

Land rights of indigenous peoples and climate change

Dialogue on
“The relationship between land and climate
change adaptation issues”, hosted by SBSTA.
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Plan

1. Mother Earth: source of life and knowledge
2. Climate change, degradation and adaptation
 - 2.1. Adaptation and traditional knowledge
 - 2.2. Indigenous peoples: invisibility and marginality.
3. Act for, and with indigenous peoples.
4. Challenges and opportunities (recognition of customary law and adoption of appropriate legislation).

1. Mother Earth: source of life and knowledge

- Globally IPs have a strong and emotional connection to their ancestral land and they mainly derive their livelihood from managing its natural resources.
- This long lasting connection with nature has given rise to a wealth of ancestral and traditional knowledge and practices in the field of sustainable management of natural resources including livestock

1. Mother Earth: source of life and knowledge

- Currently on a global scale about 70 million indigenous people are completely dependent on the forests for their livelihood. Deforestation is therefore directly threatening the existence of these forest dwellers. In addition deforestation is also responsible for 10 to 12 percent of all global carbon emissions.

2. Climate change, degradation and adaptation

2.1. Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Adaptation and Best Practices

- Traditional knowledge (TK) plays a crucial role in the reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. TK refers to the skills and knowledge systems that indigenous peoples have acquired through inter-generational knowledge transfer.

2. Climate change, degradation and adaptation

- UNESCO notes that this knowledge system operates on a more sophisticated spatial and temporal scale than science and that it contains keys to understanding what allows us to respond to environmental variability, and trends in order to adapt to them.
- TK extends to all areas of human activity, and its role in predicting climate change, adapting to these changes and mitigating their inevitable consequences is now widely recognized.

2. Climate change, degradation and adaptation

- In Brazil, for example, due to zero deforestation, forests managed by indigenous peoples reduce emissions 27 times more than forests located outside protected zones.
- In Africa we can cite several examples of best practices in terms of adaptive measures. The "AGDAL" system of IP protected areas in Morocco is much better managed than areas protected by the State. Women in Chad who practice traditional remediation master animal care better than trained veterinarians.

2.2. Adaptation and TK: combining science and TK.

- Indigenous traditional knowledge systems and practices play a vital role in offering resilience to the effects of climate change.
- It is therefore essential to promote and protect such knowledge by documenting and safeguarding the intellectual property rights of communities. Example: customary law relating to the management of indigenous territories.
- For optimal results scientific and traditional systems should be used together. Example :Use of technology such as land cover mapping (Landsat) to identify indigenous lands and incorporate level of degradation etc.

2.3. Indigenous peoples: invisibility and marginality

- They represent nearly 15 percent of the poor on the planet but make up just 5 percent of the world's population.
- Of the 370 million indigenous people worldwide, up to 80 percent live in areas where the effects of climate change are most severe.
- However Indigenous land rights and education are vital for the preservation of the carbon stocks as they act as guardians of the ecosystem.

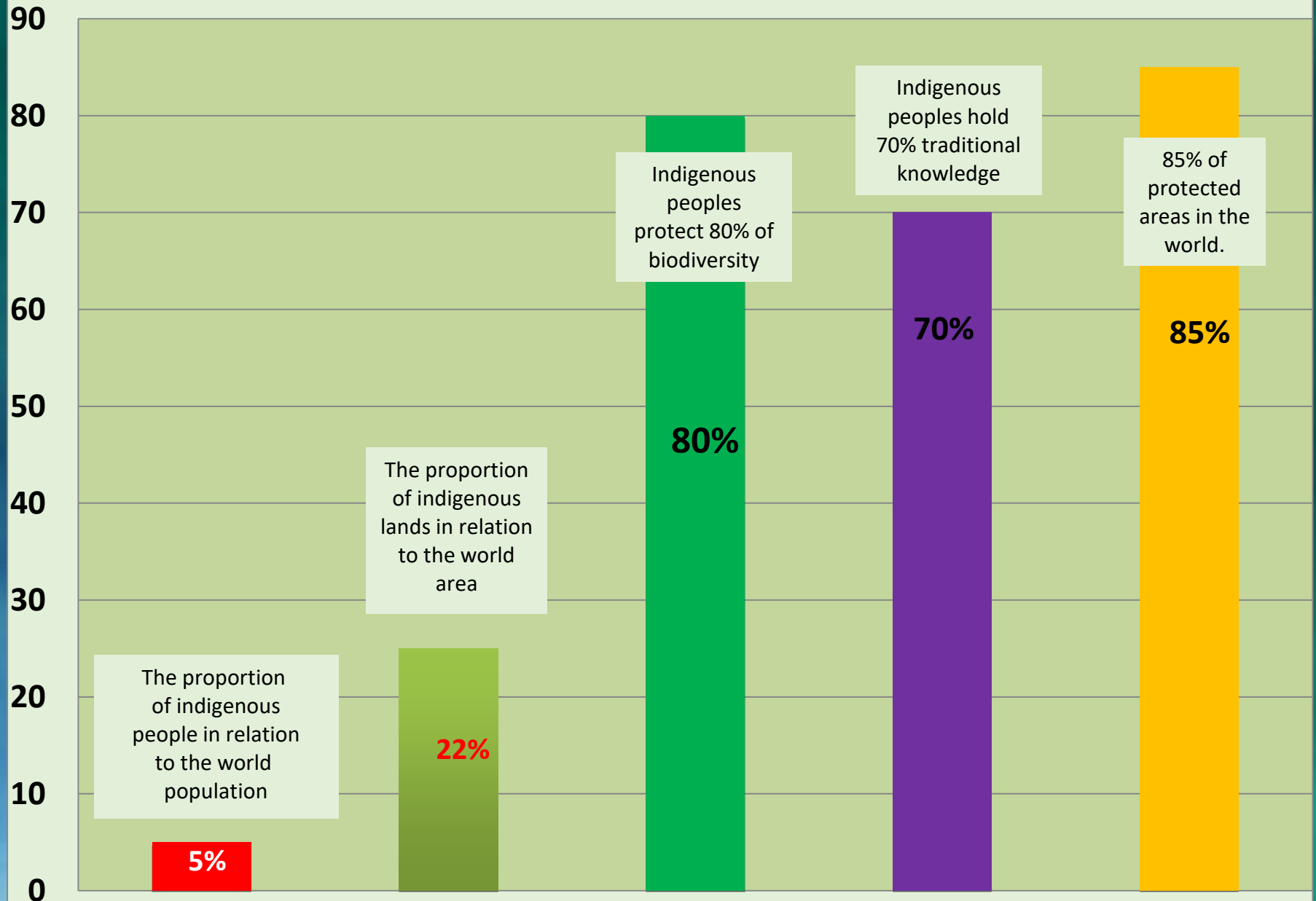
3. Act for and with indigenous peoples

- Adaptation is a long-process and requires monitoring
- To mitigate the degradation that has already taken place on indigenous territories three actions are urgently called for.
- Identify - analyze – act: all these actions require the effective engagement of indigenous peoples.

3. Act for and with indigenous peoples

- Use science and technology to identify the indigenous peoples territories and its associated knowledge systems
- An analysis of the region : state of degradation , context of rights, access and benefit for indigenous peoples
- Implement a fair and sustainable adaptation process, with consistent monitoring.

The Position of Indigenous Peoples in the World



4. Challenges, landscape and opportunities

- In 2015, the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.
- These two instruments of major importance should prompt countries around the world to review and strengthen their planning strategies for sustainable and inclusive development for all.
- The United Nations system must help member states apply these new frameworks for a just and equitable climate transition.

4. Challenges, landscape and opportunities

- Although there is no doubt today that indigenous land rights are protected by international law, the non-recognition of IPs by States prevents the creation of a legislative framework which guarantee IPs access to their most basic human rights.

4. Historic opportunities to be seized.

1 .Sustainable Development Goals 2030 “leave no one behind”.

2. Paris Agreement and promoting IP traditional knowledge: traditional knowledge is inextricably linked with indigenous languages. The loss of indigenous languages is equal to the loss of TK

3. The International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032, is a historic opportunity to save a universal indigenous linguistic treasure.

- Thank you
- Merci beaucoup
- Tanmert