, or misrepresenting them. To recognize and honor such nuanced understanding, the LCIPP Biregional gathering created space each day for knowledge holders to share living cultural and ceremonial expressions, including rituals, oral recitations and other forms of ceremonial practice.

To further facilitate the exchange of diverse ways of knowing and sharing, a photo gallery, composed of photo submissions from the knowledge holders, alongside materials repurposed from the LCIPP work was also set up.

f. Responses to the LCIPP calls for submissions

Dedicated time and space were allocated for knowledge holders and practitioners from Indigenous Peoples and local communities across the participating regions to share their views on the impact of the work undertaken under the LCIPP to date. They were also invited to reflect on possible activities, priorities, and thematic focus areas that could inform both the development of the next LCIPP workplan for 2028–2031 and the review of the FWG in 2027, pursuant to decision 14/CP.29.

III. Next Steps

The co-leads agreed to bring forward the methodological approaches highlighted in this document to the FWG, through the relevant agenda item(s) at FWG 15, with a view to recommending their adoption at FWG 15, as the body sees appropriate.