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Principles & Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples



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Overview

- Background
- Process
- Relevant GEF Policies and Principles
- Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples
- Mechanisms for Implementation



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Background



- 160 full and medium-sized biodiversity projects involving Indigenous Peoples
- ~15% of the GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) targets and involved Indigenous Peoples
- Projects design and results can be enhanced with partnership and involvement of Indigenous Peoples



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Engagement Process

- CBD COP10: GEF CEO acknowledged need to review and enhance engagement of indigenous peoples
- Consultation process initiated in Spring 2011
 - Establishment of Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) and series of workshops and consultations
 - Swiss government support
 - Development of Issues Paper by IPTF
- Draft GEF Principles & Guidelines developed
 - GEF-hosted workshop with IPTF, GEF Agencies, GEF NGO Network and other experts
 - Regional outreach on the Draft conducted by IPTF
 - Revisions based on 3 rounds of inputs



Key Inputs from the IPTF and others Partners

- Recognition of international obligations, including UNDRIP, Nagoya Protocol, etc.
- Incorporate best practice
 - Expanded indigenous peoples participation, including self-selection
 - FPIC
 - Practical guidance for planning
 - Land tenure and rights
 - Resettlement
 - Traditional Knowledge and Access/Benefit Sharing
- Mechanisms for implementation



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Principles

- Respect for Indigenous Peoples' and their members' dignity, human rights, and cultural uniqueness
- Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the identification, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project activities.
- Activities are to be carried out in transparent and open manner, including full documentation
- Adoption of a standard of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) for GEF-financed projects for which FPIC is required by virtue of the relevant state's ratification of ILO Convention 169, and where it is required by domestic legislation or other applicable international obligations
- Availability of GEF Indigenous Peoples Focal point and the Conflict Resolution Commissioner as needed



New Guidelines

- Recognition of indigenous peoples as stakeholders, partners and rights-holders
- Acknowledgement of UNDRIP and support for realization of its provisions
- Planning
 - Preparation of culturally appropriate plan at the earliest stages of project development



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New Guidelines (continued)

- *Participation, Rights and Governance*
 - Full and effective participation in GEF policies, processes, projects and programs, with self selection
 - Criterion for indigenous status, including self-identification
 - Support for land-tenure and management based on domestic laws
 - Recognize request by Indigenous Peoples to apply FPIC for GEF projects impacting them, consistent with UNDRIP
- *Resettlement*
 - GEF does not finance forced resettlement



New Guidelines (Continued)

- *Traditional Knowledge and Benefit Sharing*
 - Recognition of existing traditional knowledge & access/benefit sharing mechanisms, Akwe: Kon, Nagoya, etc.
- *Gender equality*
 - Implementation of the GEF Gender Policy
- *Accountability, Grievance, Conflict Resolution*
 - GEF facilitates access to local or country level grievance and accountability systems
 - GEF Partner Agencies are also required to have systems in place
 - GEF Conflict Resolution Commissioner
 - GEF Focal Point documentation of decisions and complaints



Mechanisms for Implementation

GEF Indigenous Peoples Focal Point

Strengthened Financial Arrangements

Enhanced Monitoring Systems

Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group

Capacity building and Information exchange



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Thank you



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