
Existing funding within the United Nations system and additional funding opportunities for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities from all regions related to climate change

Activity 11 of the initial two-year workplan (2020-2021) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

Synthesis document

Summary

Indigenous peoples and local communities play an important role in finding climate solutions. They have, however, yet to gain full and effective participation in the international climate change policy process. The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform is an open and inclusive space and brings together people and their knowledge systems to build a resilient world for all.

This synthesis document aims to map and report on existing funding within the United Nations system and identify additional funding opportunities for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities from all regions related to climate change. This synthesis document is part of activity 11 of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform's initial two-year workplan.

Recognizing the evolving nature of such funding opportunities, this document is complemented with an online tool. The online tool is housed under the designated Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform web portal.

This synthesis document, in combination with the complementary online tool, provides a comprehensive overview of relevant funding opportunities that may be accessed to enhance indigenous peoples and local communities' participation related to climate change.

Abbreviations and acronyms

AF	Adaptation Fund
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FIMI	Foro Internacional de Mujeres Indigenas
FWG	Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IPAF	Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LDCF	GEF Least Developed Countries Fund
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NIE	National Implementing Entity
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
RCC	Regional Collaboration Centres of the UNFCCC
RIPO	Regional indigenous peoples' organization
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SCCF	GEF Special Climate Change Fund
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
SGP	GEF/UNDP Small Grants Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNPFII	United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

I. Introduction

1. Indigenous peoples and local communities play an important role in finding climate solutions.^{1,2} Despite this, their full and effective participation in the international climate change policy process has yet to be fully materialized.
2. The LCIPP was established to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities³ and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change.⁴ The LCIPP facilitates the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned related to climate change mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner. It also enhances the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process.⁵
3. This synthesis document aims to “map and report on existing funding within the United Nations system, and identify additional funding opportunities for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities from all regions related to climate change”. It has been drafted by the secretariat of the UNFCCC, under the guidance of the FWG. The FWG nominated two members as Co-leads⁶ for this activity. It is part of the activity 11 of the initial two-year workplan⁷ of the LCIPP.
4. In accordance with the concept note⁸ drafted by the activity Co-leads and approved by the FWG, this activity maps funds and funding at different levels that are accessible to indigenous peoples and local communities, related to thematic areas such as education, adaptation and mitigation.
5. Through its deliverables, a synthesis document and an online tool, this activity provides an overview of existing and possible future funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities related to climate change. The implementation of this activity also contributes towards the guiding principles⁹ of the LCIPP, especially towards the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and adequate funding for the functions of the LCIPP.

II. Methodology

6. The landscape of funding opportunities (as referred to in paragraph 3) evolves over time. This paper therefore provides a snapshot of the current state. The secretariat, under the guidance of the Co-leads, administered a survey (see Annex I) on 13 July 2020. The survey was distributed among relevant UN organizations and other entities. A full list of entities for the survey outreach is included in Annex II of this document. Key actors were interviewed to complement the survey results.
7. The survey received 31 responses, including responses from organizations that are part of the financial mechanism of the Convention (e.g. GCF, AF and GEF) and other relevant UN agencies. The survey further explored the geographic and thematic

¹ IPCC report (2019): ipcc.ch/srccl/

² IPBES global assessment (2019): ipbes.net/global-assessment

³ For more information about “local communities” in the context of the LCIPP work, please refer to the 2019 in-session thematic workshop discussion: unfccc.int/topics/local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform/events-meetings-and-workshops/in-session-thematic-workshop-of-the-local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform.

⁴ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 135.

⁵ Decision 2/CP.23, paragraph 5.

⁶ Mr. Rodion Sulyandziga, representing UN indigenous sociocultural region: Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; and Ms. Irina Barba and her predecessor Ms. Elvira Gutiérrez Barrón, representing UN regional group: Latin America and the Caribbean.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/4, annex I.

⁸ Activity 11 concept note: unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Concept%20note%20for%20LCIPP%20activity%2011%2C%20version%20of%20April%202020.pdf

⁹ Decision 2/CP.23, paragraph 8: unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/docs/2017/cop23/eng/11a01.pdf

distribution of such existing funding opportunities as well as the levels¹⁰ at which such funding opportunities existed (see tables 1-5).

8. The survey results were further complemented by semi-structured interviews with survey respondents. Interviewees were invited based on their survey responses, where they indicated provision of financial support to indigenous peoples and local communities for their participation in climate related activities. Section III of this paper provides a summary analysis of the survey and interview results.

III. Existing funding opportunities for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities from all regions related to climate change

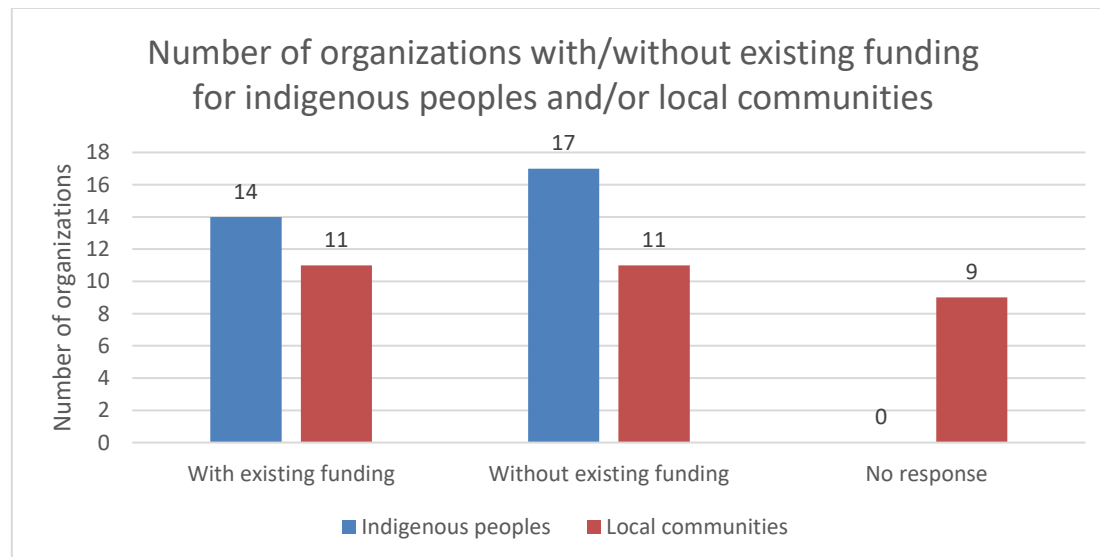
(a) Existing funding opportunities

9. Fourteen survey respondents reported that they provided financial support to indigenous peoples for their participation in climate related activities. These organizations include the GCF, GEF, AF, IFAD, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UN Women and OHCHR. In addition, UNICEF reported that it was looking to develop plans for future provision of financial support to indigenous peoples.

10. A total of eleven respondents provided financial support for the participation of local communities in climate change-related activities. These organizations include the GCF, GEF, AF, IFAD, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, and FAO. An overview of the survey responses is shown in figure 1 below.

Figure 1

Number of existing funding opportunities for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities related to climate change



(b) Geographic distribution of existing funding opportunities

11. As indicated in the initial two-year workplan of the LCIPP, this activity seeks to map and report funding opportunities from all regions. Therefore, the survey also aimed to map the geographic distribution of existing funding opportunities. Tables 1 and 2 show the organizations that provided financial support to indigenous peoples and local communities respectively. Existing funding opportunities for indigenous peoples are

¹⁰ For the purpose of this paper, levels include local, national, regional and international.

tabulated based on the seven UN indigenous sociocultural regions¹¹. For local communities, the table is based on the five UN regions. The AF did not specify the regions. It provided financial support to indigenous peoples and local communities in all developing countries that were Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.¹²

Table 1
Geographic distribution of funding opportunities for indigenous peoples for their participation in climate-related activities

<i>UN indigenous sociocultural region</i>	<i>Number of organizations</i>	<i>List of organizations</i>
Africa	7	OHCHR, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, GCF, GEF, UNDP,
Asia	7	OHCHR, UN-Habitat, IFAD, GCF, GEF, UNDP, UN Women
Central and South America and the Caribbean	8	OHCHR, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, GCF, GEF, UNDP, UN Women
The Arctic	4	OHCHR, UN-Habitat, GCF, UNDP
Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia	5	OHCHR, UN-Habitat, GCF, GEF, UNDP
North America	4	OHCHR, UN-Habitat, GCF, UNDP
The Pacific	7	OHCHR, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, GCF, GEF, UNDP

Table 2
Geographic distribution of funding opportunities for local communities for their participation in climate-related activities

<i>UN region</i>	<i>Number of organizations</i>	<i>List of organizations</i>
Africa	6	UNESCO, IFAD, GCF, GEF, UNICEF, UNDP
Asia	5	IFAD, GCF, GEF, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women,
Latin America and the Caribbean	6	UNESCO, IFAD, GCF, GEF, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women
Central and Eastern Europe	2	GCF, GEF, UNICEF

¹¹ The seven UN indigenous sociocultural regions are Africa; Asia; the Arctic; Central and South America and the Caribbean; Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; the Pacific; and North America.

¹² List of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol: https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/parties-convention-and-observer-states?field_partys_partyto_target_id%5B512%5D=512

12. FAO provided financial support to local communities for their participation in climate change-related activities and did not specify the regions.

(c) Thematic distribution of existing funding opportunities

13. The mapping also illuminates the distribution of funding opportunities by thematic area. Tables 3 and 4 show thematic concentrations of existing funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities respectively.

14. In addition, UN-Habitat provided financial support to indigenous peoples in the areas of art and culture, and urbanization. IFAD provided financial support to indigenous peoples participation in international fora. UNDP provided financial support to indigenous peoples for informal consultations on the New York Declaration on Forests. Through the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples,¹³ the OHCHR supported the participation of indigenous peoples in meetings and consultation processes on issues affecting their lives.

Table 3

Thematic distribution of funding opportunities for indigenous peoples for their participation in climate-related activities

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Number of organizations</i>	<i>Organizations</i>
Exchange of experience and best practices	7	UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, AF, GCF, GEF, UNDP
Capacity building	5	UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, GCF, GEF,
Education	3	UN-Habitat, GCF, GEF
Indigenous youth engagement	4	UN-Habitat, IFAD, AF, GCF
Gender and climate change	7	UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, AF, GCF, GEF, UN-Women
NAP	3	UNESCO, GCF, GEF
NDC	3	GCF, GEF, UNDP
Other	1	UN-Habitat, IFAD, UNDP

15. Among the existing funding opportunities for local communities, there was a relatively higher concentration of financial support to local communities for capacity building and youth engagement in comparison with other thematic areas such as education, NAPs, and NDCs. UNDP also provided financial support to local communities related to spatial-data, mapping, monitoring and drones.

Table 4

Thematic distribution of funding opportunities for local communities for their participation in climate-related activities

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Number of organizations</i>	<i>Organizations</i>
--------------	--------------------------------	----------------------

¹³ UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples:
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/IPeoplesFund/Pages/IPeoplesFundIndex.aspx>

Exchange of experiences and best practices	6	UNESCO, IFAD, AF, GCF, GEF, UNDP
Capacity building	8	UNESCO, IFAD, AF, GCF, GEF, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO
Education	4	AF, GCF, GEF, UNICEF
Youth engagement	7	UNESCO, IFAD, AF, GCF, UNICEF, UNDP, FAO
Gender and climate change	6	IFAD, AF, GCF, GEF, UN Women, FAO
NAPs	4	UNESCO, AF, GCF, GEF
NDCs	5	UNESCO, AF, GCF, GEF, UNDP
Spatial- data, mapping, monitoring and drones	1	UNDP

16. In terms of funding opportunities at different levels, the survey results indicated an even distribution of funding opportunities across local, national, regional and international levels. As shown in table 5, some organizations specified the levels. UNICEF provided financial support to indigenous peoples and local communities at the local and national levels, and UN Women at the national and regional levels.

Table 5
Funding opportunities for indigenous peoples at local, national, regional and international levels

<i>Level</i>	<i>Number of organizations</i>	<i>Organizations</i>
Local	7	UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, AF, GCF, GEF, UN-Women
National	7	UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, AF, GCF, GEF, UN-Women
Regional	5	UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, GEF, UN-Women
International	7	OHCHR, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, IFAD, GEF, UNDP, UN-Women

Table 6
Funding opportunities for local communities at local, national, regional and international levels

<i>Level</i>	<i>Number of organizations</i>	<i>Organizations (LCs)</i>
Local	5	UNESCO, IFAD, GCF, GEF, UNICEF

National	6	UNESCO, GCF, GEF, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women
Regional	4	IFAD, GCF, GEF, UN Women
International	4	UNESCO, IFAD, GEF, UNDP

IV. Accessing the existing funding opportunities for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities from all regions related to climate change

(a) The Green Climate Fund's funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities

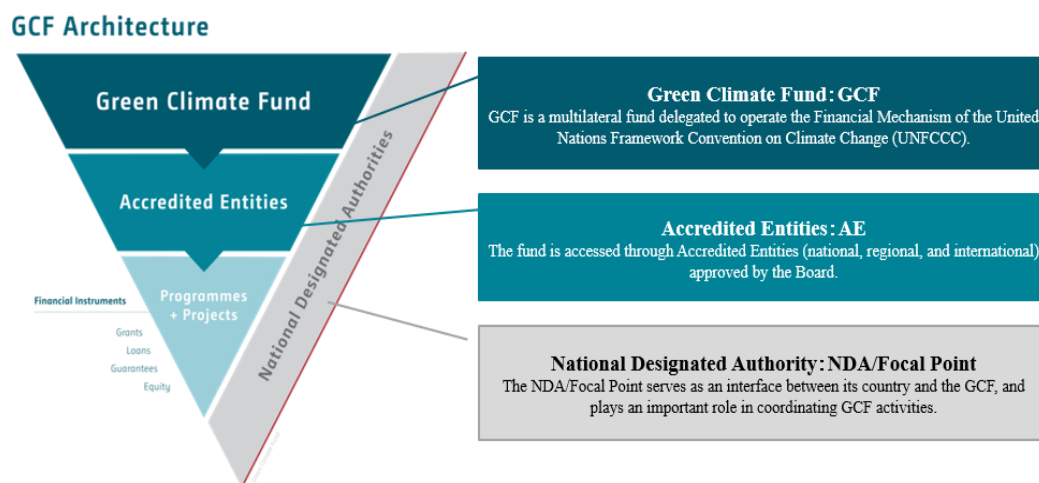
17. GCF funds are accessible through Nationally Designated Authorities¹⁴ and Accredited Entities (see figure 2). Nationally Designated Authorities are appointed by developing countries and serve as the interface between their governments and the GCF. They approve all GCF project activities within their respective countries and ensure alignment with the countries' NDCs.

18. The Accredited Entities present funding applications to GCF and oversees the approved projects and programmes. Becoming an Accredited Entity is one way to access GCF funds. However, the accreditation process¹⁵ is a rigorous and multi-stage process. An interested entity must have its own legal status, environmental guidelines, social guidelines, and gender policies and procedures at the institutional level, and meet fiduciary standards. In addition, the interested entity needs to demonstrate a sufficient track record of such standards and policies being implemented to meet the fund's standards. Other types of implementation partners include Executing Entities and sub-contractors.

¹⁴ Nationally Designated Authorities are also known as NDAs: greenclimate.fund/about/partners/nda

¹⁵ Learn more about the accreditation process at greenclimate.fund/accreditation/process

Figure 2
Structure of the Green Climate Fund



(Source: GCF)

19. The Readiness and Preparatory Programme, also referred to as “the Readiness Programme”,¹⁶ is a way to access resources for a variety of initiatives. While upholding the GCF country ownership principle, an interested institution can become the implementing entity and undertake approved readiness activities. Such implementing entities are known as delivery partners and must undergo a Financial Management Capacity Assessment to meet the eligibility requirement for implementing readiness grant support.

20. The implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Policy¹⁷ of the GCF, as well as the policy’s periodic implementation reviews,¹⁸ provide additional avenues for indigenous peoples to access existing GCF funding opportunities. Paragraph 96 of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy (as shown in Box 1) highlights how indigenous peoples can access existing GCF funding opportunities through readiness and preparatory support proposals.¹⁹

Box 1

Indigenous Peoples Policy of the Green Climate Fund

“GCF will support specific capacity-building programs for indigenous peoples as part of readiness and preparatory support proposals or funding proposals to ensure their full and effective engagement with GCF at all levels. This support will include, at a minimum, activities related to consultation, advocacy, institutional building for project implementation and management, as well as the effective engagement of indigenous peoples in the formulation of project proposals and monitoring and evaluation”.

Source: GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, 2018²⁰

Abbreviation(s): GCF = Green Climate Fund

^a Ibid. footnote 15

¹⁶ [Greenclimate.fund/readiness/process](https://greenclimate.fund/readiness/process)

¹⁷ [Greenclimate.fund/document/indigenous-peoples-policy](https://greenclimate.fund/document/indigenous-peoples-policy)

¹⁸ Per GCF/B.24/14/Rev.01, a review of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy will take place in 2023.

¹⁹ During the 3rd meeting of the FWG in October 2020, representatives of indigenous peoples voiced concerns with some of the GCF funded activities related to REDD+ and carbon markets.

²⁰ [Greenclimate.fund/accreditation/process](https://greenclimate.fund/accreditation/process)

21. The GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy further states, under section 8.9 resource allocation, that the GCF will consider proposals “tailored to meet the needs and priorities of indigenous peoples”²¹ and promote indigenous peoples engagement and benefit sharing from GCF funded activities.
22. The GCF secretariat has appointed an Indigenous Peoples Specialist,²² who manages the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Policy and has the responsibility to assist indigenous peoples and their organizations in their efforts to access GCF resources.
23. In addition, the GCF, per its Indigenous Peoples Policy, will establish an indigenous peoples advisory group²³ to enhance coordination between the GCF, Accredited Entities and delivery partners, States and indigenous peoples. The establishment of such an advisory group can thus enhance indigenous peoples and local communities’ engagement with the GCF.
- (b) Global Environment Facility’s funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities
24. The GEF serves as a financial mechanism for five conventions,²⁴ including the UNFCCC. Its funds are available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of international environmental conventions. The COP provides strategic guidance to the GEF related to GEF’s climate change policies, program priorities and eligibility criteria for funding, based on the advice from the SBI.
25. Each of the GEF member countries has designated government officials serving as focal points.²⁵ The focal points are responsible for GEF activities and liaise with the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Agencies. There are two types of focal points: political and operational. While all member countries have Political Focal Points, only recipient countries eligible for the GEF support have Operational Focal Points. Political Focal Points focus on governance, including policies and decision. Operational Focal Points review and endorse project proposals within their respective countries.
26. Eighteen institutions act as the operational arms of the GEF. These agencies work with government agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to design, develop and implement GEF-funded projects and programs. Table 7 shows the full list of GEF Agencies.

Table 7
GEF Agencies

Eighteen institutions act as GEF Agencies

Asian Development Bank	United Nations Development Programme	Development Bank of Southern Africa
African Development Bank	United Nations Environment Programme	Foreign Economic Cooperation Office, Ministry of Environmental Protection of China

²¹ GCF IP Policy, paragraphs 98-100.

²² GCF IP Policy, paragraphs 80.

²³ GCF IP Policy.

²⁴ Thegef.org/partners/conventions

²⁵ See the list of GEF Focal Points: thegef.org/focal_points_list

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Brazilian Biodiversity Fund
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	The World Bank Group	International Union for Conservation for Nature
Inter-American Development Bank	Conservation International	West African Development Bank
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Development Bank of Latin America	World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US)

27. There are different GEF funding modalities (see figure 3) and funding access avenues. A project or program, however, is only eligible for GEF funding if it is country-driven and consistent with national priorities. Such a project or program also needs to take place in an eligible country, address at least one of the GEF focal area strategies,²⁶ and receive endorsement by the GEF Operational Focal Point²⁷ in the respective country as well as comply with GEF policies and strategies.

Figure 3

Ways for indigenous peoples to access different GEF funding modalities

Full Sized Projects (over \$2 million)	•Support projects that are proposed by various partners, including indigenous peoples.
Medium Sized Projects (up to \$2 million)	•Promote innovative initiatives by a range of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples. These projects are typically smaller scale, and follow expedited procedures for approval.
GEF Small Grants Programme (up to \$50,000)	•Provides funding for CSOs, including indigenous peoples organizations, in developing countries for small-scale community-based projects that contribute to global environment and sustainable livelihoods.
Enabling Activities	•Faciliate essential communication requirements to Conventions, includign preparation of national reporting, strategies and action plans.
Programmatic Approaches	•Support large-scale, integrated partnership initiatives, with a coordinated set of Full Sized Projects and Medium Sized Projects, for larger leverage and impact.

(Source: The GEF)

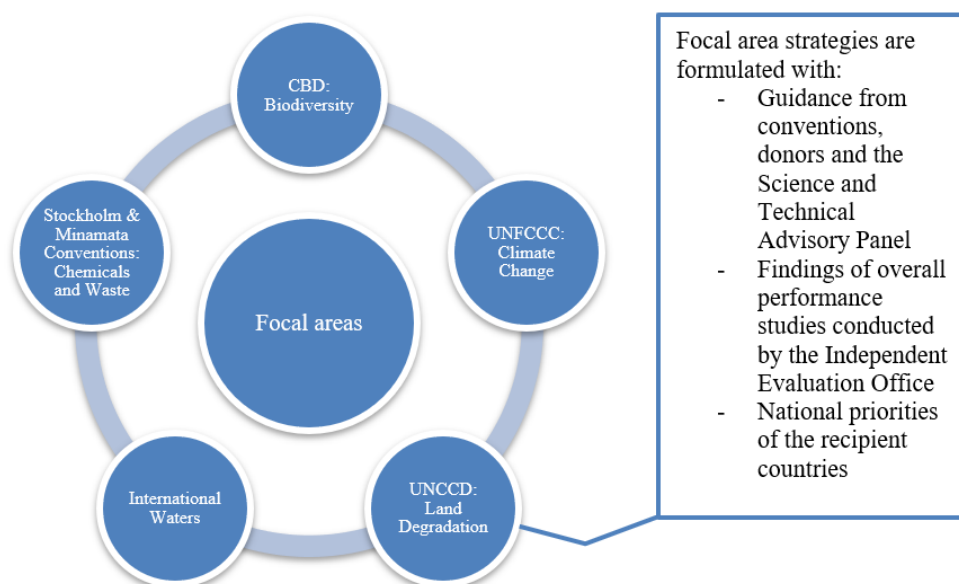
28. The GEF operates several funds, and the largest of which is the GEF trust Fund. The GEF Trust Fund is replenished every four years. The 7th replenishment period of

²⁶ thegef.org/our-work

²⁷ List of all eligible country Operational Focal Points at thegef.org/gef/focal_points_list.

the GEF runs between July 2018 and June 2022.²⁸ The GEF focuses on six focal areas²⁹ (see figure 4) in alignment with multilateral environmental conventions.

Figure 4
The six focal areas of the GEF



(Source: The GEF)

29. The GEF also administers two special funds that specifically aim at climate change adaptation. These funds are the SCCF and the LDCF. The SCCF supports adaptation and technology transfer in all developing countries that are parties to the UNFCCC. Table 8 shows SCCF's areas of support in accordance with relevant COP guidance³⁰.

Table 8
Areas of SCCF funding support

<i>SCCF Adaptation</i>	<i>SCCF Technology Transfer</i>
------------------------	---------------------------------

²⁸ thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/GEF-7%20Programming%20Directions%20-%20GEF_R.7_19.pdf

²⁹ Climate change mitigation and adaptation are considered as two separate focal areas.

³⁰ Decision 5/CP.9, see Annex IV

Water resource management, Land management, Agriculture, Health, Infrastructure development, Fragile Ecosystems (including mountain ecosystems), Integrated coastal zone management, Climate disaster risk management	Implementation of the results of technology needs assessments, Technology information, Capacity-building for technology transfer, Enabling environment
---	--

30. The LDCF addresses the special needs of the 47 LDCs, which are especially vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. The LDCF prioritizes support for the preparation and the implementation of the NAPAs³¹. A country NAPA must be completed and sent to the UNFCCC secretariat for web publication in order for an LDC to be eligible for funding the implementation of the NAPA under the LDCF.

31. The GEF SGP provides another important avenue for indigenous peoples and local communities to access existing GEF funding opportunities. The SGP is funded primarily by the GEF alongside other bilateral donors,³² implemented by the UNDP, and executed by the UNOPS.^{33,34}

32. The SGP awards grants of up to \$50,000 to indigenous peoples and local communities for projects in thematic areas including climate change mitigation and adaptation. The SGP also awards strategic project grants up to \$150,000 for regional and global initiatives. The SGP further provides small planning grants of up to \$5,000 to support project design and management. In addition, the SGP allows grantees to use alternative proposal formats, including video proposals and photo stories, to help address language barriers and technical challenges associated with project design and management.

33. The SGP has an Indigenous Peoples Fellows Programme, both at the global and national levels, to help develop the capacity of indigenous peoples in their effort to address global environmental and sustainable development challenges.

34. The GEF has recently launched the GEF Inclusive Conservation Initiative³⁵ in GEF-7, which supports indigenous peoples and local communities in their effort to safeguard natural ecosystems and recognizes the historical role they have played in nature conservation. Conservation International and IUCN are the implementing agencies for the Inclusive Conservation Initiative with guidance from a steering committee of indigenous peoples.

³¹ NAPAs provide a process for the LDCs to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs with regard to adaptation to climate change: unfccc.int/topics/resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-programmes-of-action/introduction

³² A number of other government bilaterals also use the SGP as a delivery mechanism. These have included: (a) Australia (Community-Based Adaptation in SIDS); (b) Japan (Satoyama Initiative/socio-ecological resilience); (c) Germany (ICCA for CBD and COVID-19 response); (d) Norway (Community-Based REDD+); (e) New Zealand (grants for Pacific region).

³³ [Sgp.undp.org/our-approach-153/indigenous-peoples.html](https://sgp.undp.org/our-approach-153/indigenous-peoples.html)

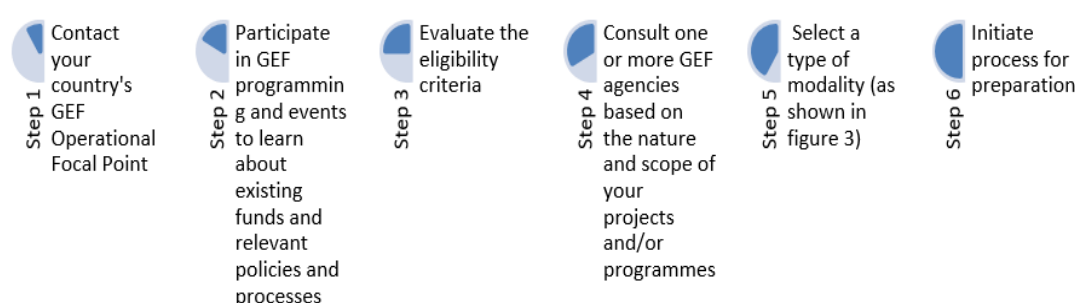
³⁴ Strengthening GEF SGP support to Indigenous Peoples: A review of SGP's 25-year portfolio

³⁵ The GEF Inclusive Conservation Initiative is not a permanent fund and has different processes than a GEF project. See: inclusiveconservationinitiative.org/about

35. The GEF is one of the seven main contributors to the CEPF, along with l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. The CEPF is a global program and invests in biodiversity hotspots. Between 2009-2015, almost 14% of CEPF's project involved indigenous peoples. CEPF funding opportunities are communicated through calls for proposals and its website.³⁶

36. Indigenous peoples and local communities can pursue a partnership with one of the eighteen GEF Agencies and GEF Operational Focal Point to access funding opportunities from the GEF (see figure 5 for a step-by-step process to access GEF funds). Indigenous peoples can take on the role of a project lead, project partner, and/or project beneficiary. For the GEF SGP, indigenous peoples can also take on the role of a GEF SGP national steering committee members.

Figure 5
A step-by-step process for accessing GEF fund



37. The GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (GEF IPAG) was established in 2012 to enhance coordination between the GEF and indigenous peoples.³⁷ The group provides advice on issues including appropriate way to enhance dialogue among the indigenous peoples, GEF agencies (as shown in table 7), the GEF Secretariat and other experts. The GEF IPAG also provides guidance on financing options for indigenous peoples and enhancing monitoring and evaluation metrics. The work of the group helps strengthen the accessibility of existing GEF funding opportunities for indigenous peoples.

38. Indigenous peoples and local communities can also learn more about existing funding opportunities and the related GEF processes through active participation in GEF programmes and other events, including the GEF Academy,³⁸ national dialogues, extended constituency workshops, Indigenous Peoples Fellowship Initiative,³⁹ and civil society organization day prior to each GEF Council meeting.⁴⁰

(c) The Adaptation Fund's funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities

39. The AF finances concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.⁴¹ The Adaptation Fund Board requested countries to appoint their Designated Authority⁴² who acts as the country's

³⁶ See: cepf.net/grants/

³⁷ Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group at the GEF: thegef.org/content/indigenous-peoples-advisory-group

³⁸ The GEF Academy was launched in 2018 to enhance the capacity of GEF partners and stakeholders to engage with the GEF: thegef.org/news/gef-academy-and-gef-s-first-e-course-launched-6th-gef-assembly

³⁹ Sgp.undp.org/our-approach-153/indigenous-peoples-fellowship-initiative.html

⁴⁰ The CSO day theme for 2020 was "Traditional Knowledge".

⁴¹ Decision 10/CP.7

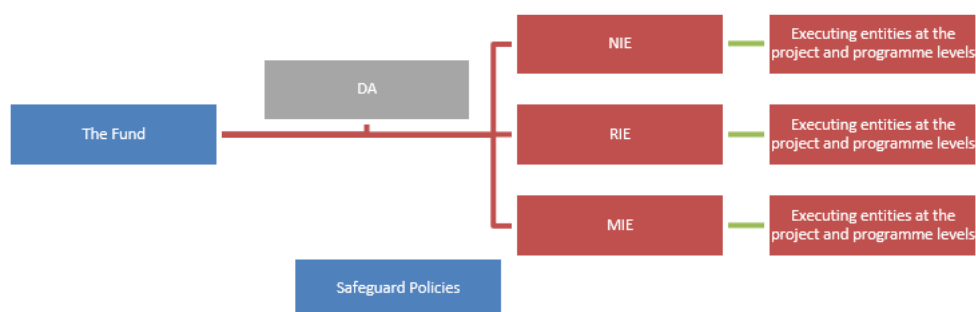
⁴² List of the Designated Authorities of the AF is available at adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities/.

point of contact for the Adaptation Fund. Designated Authorities, on behalf of their national governments, endorse:

- (a) Accreditation applications of National or Regional Implementing Entities before they are sent to the AF secretariat;⁴³ and/or
- (b) Proposals for adaptation projects and programmes in the Designated Authority's country⁴⁴ to be submitted by National, Regional, or Multilateral Implementing Entities to the AF Board for consideration and approval.

40. The Designated Authority selects and nominates the most suitable National Implementing Entity⁴⁵ candidate for the country which has potentials to meet the Fund's fiduciary and safeguards standards for accreditation.⁴⁶ Once such entities get accredited, they become National Implementing Entity for the AF. Through the AF's "direct access" modality and "enhanced direct access",⁴⁷ National Implementing Entities can apply and receive funding from the AF directly and build in-country capacity to develop and implement climate adaptation initiatives. Countries also have a choice to work with an accredited Regional Implementing Entity or Multilateral Implementing Entity. The implementing entity has the responsibility to manage the projects/programmes financed by the AF and bears all financial, monitoring and reporting responsibilities (see figure 6).

Figure 6
Financing framework of the Adaptation Fund



41. Like the other financial mechanism, the Adaptation Fund Board approved its Environmental and Social Policy (approved in 2013 and revised in 2016)⁴⁸. The policy aims to prevent environmental and social harms from projects and programmes supported by the AF and includes indigenous peoples as a standalone principle (see Box 2).⁴⁹

⁴³ For information on accreditation with AF, see: adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/accreditation/ ; and adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/accreditation/accreditation-application/.

⁴⁴ For information on how to apply for project funding with AF, see: adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/project-funding/.

⁴⁵ [Adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Direct-Access-June-2020.pdf](https://adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Direct-Access-June-2020.pdf)

⁴⁶ *Information Note for Designated Authorities to select a National Implementing Entity candidate for accreditation with the Adaptation Fund*, https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Information-Note-for-DA-to-select-an-NIE-candidate_updated-23-March-2018.pdf.

⁴⁷ Direct access modality <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/about/direct-access/>; and enhanced direct access https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/AFB.PPRC_26.b.18-Window-for-Enhanced-Direct-Access-under-the-MTS_final.pdf

⁴⁸ https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Amended-March-2016_-OPG-ANNEX-3-Environmental-social-policy-March-2016.pdf

⁴⁹ Guidance document for Implementing Entities on compliance with the AF Environmental and Social Policy, <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/guidance-document-implementing-entities-compliance-adaptation-fund-environmental-social-policy/>

Box 2

Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund

“The Fund shall not support projects/programmes that are inconsistent with the rights and responsibilities set forth in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other applicable international instruments relating to indigenous peoples.”

Source(s): The Adaptation Fund, 2013

42. While the AF does not provide dedicated funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities for their participation in climate change-related activities, indigenous peoples and local communities can access AF financial support in the following ways:

- (i) Indigenous peoples and local communities can work with the AF Implementing Entities and become sub-project/programme executing entities and carry out specific projects/programmes that support indigenous peoples and local communities’ participation in climate-related activities.
- (ii) Indigenous peoples organizations and entities representing local communities can also become accredited entities by going through the AF accreditation process. Accredited Entities can access AF resources with the support of their respective Designated Authorities.
- (iii) In addition, there are specific grants, including the Innovation Grants,⁵⁰ the Learning Grants⁵¹ and Technical Assistance Grants of the AF,⁵² that can present additional funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities.

43. The Innovation Grants, through the Innovation Facility at AF, support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies. As part of its Innovation Facility, the AF launched a new USD 10 million pilot innovation programme, the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator, at COP 25 in Madrid.⁵³ Indigenous peoples and local communities can apply for funding from this programme through UNDP and UNEP. UNEP also works in conjunction with the Climate Technology Centre and Network, the operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism.⁵⁴

44. The Learning Grants build on the AF’s revised Knowledge Management Framework and Action Plan (approved in 2016) and help encourage a culture of learning across institutions and help build NIE capacities. The Learning Grants also aim to complement collaborative knowledge sharing efforts with respect to partnership with diverse stakeholders on the ground. Activities funded under this Learning Grants include transferring of knowledge between NIEs, from NIEs to the wider climate adaptation community, and developing knowledge and guidelines through partnerships. The Technical Assistance Grants help NIEs build their capacity to implement its safeguard policies.

- (d) The International Fund for Agricultural Development’s funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities

45. Indigenous peoples communities and organizations receive direct financial support from the IPAF at IFAD, among other grants for indigenous peoples. The IPAF is an innovative funding instrument that indigenous peoples can use to address the challenges

⁵⁰ [Adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/innovation-grants/](https://adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/innovation-grants/)

⁵¹ [Adaptation-fund.org/knowledge-learning/learning-grants/call-learning-grants/](https://adaptation-fund.org/knowledge-learning/learning-grants/call-learning-grants/)

⁵² [Adaptation-fund.org/readiness/readiness-grants/technical-assistance-grants/](https://adaptation-fund.org/readiness/readiness-grants/technical-assistance-grants/)

⁵³ [Adaptation-fund.org/adaptation-fund-launches-new-grant-programme-to-foster-innovation-of-adaptation-practices-in-vulnerable-countries/](https://adaptation-fund.org/adaptation-fund-launches-new-grant-programme-to-foster-innovation-of-adaptation-practices-in-vulnerable-countries/)

⁵⁴ [Adaptation-undp.org/smallgrantaggregator/](https://adaptation-undp.org/smallgrantaggregator/)

they face. It has three main components, which are empowering indigenous peoples grassroots organizations, strengthening indigenous peoples networks and linking them with global indigenous movement, and knowledge management.⁵⁵

46. The IPAF aims to strengthen indigenous peoples communities and organizations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The IPAF finances small projects with the aim of fostering self-driven development in the framework of the UNDRIP. The Facility is also an instrument to implement the principles of the IFAD policy on indigenous peoples.⁵⁶ Furthermore, it supports initiatives designed and implemented by indigenous peoples, building on their own culture, identity, knowledge and natural resources.

47. Indigenous peoples can monitor and access IPAF resources by responding to IFAD call for proposals. The next call for proposals is planned for 2022 and with a focus on climate action. A step-by-step IPAF project proposals selection process is shown in figure 7.

Figure 7
A step-by-step IPAF project proposal selection process



48. The IPAF also aims to strengthen indigenous peoples networks and link them with the global indigenous peoples movement. To that end, the IFAD has selected three RIPOs to co-manage the implementation of IPAF at the regional level.⁵⁷ The management of IPAF implementation builds the RIPOs' capacity to better serve the interest of indigenous peoples.

49. At the regional level, indigenous peoples can access IPAF's resources through FIMI (for Latin America and the Caribbean), Tebtebba (for Asia and the Pacific), and Samburu Women Trust (for Africa) as IFAD's regional implementation partners.

⁵⁵ Ifad.org/en/ipaf

⁵⁶ IFAD Indigenous Peoples Policy: ifad.org/documents/38711624/39417924/ip_policy_e.pdf/a7cd3bc3-8622-4302-afdf-6db216ad5feb)

⁵⁷ Per IFAD's relevant publications, "the main criteria for the selection of RIPOs related to the following conditions: legal registration in an IFAD Member State; mandate and mission; financial capacity and accountability; availability of skilled staff for the management of the Facility; experience in working with indigenous peoples' organizations and communities regionally and globally; experience with KM [i.e. knowledge management]; and capacity to strengthen indigenous peoples' platforms at the regional level and link them with the international arena".

50. The RIPOs facilitate indigenous peoples' participation in the Indigenous Peoples Forum⁵⁸ at IFAD. RIPOs also share experiences and knowledge derived from IPAF supported activities as inputs to dialogues at the regional and international levels, including inputs to the UNPFII annual meetings, the climate change negotiations and the 2030 Development Agenda.

51. The third of the IPAF is knowledge management. The IPAF serves as a "listening and learning instrument" to document and disseminate knowledge generated by the Facility. The RIPOs generate knowledge by conducting thorough analyses of the proposals received from the IPAF calls, which reflect issues indigenous peoples face. Indigenous grassroots organizations generate and disseminate knowledge from the implementation of projects. Knowledge management related to the IPAF is also done through regional workshops and websites of the IPAF as well as that of the RIPOs.

52. Leveraging the three components of the IPAF, indigenous peoples can monitor and access existing funding opportunities at IFAD by responding to IPAF calls for proposals, participating in relevant events including regional workshops and the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD, and monitoring relevant communications from IFAD and its three regional IPAF implementation partner RIPOs.

(e) Other funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities

53. OHCHR acts as the secretariat of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples⁵⁹ and provides financial support to representatives of indigenous peoples for their participation in international processes on issues affecting their lives. In 2019, UN General Assembly expanded the mandate of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples to assist representatives of indigenous peoples for participating in the UNFCCC process, including the meetings of the FWG of the LCIPP (see text box 3 for the original language in the UN General Assembly resolution 74/135 of December 2019).

Box 3

UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

UN General Assembly, through resolution 74/135, "*Decides* to expand the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples so that it can assist representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations and communities in participating in the Forum on Business and Human Rights and in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including in its preparatory sessions and in the meetings of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform Facilitative Working Group organized by the secretariat of the Convention, in accordance with their respective rules and regulations".

Source(s): UN General Assembly resolution 74/135

54. UN Women regional and country office programmes in Asia and in Central and South America and the Caribbean have allocated resources and funds towards projects that specifically target indigenous women.⁶⁰

58 Ifad.org/en/ipaf

59 Ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/IPeoples/Fund/BookletVoluntaryFund.pdf

60 UN Women Regional and Country Office programmes have allocated the following resources and funds toward activities that specifically target Indigenous women: 1. Regional Office of Americas and the Caribbean \$180,000 2. Regional Office of Asia Pacific \$1,384,525 3. Afghanistan \$403,311 4. Bolivia \$112,569 5. Brazil \$522,176 6. Chile \$1,917,706 7. China \$187,966 8. Colombia \$233,543 9. Ecuador \$5000 10. El Salvador \$952,187 11. Guatemala \$575,123 12. Honduras \$7812 13. India \$207,366 14. Iraq \$32,985 15. Lao PDR \$180,000 16. Myanmar \$170,000 17. Mexico \$2,038,955 18. Paraguay 261,956 19. Sudan \$30,250 20. Viet Nam \$81,600.

V. Discussion

55. While the current synthesis document aims to map and report on existing funding opportunities as described in the LCIPP workplan,⁶¹ the FWG recognized the importance of capturing FWG members' feedback on key challenges associated with such funding opportunities. The discussion section herein summarizes the challenges that the FWG members have identified.

56. According to the FWG members' feedback, the existence of a fund does not necessarily mean it will reach target indigenous peoples and local communities. Complex fund governance structures, including multi-stage accreditation processes, eligibility requirements, long proposal approval processes and the involvement of multiple intermediaries (e.g. accredited entities, implementing agencies) often make it hard for indigenous peoples and local communities to access existing funding.

57. The expansion of mandates does not always correspond with an increase in the amount of funds available. FWG members point to the UN Voluntary Fund (as referred to in para 51) as an example. UN General Assembly expands the mandate of the Voluntary Fund to assist indigenous peoples organizations and communities' participation in the UNFCCC COP and its preparatory sessions as well as the meetings of the FWG. The expansion of the mandate, however, does not expand the overall size of the fund.

58. It was noted by some FWG members that indigenous peoples from all regions would benefit from direct access to funds without going through a multitude of intermediaries. FWG members emphasized the importance of upholding the principle of self-determination and building the capacity of indigenous peoples to manage funding opportunities. Some also noted that indigenous peoples from so called "developed countries" are not eligible to access climate change funds, as those funds are only directed to developing countries. This is despite the fact that many indigenous communities in developed countries are disproportionately impacted by poverty within their countries.

59. To adequately capture and address challenges associated with relevant funding opportunities, the FWG recommends continuing and expanding the scope of this mapping exercise under the next workplan of the LCIPP. The FWG will draft a proposed second three-year workplan during 2021.⁶²

VI. Conclusions

60. The process to access existing funding opportunities is rigorous and often involves multiple stages and different stakeholders. The complex funding landscape can be challenging for indigenous peoples and people from local communities to navigate. Some common elements have been identified that can add clarity to the evolving landscape, and help enhance the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in climate-related activities. These common elements include the following:

- (a) The use of safeguard policies, including indigenous peoples policies that respect the rights of indigenous peoples, to prevent inadvertent environmental and social harms from the activities supported by the funds and organizations (see figure 8).

⁶¹ unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Initial%20two-year%20workplan%20of%20the%20LCIPP%20282020-2021%29.pdf

⁶² Per decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 24.

- (b) The appointment of designated policy and programme specialists employed by the funds;
- (c) The creation of taskforces/advisory groups to facilitate the engagement of indigenous peoples.

Figure 8

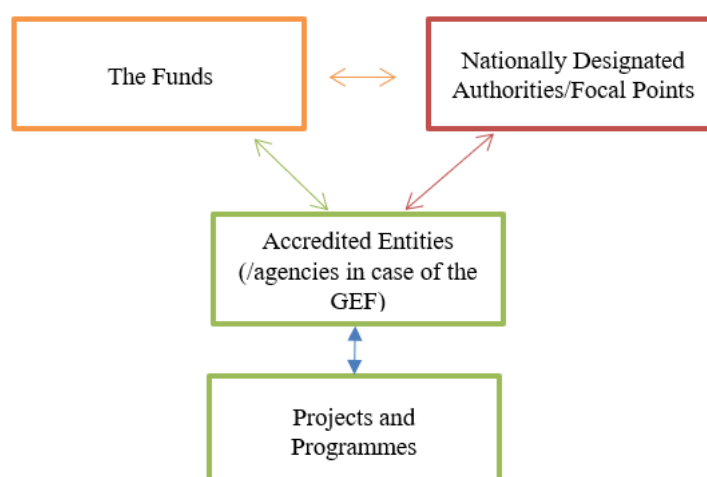
Common elements that have been identified, that can enhance participation by indigenous peoples and local communities, in the context of climate finance



61. There are also commonalities in terms of the funds' approaches to the provision of financial support (see figure 9). The funds work with a network of partners, which often includes Nationally Designated Authorities or their equivalent entities at the national level. The Nationally Designated Authorities approval all projects within their respective countries. The funds work through agencies or Accredited Entities, which are accredited by the respective funds through a rigorous accreditation process. Accredited Entities in turn work with a diverse network of executing entities or delivery partners at the project and program levels.

Figure 9

Common approach to provision of financial support



62. The UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance and its draft recommendations to the COP with respect to the Financial Mechanism of the Convention have also been brought up during the interviews as possible avenue to create new and strengthen existing funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities for their participation in climate change-related activities.

VII. Outlook

63. The secretariat has developed an online tool⁶³ as part of the new dedicated LCIPP web portal.⁶⁴ Together, this synthesis document and the online tool map and report on existing funding opportunities for indigenous peoples and local communities for their participation in climate-related activities.

64. A clear and continuously updated map that reflects the changing landscape of funding opportunities will enhance awareness. In turn, this can facilitate access of indigenous peoples and local communities to relevant funding opportunities. It can also encourage relevant funds to include additional and easier ways for indigenous peoples and local communities to access funding. Ultimately, it can enhance the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the international climate change policy process.

65. The FWG may also choose to consider the synthesis document to generate recommendations to inform the development of Activity 6.

⁶³ See Annex III for possible contents and search functions of the online tool.

⁶⁴ The LCIPP web portal will become operational in 2021.

Annex I

Survey disseminated on 13 July 2020

Question 1: Does your organization provide funding for indigenous peoples for their participation in climate change-related activities?

Check boxes

☐ Yes

☐ No

Question 2: Please indicate the level/s at which your organization supports indigenous peoples for their participation in climate change-related activities:

(Multiple choice)

☐ Local level

☐ National level

☐ Regional level

☐ International level

☐ Other (please specify):

Question 3: Please indicate the focus area/s of your financial support for indigenous peoples participation in climate change-related activities:

☐ Exchange of experience and best practices

☐ Capacity building

☐ Education

☐ Indigenous youth engagement

☐ Gender and climate change

☐ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

☐ National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

☐ Other (please specify): _____

Question 4: What is the total amount dedicated to the participation of indigenous peoples in climate-change related activities? Please also state the currency

--

Question 5: What is the geographic focus of organization's financial support for the participation of indigenous peoples in climate change-related activities? Please choose the UN indigenous sociocultural region/s in which your funding provides such support.

- ☐ Africa
- ☐ Asia
- ☐ Central and South America and the Caribbean
- ☐ The Arctic
- ☐ Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia
- ☐ North America
- ☐ The Pacific
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Question 6: Within the selected UN indigenous sociocultural region/s, does your organization focus on any specific geographic areas or indigenous peoples when providing financial support for the participation of indigenous peoples in climate change-related activities?

Question 7: How does your organization track and report the status of your organization's financial support for the participation of indigenous peoples in climate change-related activities?

Question 8: Can indigenous peoples access your organization's financial support for their participation in climate change-related activities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Question 9: How can indigenous peoples access your organization's financial support for their participation in climate change-related activities?

Question 10: Does your organization have any future plans to provide funding for indigenous peoples' participation in climate change-related activities?

- ☐ Yes

☐

No

Question 11: What are your organization's future plans to provide funding for indigenous peoples' participation in climate change-related activities?

Question 12: Does your organization have a focal point/lead for issues related to indigenous peoples?

Question 13: Does your organization provide funding for local communities for their participation in climate change-related activities?

Check boxes

☐

Yes

☐

No

Question 14: Please indicate the level/s at which your organization supports local communities for their participation in climate change-related activities:

(Multiple choice)

☐

Local level

☐

National level

☐

Regional level

☐

International level

☐

Other (please specify):

Question 15: Please indicate the focus area/s of your financial support for local communities' participation in climate change-related activities:

☐

Exchange of experience and best practices

☐

Capacity building

☐

Education

☐

Youth engagement

☐

Gender and climate change

☐

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

- ☐ National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Question 16: What is the total amount dedicated to the participation of local communities in climate-change related activities? Please also state the currency

Question 17: What is the geographic focus of organization's financial support for the participation of local communities in climate change-related activities? Please choose the UN region/s in which your fund provides such support.

- ☐ Africa
- ☐ Asia
- ☐ Central and Eastern Europe
- ☐ Latin America and the Caribbean
- ☐ Western Europe and others
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Question 18: Within the selected UN region/s, does your organization focus on any specific geographic areas or local communities when providing financial support for the participation of local communities in climate change-related activities?

Question 19: How does your organization track and report the status of your organization's financial support for the participation of local communities in climate change-related activities?

Question 20: Can local communities access your organization's financial support for their participation in climate change-related activities?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Question 21: How can local communities access your organization's financial support for their participation in climate change-related activities?

Question 22: Does your organization have any future plans to provide funding for local communities' participation in climate change-related activities?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Question 23: What are your organization's future plans to provide funding for local communities' participation in climate change-related activities?

Question 24: Does your organization have a focal point/lead for issues related to local communities?

Question 25: If you may disclose, what is the approximate amount of funding distributed by your organization per year for climate change-related activities in general? If you like, you can specify the year and amount if it varies.

Question 26 (Optional) please share with us your contact details for follow up purposes

Annex II

List of UN organizations and other entities for the survey outreach

- AF
- Asia and the Pacific: RCC Bangkok
- Caribbean: RCC St. George's
- CBD
- Eastern and Southern Africa: RCC Kampala
- ECA
- ECE
- ECLAC
- ESCAP
- ESCWA
- FAO
- GCF
- GEF
- ILO
- IFAD
- Latin America: RCC Panama
- LDCF
- Middle East, North Africa and South Asia: RCC Dubai
- OECD
- OHCHR
- SCCF
- UNCDF
- UNCTAD
- UNDP
- UNEP
- UNESCO
- UNFPA
- UN-Habitat
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNITAR
- UNU
- UN-Women
- Western and Francophone Africa: RCC Lomé
- WFP
- World Bank Group

Annex III

Contents and search functions for the online tool

- **Contents for the online tool**
 - **Webinars**, featuring entities that provide financial support for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities related to climate change;
 - **Case studies**, highlighting projects and programmes, where indigenous peoples and local communities have successfully accessed existing funding opportunities;
 - **Resources** for building capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to access existing funding opportunities. Such resources could include e-Learning, project templates, and workshops and training sessions;
 - Relevant **policies and planning documents**, including Indigenous Peoples Policy;
 - Information about existing designated groups such as **Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group/Committee**;
 - Information about indigenous peoples programme specialists/focal points, as appropriate and with their written consent to share such information.
 - Relevant calls for proposals, events, and proceedings
- **Search functions**
 - By region
 - By thematic areas/topics
 - By project scope/levels