



*Overcoming the barriers to unlock the
mitigation potential of Forestry and
Other Land Uses.*

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Indigenous Peoples, Forest and Land Use

The significance of the forest and land in indigenous peoples' culture and spirituality is based on a holistic vision where all living creatures and plants obtain particular meaning, including a respect for mother earth which is a fundamental value for the continuity of the life. The passing on of traditional knowledge binds these cultural practices together into a cohesive and tangible form. It is imperative that indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territory, resources and the protection of traditional knowledge are recognized and upheld so that cultural practices are continued and protected.



Full and Effective Participation

It is imperative that indigenous peoples' territories and resources be protected in order to maintain forests and lands and related traditional knowledge. The indigenous peoples full and effective participation along with other sectors is mandatory. Such participation will assist in solving environmental issues by creating an agreement of global environment standards.



Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The imposition of unsustainable projects by governments and private companies in our territories without consultation or prior informed consent, and without taking into account the rights and values of the indigenous peoples affected.



COICA-Forests and Territories must be valued, not just carbon

Forest contribute with services that can potentially also influence global climate, such as storing 20% of the fresh water of the world's rivers, and protecting against the erosion and long-distance climatic effects which are not entirely understood yet. Also, they offer global and regional services with biodiversity, production of goods and various ecosystemic services. More significantly, the forest is part of an indigenous territory and is the space that shelters spirituality, culture, identity, pride and future indigenous development. The indigenous ways of life, different to those of modern colonization, are the ones that have kept these forests for centuries.



Recommendation

In respect as well of the need to enable UNFCCC to be in accordance with currently acceptable language and standards regarding indigenous peoples, IIPFCC recommends the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples within all climate change negotiations, policies, proposals, projects and programmes at all levels, beginning with the inclusion of indigenous peoples within working groups, expert meetings, steering committees and all other policy and decision-making bodies.