



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

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**Report of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local
Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform**

Summary

The Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform prepared this report on the outcomes of its work and the progress of the ongoing implementation of activities under the current workplan, for 2022–2024, of the Platform. Key outcomes and achievements are highlighted, such as the efforts of the FWG in promoting ethical and equitable knowledge exchange on holistic climate solutions among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other contributors to the Platform; building capacity among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Parties for meaningful engagement in the UNFCCC process; and facilitating the integration of diverse perspectives, knowledge systems, values and worldviews into climate policy design and implementation. The report identifies several challenges impeding the full and effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process, including the need for a holistic approach to climate solutions that respects diverse values and worldviews and the need to overcome language barriers that dilute complex cultural concepts and ecological knowledge, address misconceptions of homogeneity among Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and shift the narrative from vulnerability to leadership in climate action. Additionally, the FWG faces operational challenges related to membership transitions and access within UNFCCC processes, alongside logistical and resource constraints that limit the effectiveness of enhancing the involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Recommendations to address these challenges and, more broadly, enhance work under the Platform are presented, which include incorporating concepts and terminologies from Indigenous Peoples and local communities into the UNFCCC discourse; recognizing diversity within and between Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as common values that guide their reciprocal relationship with nature and considerations for future generations; adopting a rights-based approach to engagement; staggering the membership process of the FWG for continuity; ensuring adequate resources for addressing language-related challenges; and aligning workplan activities with critical timelines under the UNFCCC process. The report also contains a draft workplan of the Platform, for 2025–2027. Drawing attention to the leadership role Indigenous Peoples and local communities play in the collective effort towards transformational climate policymaking and action, and their rich, distinct values, worldviews and knowledge systems cultivated through generations of close relationship with Mother Nature, this report has been prepared for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice ahead of the review of the FWG to be conducted at the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties.



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Abbreviations and acronyms

COP	Conference of the Parties
FWG	Facilitative Working Group
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPO	Indigenous Peoples organization
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
WIM Executive Committee	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. Recognizing the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and Indigenous Peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, COP 21 established the LCIPP¹ for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner.²
2. COP 23 decided that the Platform would perform three functions,³ noting that, as part of its third function, it should facilitate the undertaking of stronger and more ambitious climate action by Indigenous Peoples and local communities that could contribute to the achievement of the NDCs of the Parties concerned. COP 24 established the FWG with the objective of further operationalizing the Platform and facilitating the implementation of its functions.⁴
3. The FWG of the LCIPP, with the support of the secretariat, prepared this report, which, as per the mandate,⁵ contains the outcomes of the FWG, including a draft third workplan of the LCIPP, for 2025–2027 (see annex I), and information on the activities implemented under the LCIPP (see annex III).
4. The FWG, at its 10th meeting, held in November 2023, prepared and adopted an outline for the report, as well as an outline and key considerations for the development of the draft third workplan of the LCIPP.

B. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

5. SBSTA 60 may wish to consider the information contained in this report, including the draft workplan for 2025–2027, and to recommend draft conclusions or a draft decision on the basis of the work of the FWG for consideration and adoption at COP 29.

C. Organizational and procedural matters

1. Membership

6. COP 24, when establishing the FWG, decided that the Group would consist of 14 representatives: seven representatives of Party groups and seven representatives of IPOs (see annex VI for the membership of the FWG).⁶
7. Representatives of Parties are appointed by their respective regional groups and constituencies. Representatives of IPOs from the seven United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions are appointed through their designated focal points. The Chair of the SBSTA is informed of these appointments.⁷
8. COP 24 requested the SBSTA to consider, in the context of the review of the FWG, and taking into account progress related to the representation of local communities, the addition of at least three additional representatives to represent local communities, as well as a process for the appointment of such representatives, and an equal number of Party representatives, with a view to recommending a draft decision on the representation of local communities on the LCIPP for consideration and adoption by COP 27.⁸ However, as a result

¹ For more information on the Platform, see <https://lcipp.unfccc.int>.

² Decision 1/CP.21, para. 135.

³ Para. 6 of decision 2/CP.23 lists the functions, which are reproduced in para. 3 of annex I.

⁴ Decision 2/CP.24, paras. 1–2.

⁵ Decision 16/CP.26, para. 11.

⁶ Decision 2/CP.24, para. 3.

⁷ As per decision 2/CP.24, paras. 5–6.

⁸ Decision 2/CP.24, para. 4.

of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the review of the FWG took place at COP 26 and the COP decided to consider the representation of local communities on the LCIPP during the 2024 review of the FWG.

9. To enhance the leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in driving the development and implementation of transformative climate policies and actions, the FWG adopted a vision and strategy statement (see annex II). This statement guides the work of the FWG, in line with its mandate.

2. Meetings

10. The FWG meets biannually, holding its meetings in conjunction with the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the session of the COP. The FWG makes ongoing adjustments to both the physical set-up and the agenda of its meetings to promote the active engagement and leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. These modifications not only strengthen their direct participation but also weave the diverse insights, perspectives, values and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities into global efforts to address climate change and restore the integrity of nature.

II. Key outcomes of implementing the functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

11. The outcomes described in this chapter are directly linked to the mandated role of the FWG in further operationalizing the Platform and facilitating the implementation of its functions, including through the ongoing implementation of the second workplan of the LCIPP, for 2022–2024.

A. Enhanced ethical and equitable knowledge exchange on holistic climate change solutions

12. The FWG has implemented various measures to foster ethical and equitable knowledge exchange among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other LCIPP contributors and the sharing of practices that are aimed at addressing and responding to climate change in a holistic and integrated manner.

13. In alignment with the principle of free, prior and informed consent, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the FWG has developed rights safeguards and protocols for the LCIPP web portal.⁹ These guidelines facilitate the exchange of experience and practices on the Platform, as well as overall work under the Platform.

14. The FWG observes principles proposed by IPOs, including the principle of self-selection of Indigenous Peoples representatives following Indigenous Peoples' own procedures.¹⁰ This principle is essential to the work of the FWG, including the appointment of representatives to the FWG and the nomination of knowledge holders to participate in mandated events under the LCIPP and other relevant events. These events include activities under the LCIPP workplan implemented in 2022 and 2023 such as the annual gathering of knowledge holders, regional gatherings and the annual youth round table. Indigenous knowledge holders who were funded to participate in the events were self-selected through the IPO constituency¹¹ or regional nominations and endorsed by the FWG. While the self-selection process occurs within a United Nations Indigenous sociocultural region, lists of

⁹ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/rights-safeguards-and-protocols>.

¹⁰ Decision 2/CP.23, para. 8.

¹¹ Learn more about the non-governmental organization constituencies under the UNFCCC at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/constituencies_and_you.pdf.

nominees are shared on the regional pages on the LCIPP web portal for transparency and accountability and to facilitate possible future engagement.¹²

15. In planning and conducting mandated events under the LCIPP, the FWG makes a concerted effort to provide appropriate time and make arrangements for coordination among knowledge holders before they engage with Parties, constituted bodies and other relevant contributors. Preparatory work such as giving thanks to the elements and fostering a sense of community with a shared climate goal enables Indigenous Peoples and local communities to orient themselves with each other and also provides a safe space for sharing knowledge, experience and relevant practices.

16. The FWG weaves Indigenous Peoples' values and practices as well as local perspectives into its work. FWG meetings and LCIPP events start and conclude with invocations by Indigenous Peoples, expressing gratitude for life-sustaining elements and fostering a sense of community and shared purpose among the participants. The format of FWG meetings has evolved to better amplify the voices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, reflecting the practice of continuous improvement based on experience and lessons learned. During FWG meetings, breakout group discussions help overcome language barriers, maximize the efficient use of time and enhance active participation.

17. The FWG fosters collaboration with entities within and outside the UNFCCC process to enhance the overall coherence of the activities under the LCIPP.¹³ It has a dedicated agenda item for this purpose, which provides an opportunity during its meetings for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to gain a deeper understanding of the work of relevant bodies and processes under and outside the Convention, in turn encouraging their active participation in such work and enhancing the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process.

18. To facilitate the active participation of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in its meetings and relevant sessions under the UNFCCC process, the FWG organizes informal virtual pre-meeting contributor briefings. These briefings have been well received as an information-sharing avenue. At COP 28, the FWG extended this modality of work to support Indigenous knowledge holders, offering in-person briefings prior to mandated LCIPP events and other relevant events. The meetings of the FWG and mandated LCIPP events, such as the annual gathering of knowledge holders, are designed to be inclusive and participatory, both in their programmatic content and in the physical layout of the venue. For example, during the first part of the annual gatherings, knowledge holders are provided with an inclusive space to exchange knowledge and share good practices for addressing climate change while respecting cultural protocols and knowledge safeguards. The second part of the gatherings features an interactive dialogue among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other LCIPP contributors. The insights garnered from these dialogues are channelled into the broader climate discussions through informal summary reports and the contributors' engagement in other relevant events, thereby enriching the discussions at sessions of the COP by involving diverse perspectives, values and knowledge systems.

19. The impacts of the ongoing improvements in the organization of FWG meetings are demonstrated by increased participation in them (see the figure below¹⁴). The number of new participants has increased – including Parties, though their engagement in work under the LCIPP could be further enhanced. The improved engagement strategies employed by the FWG have also facilitated greater participation in and contribution to relevant work as part of the UNFCCC process by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. FWG members have noted that the strong participation in LCIPP activities has been driven by Indigenous Peoples, and the activities have mostly focused on weaving the rights, knowledge and values of Indigenous Peoples into climate policies and actions. The FWG acknowledges the inclusion of local community perspectives in work under the LCIPP as an integral part of its mandate

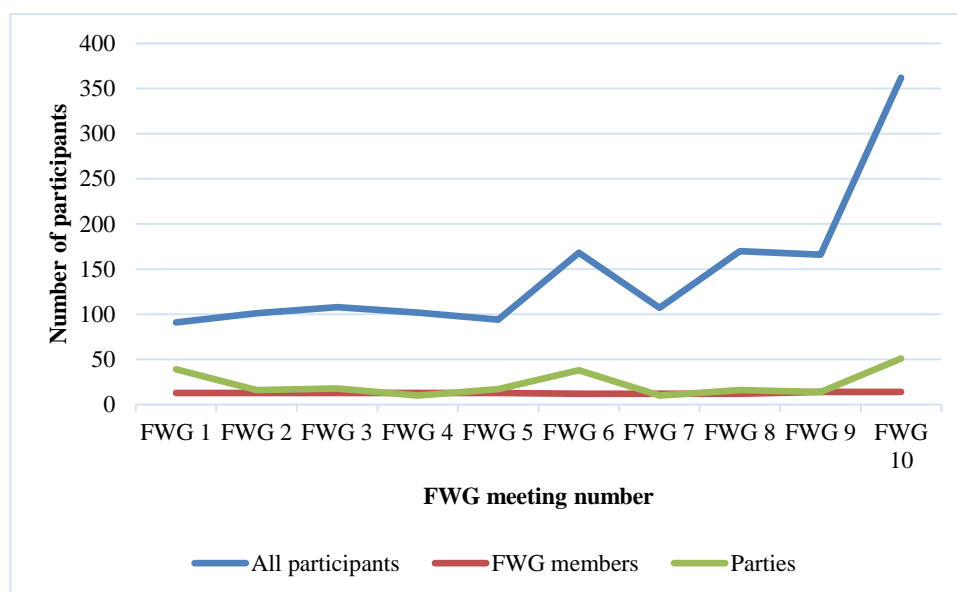
¹² The regional pages on the LCIPP web portal can be accessed under the tab "About LCIPP" at <https://lcipp.unfccc.int>.

¹³ As per decision 2/CP.24, para. 20.

¹⁴ The figure represents an estimate based on available data related to the registration for and participation in FWG meetings.

and encourages participation by and contributions from local community representatives in that work.

Participation in meetings of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, 2019–2023



20. The LCIPP has become an inclusive platform for engaging Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other LCIPP contributors in the shared effort to weave diverse perspectives, values and knowledge systems into the collective effort to address climate change. Reflecting on the LCIPP regional gathering for the Arctic, which was jointly organized with the Arctic Council, the FWG member representing IPOs from the Arctic United Nations Indigenous sociocultural region highlighted the impact of the gathering: “Our discussions and rich exchanges in Girkonjårga-Kirkenes will undoubtedly guide and shape our collective climate change initiatives moving forward. The LCIPP under the UNFCCC offers an inclusive space to share these outcomes. It is a platform to discuss the impacts of climate change on our lives and the Arctic, to identify needs, and to reshape the global approach to nature and climate change”.

B. Enhanced capacity to meaningfully engage in the UNFCCC process

21. The FWG, supported by the secretariat, has employed various strategies for both multidirectional and focused capacity-building and learning. These include virtual and in-person training workshops (activities 4 and 5 of the workplan for 2022–2024¹⁵), discussion at regional gatherings and FWG meetings, collaboration with UNFCCC bodies and under UNFCCC workstreams at the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the COP, and interaction with relevant bodies external to the UNFCCC process.

22. As part of the workplan of the LCIPP for 2022–2024, the FWG conducted a series of virtual modular capacity-building workshops covering topics such as NAPs, loss and damage finance, just transition, response measures, the global stocktake, the global goal on adaptation and Action for Climate Empowerment.¹⁶ The FWG sought feedback from Indigenous Peoples and local communities regarding topics for future training sessions and identified areas of priority for capacity-building.

23. The ongoing efforts of the FWG have strengthened the capacity of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to contribute to the UNFCCC process, including via the LCIPP,

¹⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2021/1, annex IV.

¹⁶ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/advancing-meaningful-participation-indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities-unfccc-virtual-training> and <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/workshop-advancing-meaningful-participation-indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities-unfccc-process>.

regional representatives, national focal points and regional collaboration centres. These efforts have also enabled Parties and other LCIPP contributors to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the diverse values, worldviews and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

24. The FWG ensures that work under the LCIPP, including mandated events, facilitates multidirectional capacity-building. Such capacity-building benefits Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other LCIPP contributors while also building enabling environments for continued and enhanced engagement in the UNFCCC process now and in the future. Examples of achievement in this regard include:¹⁷

(a) **Regional and biregional gatherings**, which include sessions to brief Indigenous knowledge holders and local community representatives on topics related to the UNFCCC process and opportunities for engagement therein. Some of the Indigenous knowledge holders who have participated in the gatherings have been able to participate in mandated events held at subsequent sessions of the COP, showing that the capacity-building at the gatherings facilitated their participation in the UNFCCC process. The gatherings also enable Parties to acquire a deeper appreciation of the intricate ways in which climate change affects Indigenous Peoples and local communities – both directly, from extreme and slow onset events, and indirectly, from the implementation of response measures. The gatherings enrich the global effort to build resilience and safeguard nature against climate change by engaging with the practices, values and worldviews of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;

(b) **Annual youth round table**, which has brought together Indigenous youth and youth from local communities, as well as Parties and other stakeholders, to engage in direct dialogue on climate change. Virtual youth consultations held before the sessions of the COP offer a space for Indigenous youth and youth from local communities to provide inputs to the design of the annual youth round table, improving its effectiveness. Both these forums empower youth, who stand to be disproportionately affected by the escalating impacts of climate change, and allow them to voice their concerns, perspectives and recommendations, thereby strengthening mutual understanding among all participants. María José Andrade, a young leader of the Kichwa people in Ecuador’s Kichwa de Serena Community, highlighted the significance of the LCIPP as follows:¹⁸ “It is important for us as Indigenous Peoples to ensure a generational transition to a more sustainable world. Our elders, our parents, children and children’s children need to know and access platforms and mechanisms under the UNFCCC. This is particularly important for Indigenous women and girls”. The annual youth round table facilitates the exchange of knowledge, equipping policymakers and young leaders with the insights necessary for intergenerational consideration and solidarity;

(c) **Biannual FWG meetings**, which serve as effective, inclusive spaces for sustained, multidirectional capacity-building for diverse participants. The meetings build their understanding of the work under the LCIPP in facilitating the enhanced engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process. The meetings also provide an inclusive space for interregional and intergenerational consideration and collaboration, strengthening the collective effort in climate action;

(d) **Membership in the FWG**, which serves as a dynamic capacity-building platform for its members, offering opportunities for engaging with relevant bodies and processes, and in different representational capacities, and learning from relevant bodies and processes under and outside the Convention. As active participants in their meetings and activities, FWG members gain valuable insight into other constituted bodies and workstreams. The biannual FWG meetings facilitate interaction among FWG members and between FWG members and other stakeholders, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. Members assume diverse roles, including co-chair and representative, in thematic and advisory groups, enhancing their expertise and leadership skills. Representing the FWG in dialogue with LCIPP entities such as the Green Climate Fund and the IPCC allows members to highlight the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Moreover, FWG members build connections and foster collaborative opportunities for

¹⁷ See also annex IV.

¹⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/news/indigenous-youth-can-boost-the-transition-to-a-more-sustainable-world>.

weaving diverse values and knowledge systems into relevant processes, and FWG members often continue to contribute to bodies and initiatives beyond their FWG tenure, thereby ensuring the sustained impact of the FWG and the LCIPP. Party representatives on the FWG have been able to share the knowledge they have gained in negotiations within their regional group and with other Parties, facilitating further capacity-building and a broader understanding of ethical and equitable engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

25. The FWG is unique as a UNFCCC constituted body for its membership comprising both Parties and non-Party stakeholders, all having an equal voice. It works closely with the IPO constituency, which represents all seven United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions. The cross-pollination of ideas and complementarity of the work between the FWG and the IPO constituency has been strengthened through the proactive involvement and leadership of IPO representatives in both the FWG and the constituency. Cultivating this collaborative relationship has been vital to the work of the FWG as a technical body, to paving the way for increased participation of Indigenous Peoples and their networks in the activities of the LCIPP, and to widening the reach and impact of the LCIPP.

C. Enhanced integration of diverse knowledge systems, values, practices and innovation into the design and implementation of climate policies and actions

26. The FWG promotes the full and effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples' values and knowledge systems and local knowledge systems into efforts to address climate change at all levels.

27. An increasing number of bodies and workstreams under and outside the UNFCCC process collaborate with the work under the LCIPP to enhance such engagement. As at the time of preparation of this report, the FWG has collaborated with 11 of the 16 constituted bodies, or 68.8 per cent.¹⁹ The FWG has also engaged with external entities, including United Nations agencies, the IPCC, regional IPOs and financial institutions.

28. At the global level, these collaborations have facilitated the direct involvement of Indigenous knowledge holders from all seven United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions – and the sharing of their diverse perspectives, worldviews and knowledge systems – in mandated LCIPP events and other relevant forums at the last two sessions of the COP. Examples of climate change impacts on the ecosystems and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities were provided in the contribution of the FWG to the global stocktake of collective progress towards achieving the purpose and goals of the Paris Agreement.²⁰ FWG members also participated in interactive discussions held at the World Café stations at the third meeting of the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake, held in 2023.²¹ Furthermore, Indigenous knowledge holders and FWG members participated in the fifth workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation,²² where the knowledge holders highlighted the importance of placing a healthy and regenerative nature at the core of the global goal on adaptation. They further stated that, to ensure the resilience and well-being of people and the planet, the global community needs to think of systems beyond human-centric and human-made systems.

29. At the regional level, the FWG facilitated the organization of the LCIPP regional gatherings that brought together Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other LCIPP contributors to share their experience with and insights into climate change impacts and their approach to addressing climate change. Reflecting on the regional gathering held for the Pacific,²³ participants expressed their views on the cultural immersions and

¹⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies>.

²⁰ Input from the FWG to the technical assessment of the global stocktake is available at https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2022-06/FWG%20input%20to%20the%20GST%20process_version%20March%202022_final.pdf.

²¹ See <https://unfccc.int/event/gst-td-world-cafe>.

²² See <https://unfccc.int/event/5th-workshop-glasgow-sharm-el-sheikh-wp-gga>.

²³ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-pacific-regional-gathering>.

community visits planned during the gathering, and the interactive activities and cultural experiences led to a deeper understanding of the critical climate issues faced by Indigenous Peoples throughout the Pacific region.

30. At the national level, the FWG facilitated the exchange of good practices relating to the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the design, implementation and communication of climate policies and actions. Work under the LCIPP highlighted inclusive national policies being developed and implemented.²⁴

31. Experts representing Indigenous Peoples and those from local communities are increasingly taking on leadership roles in thematic expert groups, advisory groups, and working groups under the UNFCCC process, including the expert group on non-economic losses of the WIM Executive Committee,²⁵ the NAP task force²⁶ and the advisory group of the LEG.²⁷

32. The work of the FWG and the activities under the LCIPP contribute to the building of an environment that enables the enhanced engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the collective effort to address climate change. In 2019, the United Nations General Assembly expanded the mandate of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples to include the provision of financial support for representatives of Indigenous Peoples to participate in the UNFCCC process, including FWG meetings of the LCIPP.²⁸ The International Fund for Agricultural Development dedicated the sixth cycle of its Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility to climate change.

33. The engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process has been consistently increasing. At COP 28, for example, the work under the LCIPP facilitated the presence of dedicated tables for Indigenous Peoples at the World Café session held at Earth Information Day 2023 and the Dialogue on Action for Climate Empowerment. In March 2024, the work under the LCIPP also facilitated the involvement of knowledge holders from the United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions of Africa, the Pacific and the Arctic under a dedicated agenda item at the 20th meeting of the WIM Executive Committee, focusing on how traditional knowledge and the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples are informing policymaking.²⁹

D. Enhanced contribution of Indigenous Peoples and local communities towards stronger and more ambitious climate action

34. In line with the third function of the LCIPP, the FWG continues to promote stronger and more ambitious climate action by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, recognizing their potential to support the achievement of their countries' NDCs. The mapping exercise³⁰ conducted under the initial workplan of the LCIPP, for 2020–2021, highlighted the importance of NDCs in achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. It also highlighted the need for integrating diverse knowledge systems into climate action.

35. The Paris Agreement, in its preamble, emphasizes the importance of Parties' respecting, promoting and considering their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations when taking action to address climate change". In this context, Parties are encouraged to develop NDCs, NAPs and national

²⁴ See the technical paper produced under activity 7 of the initial two-year workplan of the LCIPP, available at https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-08/Technical%20paper_LCIPP%20Activity%207_Final.pdf.

²⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/WIMExCom/NELs/membership>.

²⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/AC-NAPTE>.

²⁷ The Chair of the LEG invited the FWG to participate in the advisory group for the expert meeting to be held in the context of decision 3/CP.26, para. 3(d).

²⁸ United Nations General Assembly document A/RES/74/135.

²⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/event/WIMExCom20>.

³⁰ The results of the mapping exercise are presented in a technical paper available at <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-12/Technical%20Paper%20Activity%209.pdf>.

communications that are gender-responsive, rights-based and inclusive of the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, traditional knowledge and local knowledge systems, where appropriate.

36. The FWG facilitates the ethical and equitable integration of Indigenous Peoples' values and knowledge systems and local knowledge systems into climate policies and actions to enhance the design and implementation of, as well as the tracking of and reporting on progress in implementing, climate policies and actions at all levels, reflecting the diverse values and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems, thus contributing to achieving the NDCs under the Paris Agreement.

37. The ongoing efforts under the LCIPP have supported interactions between Parties and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, enabling diverse knowledge systems and practices to be woven into climate policies. These interactions have brought insightful perspectives, exemplified by Inuit and Sámi knowledge of snow and ice. During the Arctic regional gathering, knowledge holders shared that Indigenous Peoples in the region use a wide array of terms to describe snow and ice, reflecting their texture, seasonality, formation and associated events. Similarly, Indigenous Peoples from the Arctic and Pacific regions have many terms to describe ocean currents, which take into account aspects such as their direction, speed, physical features, and interactions with specific locations and marine ecosystems. This illustrates the deep, nuanced knowledge of the environment of Indigenous Peoples. The impacts of climate change on snow, ice and water bodies affect not only the lifestyles of Indigenous Peoples but also their health, language and cultural heritage. The insights gained at the regional and biregional gatherings highlight the importance of involving Indigenous Peoples directly in the formulation and implementation of climate policies and actions.

38. As the FWG continues to facilitate the implementation of the functions of the LCIPP, it acknowledges the need for enhanced monitoring and analysis of the impact of its activities. There is strong evidence that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are contributing to stronger, more ambitious climate action at the national level, as highlighted in examples shared in the gatherings and other activities under the LCIPP. In response to the recognized need for more rigorous monitoring and analysis, the FWG proposes holding a priority-setting meeting at the beginning of each year in 2025 and 2027, as outlined in the draft workplan of the LCIPP for 2025–2027 (see annex I).

III. Challenges

39. The global community's collective efforts to address climate change and restore the integrity of nature would benefit from adopting a holistic, interconnected perspective and recognizing and learning from the distinct and diverse values and worldviews of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. However, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have experienced challenges in enhancing their ethical and equitable engagement in the UNFCCC process. The FWG also faces strategic and resource-related challenges. The challenges described in this chapter have been identified through the work of the FWG and activities under the LCIPP.

40. A key challenge lies in a fundamental **misalignment between the prevailing global approach to addressing climate change and the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities on the changing climate**. The global strategy for addressing climate change is, predominantly, a narrowly focused one, namely, a metrics-based approach to mitigating climate change through the quantitative reduction of greenhouse gases. While important, this approach overlooks Mother Nature's broader, interconnected aspects and her relationship with humans. At COP 28, Indigenous knowledge holder Great-Grandmother Mary Lyons said, "We must be the good caretaker and not the bad landlords. It's not just Indigenous Peoples, it's all human beings. It's all plant life, it's all water bodies, our sky relatives. We are all related". Similarly, knowledge holders at the LCIPP annual gathering at COP 27 pointed out that "Humans need to be humbler when interacting with the natural world. We cannot stop sunrise or sunset, nor can we impact winter or the winds. We need to avoid human exceptionalism and stop neglecting nature, whose laws are stronger than those

laws of humans”.³¹ Indigenous Peoples and local communities take a holistic and relational approach to Mother Nature, which informs how they consider the cause of a rapidly changing climate. Their perspectives are deeply rooted in maintaining a sacred balance with nature (see the case stories in annex V). They see not only the physical aspects of the environment but also its spiritual, cultural and social dimensions. Indigenous Peoples view themselves as having a reciprocal relationship with nature and emphasize the importance of respecting and taking care of collective well-being.

41. **Language barriers extend beyond translation challenges**, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Reliance on dominant languages such as English can inadvertently simplify complex ecological knowledge and cultural values. Oversimplification reduces nuanced Indigenous terminologies to basic English equivalents, diluting the depth of the knowledge and wisdom being conveyed. Such dilution not only affects the comprehension of climate impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods but also risks losing vital concepts and terminologies intrinsic to the values and worldviews of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. For instance, terms such as the Māori *kaitiakitanga* and the Anishinaabe *mino-bimaadiziwin*, which respectively refer to guardianship and stewardship of nature and ‘living the good life’, encapsulate deep connection with the environment. Concepts crucial for understanding Indigenous perspectives and their reciprocal relationship with nature often fail to translate fully, highlighting the need for a nuanced approach to fostering shared understanding and communicating diverse values, worldviews and knowledge systems. Annex V contains a compilation of case stories showcasing practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities that are deeply rooted in their distinct values and reciprocal relationship with nature.

42. Indigenous Peoples and local communities are often mistakenly **viewed as homogeneous groups**. The allocation of time and space for their engagement in the UNFCCC process often overlooks their diverse lifestyles, knowledge systems, cultural values and worldviews, as well as the distinct status and rights of Indigenous Peoples. A report published in 2019 by the ILO estimates that there are 476.6 million Indigenous Peoples, making up 6.2 per cent of the global population, representing “a rich diversity of cultures, traditions and ways of life based on a close relationship with nature”.³² The FWG in its 2021 report³³ emphasized the diversity of Indigenous Peoples and recommended that increased time be allocated for their participation in sessions of the COP and that opportunities for meaningful engagement in the UNFCCC process be promoted for representatives of different United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions.

43. Indigenous Peoples and local communities are often **perceived primarily as vulnerable**, despite the increasing recognition of their crucial role in responding to climate change. This recognition is evident in COP decisions.³⁴ A focus on vulnerability overshadows the rich knowledge systems, cultural values and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, developed over generations of close relationship with nature, as well as the structural determinants of their vulnerability.

44. Another key challenge is posed by the **lack of strategic alignment** of FWG membership transition; the review of the FWG, including activities under the LCIPP workplans, by the COP through the SBSTA, including its outcomes; and the development of new workplans. FWG members serve a three-year term, without eligibility for immediate consecutive terms.³⁵ The FWG is tasked with reporting on its outcomes and LCIPP activities, as well as with developing drafts of the LCIPP workplan, a year before the end of the term of current members and while implementation of the existing workplan is still under way. This timing hinders the ability of the FWG to evaluate its outcomes comprehensively and to consider how the findings of the evaluation can inform the development of the next workplan.

³¹ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-annual-gathering-knowledge-holders-part-i-exchange-amongst-knowledge-holders>.

³² ILO. 2019. Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169: Towards an inclusive and sustainable and just future. Geneva: ILO. p.32. Available at https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_735607/lang--en/index.htm.

³³ See Annex V of the FWG report at FCCC/SBSTA/2021/1.

³⁴ Including specific mentions in decisions 1/CP.26, 16/CP.26, 1/CMA.3, and 2/CMA.5.

³⁵ Decision 2/CP.24, para. 8.

The timing of membership transition further complicates this challenge, as new members join the Group while a multi-year workplan is being implemented.

45. The FWG reports on its outcomes and the activities of the LCIPP every two to three years, reflecting its review interval and the time frame of the LCIPP workplan. This **intermittent official reporting limits the reach and impact of the work under the LCIPP, as well as Parties' ability to consider the views and insights shared in the reports**, which include those shared in informal summaries of annual and regional gatherings, compilations of case stories highlighting climate impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods across the seven United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions, and recommendations arising from the implementation of LCIPP workplans.

46. **Access issues persist for non-Party FWG members**, particularly regarding their participation in relevant meetings and events during sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the COP. FWG members representing IPOs from the seven United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions often lack access to events other than FWG meetings, relying instead on the insufficient number of badges allocated to their respective admitted observer organizations. This limits their ability to interact with representatives of Parties, constituted bodies and other key stakeholders, and hinders their contribution to discussions during the sessions.

47. The **participation of local communities in the work under the LCIPP continues to be limited**. The FWG has faced challenges in delivering on its mandate to further operationalize the LCIPP and facilitate the implementation of its functions. The absence of a universally accepted definition of 'local communities' has made the participation of local communities in various LCIPP activities challenging. Furthermore, the current FWG membership consists of only Party and IPO representatives. The representation of local communities under the LCIPP will be considered in the review of the FWG.³⁶

48. **Resource constraints** hinder the efforts to enhance the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process, which is essential for inclusive and effective climate action. The resource limitations to fully support the implementation of the workplan have been felt strongly over the last two years. With in-person events returning after the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the lack of resources to support the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities has become apparent. The first (2020–2021) and second (2022–2024) workplans of the LCIPP were both ambitious, but the second workplan saw a significant increase in activities: the number of mandated events in the second workplan increased by 380 per cent compared with the first, while written outputs increased by 140 per cent. However, resources did not correspondingly increase to reflect this ambition. The engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities from different United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions in the activities under the Platform could have been more inclusive if sufficient resources were available. Sufficient resources would also have allowed FWG members to participate in key in-person meetings of constituted bodies, including during sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the COP.

49. A significant challenge in organizing the mandated LCIPP regional gatherings is the **extensive time required for their legal arrangements**. While these legal arrangements ensure participant safety and compliance with United Nations protocols, they are complex and, even under optimal conditions, leave little time for programmatic preparation and logistical planning. The regional gatherings are designed to engage Indigenous knowledge holders and local community representatives, often from areas in which lifestyles are closely linked to environmental and climatic changes, and thorough preparation is essential to ensuring comprehensive representation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities from the respective regions. Preparation time is also needed for facilitating a meaningful exchange and full and effective participation at the gatherings.

50. The **absence of a mandate to enable support for interpretation** presents a persistent challenge. The work under the LCIPP brings together Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other LCIPP contributors from around the world, many of whom do not speak English or do not speak it as their first language. Since the operational language

³⁶ Decisions 2/CP.24, para. 27, and 16/CP.26, para. 12.

of the FWG and the United Nations is, in general, English, the lack of relevant, simultaneous and reliable interpretation services hinders meaningful engagement of the above-mentioned stakeholders, as well as members of the FWG.

51. **The challenge of sustained incorporation of the diverse values and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems in the UNFCCC process arises from limitations in resources and institutional barriers.** For instance, despite the FWG developing recommendations as an outcome of the initial workplan of the LCIPP, for 2020–2021, follow-up has been constrained by resource limitations and the complexity of institutional cultural adjustments required to adopt and implement such recommendations. Similarly, follow-up on the mapping exercise conducted under the initial workplan has been insufficient,³⁷ including the mapping of existing policies and practices for the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in climate change related bodies and processes. This lack of continuity hinders the reach and impact of the work under the LCIPP.

52. Additionally, engagement with regionally nominated knowledge holders and follow-up of the case stories and examples of good practices shared during FWG meetings, at mandated events and through the LCIPP web portal have been limited. The insights gleaned from such engagement and case stories, with adequate follow-up, can enrich the global approach to climate change, and enable the recognition that climate change related challenges do not exist in isolation and may require a concerted effort to address each one and provide adequate solutions effectively.

IV. Recommendations

53. Considering the challenges identified in chapter III above, it is evident that the continued success of the LCIPP and the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process hinges on strategic guidance for and enhancement of work under the Platform, mainly through the efforts of the FWG. To this end, the FWG invites Parties to consider the recommendations presented in this chapter.

54. **Transform the global approach to climate change by integrating diverse values, worldviews and knowledge systems into the UNFCCC process, inspired by the inclusion of ‘Mother Earth’ in the Paris Agreement.** This involves consciously adopting concepts and terminologies of Indigenous Peoples and local communities that reflect their values and their relationships with nature and acknowledging that Indigenous knowledge is distinct from local knowledge. Indigenous knowledge guides the understanding of, and relationship with, everything and encompasses its system of validation and review. Indigenous knowledge cannot be separated from identity, values, spirituality and worldviews. As the global community comes together to pursue the targets outlined in the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, there are unique opportunities to weave the diverse values and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems into climate policies and actions in a way that maintains the integrity and complexity of the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and promotes their direct involvement and leadership in the UNFCCC process.

55. **Recognize and embrace diversity.** This involves appreciating and implementing strategies for accommodating the diversity of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as their knowledge systems and cultural values, under the UNFCCC process. It includes allocating adequate time and space for knowledge holders and representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to express their views in order to reflect their rich diversity during meetings and activities under the UNFCCC process.

56. **Shift the narrative around Indigenous Peoples and local communities from vulnerability to nature stewardship and climate leadership.** This involves recognizing the rich cultural values, practices and knowledge systems cultivated over generations of

³⁷ See the documents available at https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-08/Technical%20paper_LCIPP%20Activity%207_Final.pdf and <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-12/Technical%20Paper%20Activity%209.pdf>.

sustainable and respectful interaction with nature and weaving them into climate policies and actions.

57. **Uphold a rights-based approach to addressing climate change and one that integrates the knowledge and values of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems ethically and equitably into climate policies and actions.** This involves acknowledging the differences between the knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (see para. 54 above) and recognizing the importance of the leadership and direct involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in global efforts to address climate change, regenerate nature and restore the integrity of ecosystems. It is essential that the principle of free, prior and informed consent, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is upheld when Indigenous Peoples are engaged in sharing their values and knowledge systems. The creation of a space for ethical and equitable dialogue on diverse knowledge systems, values and perspectives is essential as part of the collective effort to address climate change and restore the integrity of nature.

58. **Leverage the institutional arrangements of the LCIPP, including through the work of the FWG, to facilitate and support the development of relevant mechanisms and ethical protocols for the ethical and equitable engagement of the values and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems.** This involves drawing inspiration from and building on existing practices, such as those of the Arctic Council and its Permanent Participants, and on the guidance of the FWG related to rights safeguards and protocols.³⁸

59. **Allow staggered terms for the members of the FWG.** This will ensure continuity of institutional knowledge and smoother member transition. It will also reduce the time required for onboarding, as new members can learn directly from current members.

60. **Provide adequate financial support for high-quality simultaneous interpretation services for FWG meetings, mandated LCIPP events and essential intersessional activities.** This will enable the meaningful engagement in and effective contribution to the UNFCCC process by representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and knowledge holders, irrespective of their linguistic backgrounds.

61. **Enhance and diversify the modalities for submitting contributions under the UNFCCC process.** Enabling the submission of photos, music and other media will help elevate the values, knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities related to their approach to nature and climate change.³⁹ Restricting contributions to written submissions in English prohibits the rich exchange of good practices and approaches of Indigenous Peoples, which have been passed on through generations using verbal communication.

62. **Encourage relevant constituted bodies and work programmes to collaborate with the FWG and foster collaborative work under UNFCCC programmes.** Relevant entities and workstreams include the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, the global goal on adaptation and the review of overall progress in achieving it, the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme and the next cycle of the global stocktake. Collaborative work will facilitate alignment with key milestones and timelines, including reporting and submission schedules, planning and delivery of important events, and timelines for specific work programmes, in order to weave diverse knowledge systems and values into the collective effort to address climate change and regenerate nature.

63. **Further strengthen Parties' engagement in work under the LCIPP, including with their representative in the FWP.** COP 26 recognized the important role of the LCIPP in bringing together Parties, Indigenous Peoples and local communities to work towards achieving the objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰ Both COP 26 and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, at its third session, urged Parties to actively involve Indigenous Peoples and local

³⁸ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/rights-safeguards-and-protocols>.

³⁹ See https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2023-06/FWG%20Working%20Modalities_ver%2031%20May%202023.pdf.

⁴⁰ Decision 16/CP.26, preamble.

communities in designing and implementing climate action and to engage in activities under the second workplan.⁴¹

64. **Adopt a focused, strategic approach to implementing and reporting on activities under LCIPP workplans.** This involves aligning LCIPP activities with the timelines and milestones of relevant work under and outside the UNFCCC process, as appropriate. For example, activities under the LCIPP could facilitate the exchange of experience and practices and build multidirectional capacity that is relevant to Parties as they update their NDCs, implement the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and make adaptation efforts. Doing so would promote the effective engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process and, in turn, promote transformational climate action for collective well-being.

65. **Explore ways to support the engagement of local communities in work under the LCIPP.** This could include incorporating targeted activities aimed at enhancing the engagement of local communities in the UNFCCC process under the workplans of relevant constituted bodies and workstreams, building on activities under the LCIPP. In this regard, the secretariat organized a thematic in-session workshop on enhancing the participation of local communities in the LCIPP,⁴² and future efforts to enhance the engagement of local communities can build on the outputs from this workshop.⁴³

V. Conclusion

66. The ongoing work of the FWG to further operationalize the LCIPP and facilitate the implementation of its functions presents an opportunity to weave the perspectives and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities into the UNFCCC process, paving inclusive pathways for transformational climate policies and action. This report highlights both the achievements thus far and the challenges that remain in facilitating the ethical and equitable integration of the knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems into the UNFCCC process. The report also offers recommendations to address the challenges. The incorporation of diverse, rich values and worldviews into the global collective effort to address climate change is important not only for developing more effective climate solutions but also for fostering a deeper, more holistic relationship between people and nature.

⁴¹ Decisions 1/CP.26, para. 66, and 1/CMA.3, para. 93.

⁴² Decision 2/CP.24, para. 22.

⁴³ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/session-thematic-workshop-local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform>.

Annex I

Draft workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform for 2025–2027

1. The FWG has prepared a draft workplan of the LCIPP for 2025–2027, on the basis of consensus.¹
2. The workplan will be implemented in the context of the Paris Agreement, decisions 1/CP.21, 2/CP.23, 2/CP.24 and 16/CP.26, the conclusions of SBSTA 60 and future relevant decisions.
3. Through the implementation of this workplan, the FWG will further operationalize the LCIPP and facilitate the implementation of the three functions of the Platform:²
 - (a) Knowledge: the Platform should promote the exchange of experience and best practices with a view to applying, strengthening, protecting and preserving traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems, as well as technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and Indigenous Peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, taking into account the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices;
 - (b) Capacity for engagement: the Platform should build the capacity of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to enable their engagement in the UNFCCC process and the capacity of Parties and other relevant stakeholders to engage with the Platform and with local communities and Indigenous Peoples, including in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other climate change related processes;
 - (c) Climate change policies and actions: the Platform should facilitate the integration of diverse knowledge systems, practices and innovations in designing and implementing international and national actions, programmes and policies in a manner that respects and promotes the rights and interests of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. The Platform should also facilitate the undertaking of stronger and more ambitious climate action by Indigenous Peoples and local communities that could contribute to the achievement of the NDCs of the Parties concerned.
4. In implementing the workplan, the FWG will continue using methodologies that have proven effective in facilitating the participation in and contribution to the UNFCCC process of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and providing a space that enables their meaningful engagement with Parties, constituted bodies and other LCIPP contributors, in a cross-cutting manner.
 - (a) Considering the knowledge, technologies, innovations, practices and efforts of Indigenous Peoples and local communities related to addressing and responding to climate change at the local, national, regional and international levels;
 - (b) Engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women, youth and knowledge holders, in the UNFCCC process and other processes in a gender-responsive manner that recognizes the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, traditional knowledge and local knowledge;
 - (c) Building the capacity of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Parties to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, including pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, through the inclusion of policies and actions based on Indigenous Peoples' values, worldviews and knowledge systems, and local knowledge, as well as through the provision of means of implementation to support such policies and actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building;

¹ Decision 16/CP.26, para. 11.

² Decision 2/CP.23, para. 6.

(d) Taking action to complement and draw on the work of and involve other bodies under and outside the Convention in work under the LCIPP.

5. In developing the workplan, the FWG drew on the key considerations³ adopted at the 10th FWG meeting, as well as on the experience of and inputs from contributors with diverse backgrounds. The overall structure and activities of the workplan align with the vision and strategy of the FWG, adopted at its 9th meeting (see annex II to this document), and with the aim to foster a shared understanding that the resilience and long-term well-being of the community of life ultimately depend on the regeneration of nature, ensuring healthy ecological systems and biological diversity.

6. The ‘collective approaches’ used to organize the workplan are designed to contribute in complementary ways to the three functions of the LCIPP.

7. The FWG will identify an annual theme at a priority-setting meeting held at the start of each year, which will guide the focus areas and topics to be discussed as part of the various workplan activities. On the basis of the theme selected, the FWG will engage with relevant constituted bodies, United Nations agencies and other contributing entities, as appropriate.

8. Through implementation of the workplan, the FWG hopes to contribute towards transforming global climate policies and actions, including by weaving in concepts and terminologies that embody Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, values and worldviews, and by sharing the perspectives of local communities.

³ Contained in the workplan planning document, available at https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2024-02/LCIPP%20Third%20Three%20Year%20Work%20Plan%20Planning%20Doc_v%20091223_clean.pdf.

Draft workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform for 2025–2027

<i>Engaging and exchanging (activities)</i>	<i>Elevating (deliverables)</i>	<i>Weaving together (outcomes)</i>
Collective approach 1: gathering of knowledge holders		
<p>1.1 Convene an annual gathering of knowledge holders to share experience, worldviews, stories and practices related to climate action.</p> <p>1.2 Hold an annual dialogue for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties, constituted bodies and other LCIPP contributors focusing on integrating diverse knowledge systems and values to strengthen the collective response to climate change and restore the integrity of nature. (The outcomes from activity 1.1 will be presented in the dialogue.)</p> <p>1.3 Conduct informal contributors briefing to build the capacity of Indigenous Peoples and local community representatives to engage in the sessions of the COP.</p>	<p>1.4 Produce a summary report documenting the discussions at the annual gathering and the annual dialogue, including recommendations and opportunities for further engagement.</p> <p>1.5 Compile case stories in diverse formats to feed into the work of relevant constituted bodies and work under relevant UNFCCC workstreams, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates.</p> <p>1.6 Integrate recommendations and concrete examples (from deliverables 1.4–1.5) into relevant work of key constituted bodies and UNFCCC workstreams, in line with the annual theme selected by the FWG.</p>	<p>Shift global climate change discussions under the UNFCCC process to incorporate the values, worldviews, intergenerational wisdom and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and knowledge of local communities, thus fostering a profound connection with nature.</p> <p>Enhance global climate action by elevating the recommendations, practical examples and insights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, emphasizing their climate leadership and nature stewardship.</p>
Collective approach 2: regional engagement		
<p>2.1 Convene at least two regional (or biregional) gatherings per year, organized for and in a different United Nations Indigenous sociocultural region or United Nations region, with the direct involvement of elders, practitioners, knowledge holders, women and youth from each region in the planning and implementation of these gatherings, relevant to the annual theme selected by the FWG.</p> <p>2.2 Hold a regional dialogue for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties, constituted bodies, regional IPOs and other LCIPP contributors focusing on integrating diverse knowledge systems, values and practices into regional efforts to address climate change. (The outcomes from activity 2.1 will be presented in this dialogue.)</p> <p>2.3 Participate in and/or contribute to at least one existing regional-level engagement activity per year (e.g. NAP Expo).</p>	<p>2.4 Produce summary reports documenting the discussions at the regional (or biregional) gatherings and the regional dialogue, including recommendations and opportunities for further engagement.</p> <p>2.5 Compile case stories in diverse formats that feed into the work of relevant constituted bodies and work under UNFCCC workstreams, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates.</p> <p>2.6 Integrate recommendations and concrete examples (from deliverables 2.4–2.5), into relevant work of key constituted bodies and UNFCCC workstreams, in line with the annual theme selected by the FWG.</p>	<p>Amplify the engagement of all Indigenous Peoples and local communities from the regions in the UNFCCC process to support the repositioning of regional climate narratives in line with the FWG vision and strategy.</p>

<i>Engaging and exchanging (activities)</i>	<i>Elevating (deliverables)</i>	<i>Weaving together (outcomes)</i>
Collective approach 3: Seventh-generation round table		
<p>3.1 Conduct an annual round table based on and guided by the seventh-generation principle to promote intergenerational dialogue and to highlight the role of Indigenous youth and youth from local communities in the collective well-being of future generations.</p> <p>3.2 Convene a virtual online meeting for Indigenous youth and youth from local communities to ensure the agenda and discussions for the seventh-generation round table represent each of the United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions and to build the capacity of youth to effectively engage during the sessions of the COP.</p> <p>3.3 Hold an annual dialogue for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties, constituted bodies and other LCIPP contributors focusing on intergenerational knowledge exchange to integrate diverse knowledge systems and values into climate policies and actions while ensuring the well-being of present and future generations. (Outcomes from activity 3.1 will be presented at this dialogue.)</p>	<p>3.4 Produce a summary report documenting the discussions at the seventh-generation round table and the annual dialogue that includes recommendations and opportunities for further engagement</p> <p>3.5 Share recommendations on approaches to ensuring the well-being of current and future generations with relevant constituted bodies and UNFCCC workstreams.</p> <p>3.6 Compile case stories in diverse formats to feed into the work of relevant constituted bodies and work under relevant UNFCCC workstreams, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates.</p>	<p>Uplift the voices of Indigenous youth and youth from local communities in the UNFCCC process, thus supporting intergenerational and global commitments to address climate change and restore the integrity of nature.</p>
Collective approach 4: collaboration with constituted bodies and under workstreams of the UNFCCC		
<p>4.1 Enhance the ethical and equitable engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the meetings and forums and in the development of technical documents of relevant constituted bodies and UNFCCC workstreams, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, towards achieving the objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>4.2 Provide written inputs, drawing on the contribution of Indigenous Peoples and local communities participating in the FWG meetings and LCIPP activities, to the work of relevant</p>	<p>4.3 Engage knowledge holders, in collaboration with the IPO constituency and local community representatives, in the work of technical expert groups and working groups of the constituted bodies, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates.</p>	<p>Further enhance participatory processes for the development, implementation and communication of climate policies and actions in order to fully embrace diverse values and worldviews and enable their enrichment by a variety of knowledge systems.</p>

<i>Engaging and exchanging (activities)</i>	<i>Elevating (deliverables)</i>	<i>Weaving together (outcomes)</i>	
constituted bodies and UNFCCC workstreams, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, including in response to calls for submission and in the context of the global stocktake, in a manner that respects and promotes the rights-based approach.			
Collective approach 5: enhanced engagement with Parties			
5.1 Conduct targeted outreach to and engage with national focal points, including but not limited to national focal points to the UNFCCC, loss and damage contact points, adaptation contact points, national gender and climate change focal points and national Action for Climate Empowerment focal points.	5.3 Develop recommendations and guidance on best practices to ensure the ethical and equitable engagement, protection, and use of traditional knowledge, the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems, including through an ethics protocol to be created with the direct involvement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and used at the gatherings of knowledge holders, regional (or biregional) gatherings, and seventh-generation round tables.	Foster national-level climate action planning and implementation, including the development of policies and programmes that increasingly reflect the values, worldviews, knowledge systems and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge.	
5.2 Hold an annual dialogue for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Parties to promote the ethical and equitable engagement of values and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems in the design and implementation of NAPs, NDCs and national communications.	5.4 Enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process, prioritizing direct participation, including of youth and women, in training sessions and workshops of relevant constituted bodies and UNFCCC workstreams, in order to facilitate their contribution to the process of formulating, implementing and communicating climate policies and actions.		
	5.5 Develop a draft ethics protocol before the 15 th meeting of the FWG and enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process throughout the year.		
Collective approach 6: overall strategic planning			
6.1 Convene an annual priority-setting meeting at which the annual theme(s) for the year will be selected	6.2 Enhance the functionality of the LCIPP web portal through regular updates and maintenance. 6.3 Update the outreach and dissemination plan, originally created under the initial workplan, and priorities annually.		Strengthen the impact and effectiveness of collective approaches under the workplan, as well as the workplan as a whole, by fostering synergies among the activities as well as ensuring their alignment with key timelines and milestones both under and outside the UNFCCC process.

Annex II

Vision and strategy statement of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

1. The following vision and strategy statement was adopted during the 9th meeting of the FWG of the LCIPP.¹
2. FWG, in implementing the three functions of the Platform, strives to elevate the leadership role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the collective effort towards transformative climate policies and actions by:
 - (a) Upholding a rights-based approach;
 - (b) Ethically and equitably engaging Indigenous values and worldviews (such as stewardship of and living in harmony with Mother Earth to ensure its enduring integrity for all life forms today and in the future) and perspectives from local communities;
 - (c) Fostering full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in achieving the objectives of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

¹ The Co-Chair's note summarizing decisions from the 9th meeting of the FWG and the vision and strategy statement are available at <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/9th-meeting-facilitative-working-group-fwg-9>.

Annex III

Progress in implementing the second workplan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, for 2022–2024

[English only]

1. COP 26 requested the FWG to report on its outcomes and the activities under the LCIPP.¹ This annex provides a detailed overview of the achievements and outputs, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations by the FWG for future activities from the ongoing implementation of each of the nine activities under the second workplan of the LCIPP, for 2022–2024.

I. Annual gathering of knowledge holders

A. Achievements and outputs

2. The third annual gathering of knowledge holders under the LCIPP² was held at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in the United Arab Emirates, building on the success of the gatherings held at the Glasgow Conference³ and Sharm el-Sheikh Conference.⁴ These annual gatherings have brought together knowledge holders nominated in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' procedures⁵ from all seven United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions.⁶ The focus has been on sharing experience, values, perspectives and practices in responding to climate change. To foster gender balance and youth engagement, the FWG recommends that each region nominate at least one Indigenous woman and one youth representative for these annual gatherings.

3. The first part of each gathering provides an inclusive space for the knowledge holders to exchange knowledge and share good practices related to addressing climate change while respecting cultural protocols and knowledge safeguards. Discussions at the three gatherings were organized into four round tables and were focused on a different theme each year in the broader context of adaptation, mitigation, the interconnectedness of food, water and energy, or another topic. During these discussions, knowledge holders underscored that Indigenous knowledge is intrinsically linked with Indigenous Peoples' approach to nature, which is transmitted collectively and intergenerationally through oral traditions. They emphasized the importance of a collective and holistic approach to addressing climate change and restoring the integrity of nature.

4. The second part of each gathering facilitates an interactive dialogue among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other LCIPP contributors, to enrich the wider climate discussions at sessions of the COP through sharing diverse perspectives, knowledge systems and values and through sharing recommendations to integrate these into climate policies and actions.

¹ Decision 16/CP.26, para. 11.

² See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-third-annual-gathering-knowledge-holders-exchange-amongst-knowledge-holders-coordination>.

³ For information on the first annual gathering of knowledge holders, held at COP 26, including summaries of discussions by activity co-leads, see <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/first-annual-gathering-knowledge-holders>.

⁴ For information on the second annual gathering of knowledge holders, held at COP 27, including summaries of discussions by activity co-leads, see <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-annual-gathering-knowledge-holders-part-i-exchange-amongst-knowledge-holders>.

⁵ Decision 2/CP.23, para. 8.

⁶ The regional pages on the LCIPP web portal (<https://lcipp.unfccc.int>) house a list of knowledge holders nominated by their respective regions to participate in mandated LCIPP events.

5. The participation of Parties and constituted bodies at the second part of the annual gatherings has been increasing, demonstrating their keen interest in the contributions and recommendations shared by Indigenous knowledge holders.

B. Lessons learned and good practices

6. Under the overall guidance of the FWG, the gatherings of knowledge holders, held in conjunction with sessions of the COP, have increasingly become formal inclusive spaces for engaging with diverse perspectives and knowledge systems, upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and promoting the leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. With careful attention to programmatic design and physical set-up, they have also become a comfortable space for sharing knowledge, experience and relevant practices.

7. Efforts to streamline coordination, such as centralizing accommodation for the knowledge holders and providing pre-session briefings, have not only enhanced the logistical aspects of the gatherings over time but also fostered a cohesive, collaborative environment for the participants.

8. At the gatherings, Indigenous knowledge holders expressed some challenges in incorporating their recommendations and proposals into the prevailing narrative of climate action under the UNFCCC process, including in the thematic areas of climate mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.

9. They also shared that the accelerated impacts of climate change on ecosystems and people's livelihoods are challenging their communities' abilities to adapt, and that they are encountering new, sometimes invasive, species that disrupt their ways of life.

10. The knowledge holders shared many climate solutions, including the role of reciprocal knowledge-sharing across regions to support Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' abilities to address climate change and build resilience. Shifts in species' range and composition necessitate new knowledge to inform reciprocal interactions with nature.

11. Indigenous knowledge, derived from reciprocal interactions with nature over generations, faces challenges not only from extreme and slow onset events but also from the indirect impacts of response measures, including the commodification and commercialization of nature.

12. Weaving the profound worldviews, values and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge into global efforts to address climate change, enhance food security and reverse biodiversity decline enriches these efforts while also mitigating the risk of maladaptation. This approach highlights the important role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in shaping transformational climate solutions.

13. By combining operational improvements with substantive content contributions, the knowledge holder gatherings have both enriched the broader climate discussions at the sessions of the COP and advanced the integration of the unique insights and values of Indigenous Peoples and local communities into the collective effort to address climate change and restore the health of nature.

C. Recommendations for future activities

14. Members of the FWG and LCIPP contributors call for the inclusion of these annual gatherings of knowledge holders in future workplans of the LCIPP. Future gatherings will build on the experience of previous ones and strengthen their impacts by further integrating the recommendations, reflections and insights of knowledge holders into the UNFCCC process. Similarly, there is a strong call for greater involvement of Parties and constituted bodies to facilitate the integration of diverse knowledge systems and worldviews into the collective effort to address climate change, and to respond to the recommendations shared by knowledge holders.

II. Regional gatherings

A. Achievements and outputs

15. Three gatherings have been organized and held thus far: one biregional gathering for Asia and Africa,⁷ one regional gathering for the Arctic⁸ and one regional gathering for the Pacific.⁹ These gatherings provide formal inclusive spaces for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to share – among one another and with Parties – their experience and insights related to the impacts of climate change on their ecosystems and livelihoods, as well as strategies and techniques to address climate change and build resilience.

16. During the annual gathering of knowledge holders at COP 28, the FWG member representing the Arctic United Nations Indigenous sociocultural region elaborated on the ubiquitous interconnectedness highlighted during the gathering for the Arctic: “The Arctic regional gathering illustrated the critical interconnectedness of water, energy and food systems with Indigenous communities throughout the Arctic. The sharing during the regional gathering highlighted how changing water patterns from heavy snowfalls to diminishing ice and melting permafrost are significantly impacting Arctic flora and fauna, including fish, moose, caribou and reindeer. These shifts directly affect Indigenous food systems, underscoring the urgency for climate change solutions that incorporate Indigenous perspectives”.¹⁰

17. The regional gatherings, with the direct involvement of IPOs, have facilitated knowledge exchange and multidirectional capacity-building. They have provided Indigenous Peoples and local communities with an in-depth understanding of the LCIPP and the broader UNFCCC process, while Parties and other LCIPP contributors have gained a deeper appreciation for the perspectives, values and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This mutual capacity- and relationship-building has been one of the key achievements of the gatherings, according to FWG members and LCIPP contributors.

B. Lessons learned and good practices

18. The regional gatherings have fostered connection and collaboration among Indigenous Peoples and local communities across United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions and they have facilitated the engagement of other key stakeholders, including relevant United Nations agencies. The gatherings have also fostered the sharing of experience and insights to enhance the integration of Indigenous Peoples’ values and knowledge systems, and local knowledge systems, into the IPCC assessment cycles – possible ways to strengthen this involvement include the nomination by Parties of Indigenous experts and experts from local communities as lead authors, the promotion of ethical and equitable knowledge co-production, the commission of special reports on Indigenous Peoples’ values and knowledge, and the facilitation of active input to IPCC assessment reports through dialogues and expert review of draft reports.

C. Recommendations for future activities

19. A key challenge identified in organizing these gatherings relates to the necessary yet complex and time-consuming process of putting legal agreements and logistical arrangements in place to ensure participants’ safety and security. Feedback from LCIPP contributors highlights that this lengthy process detracts from content design and outreach work, limiting the potential impact of the gatherings. To address this, LCIPP contributors have suggested initiating necessary preparations as early as possible. They have also

⁷ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/biregional-gathering-local-people-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform>.

⁸ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-arctic-regional-gathering>.

⁹ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-pacific-regional-gathering>.

¹⁰ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-arctic-regional-gathering>.

suggested exploring innovative ways to streamline these processes without compromising participants' safety and security, and adhering to standard procedures and protocols, including Indigenous Peoples' protocols. This proactive approach will strengthen the effectiveness and impact of future regional gatherings.

III. Indigenous curricula and educational materials

A. Achievements and outputs

20. The FWG, with the support of the secretariat, has conducted annual round tables that have brought together Indigenous Peoples, knowledge holders, Parties, academic institutions, LCIPP contributors and other potential partners to discuss the development of curricula and educational materials, including guidelines on the ethical and equitable use of such materials, to promote greater understanding of Indigenous knowledge and its importance in assessing the impacts of and responding to climate change. The FWG has also issued a call for submissions on the development and use of curricula and materials that incorporate Indigenous knowledge in formal and informal education systems.¹¹

21. The annual round tables¹² have facilitated the exchange of relevant examples, such as legislation in the Russian Federation that recognizes the need for nomadic education that reflects the nomadic way of life such as education on reindeer herding; and the transmission of Indigenous knowledge among Pacific Indigenous Peoples at gatherings using song, dance and the recitation of chants.

22. A key achievement of this activity is the establishment of a master's course on Indigenous education and development at Kathmandu University, which marks a significant advance in the integration of Indigenous knowledge into higher education.

B. Lessons learned and good practices

23. During the round-table discussions, knowledge holders shared challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, particularly the historical injustices of forced assimilation and cultural erosion in residential schools. They expressed concerns about the impacts of Indigenous children attending mainstream schools with formal education systems, which results in threats to the continuation of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, culture and collective approach to nature.

C. Recommendations for future activities

24. Knowledge holders recommend that the FWG facilitate increased exchange among relevant contributors and institutions, which might lead to the development of a course such as at the Kathmandu University, in order to further weave Indigenous knowledge into formal education systems and promote the establishment of educational programmes that engage students with Indigenous language, culture and connection to nature. A related recommendation is to strengthen international collaboration and scholarship opportunities to support Indigenous-led research and education, which is an approach intended to foster a global network relevant to the development of curricula and educational materials that incorporate diverse knowledge systems, including the knowledge and values of Indigenous Peoples, and can be used as part of the collective effort to address climate change.

¹¹ Visit the submission portal at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (search for "Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform") to view submissions or respond to the call for submissions, for which the deadline is 31 October 2024.

¹² For information on the LCIPP indigenous curricula and materials round table dialogue held in 2023, see <https://unfccc.int/event/lcipp-indigenous-curricula-and-materials-round-table-dialogue-in-collaboration-with-nwp-mandated-0>.

25. Linking the capacity-building aspect of this activity, and under the LCIPP in general, with related efforts, such as those under the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, various United Nations agencies and the IPO constituency, offers a significant opportunity yet to be fully utilized. To ensure the relevance and usefulness of any training content, it is important to establish and maintain a formal and efficient feedback system with participants. Customizing content to accommodate the diverse knowledge levels and experience of Indigenous Peoples and local communities is vital and inviting submissions on potential training session topics could help tailor capacity-building efforts to better meet their needs.

IV. Capacity-building for Indigenous Peoples and local communities

A. Achievements and outputs

26. The second function of the LCIPP emphasizes multidirectional capacity-building to foster the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process. To build their capacity to participate in the process, a series of training workshops was organized. These workshops covered a broad range of topics, including the UNFCCC process, the Paris Agreement, subsidiary body sessions, COP sessions, procedures for obtaining observer status, and thematic work of the constituted bodies.

27. Furthermore, a joint dialogue on advancing the leadership and highlighting the solutions of Indigenous women and women from local communities in climate policy and action was co-organized under the LCIPP workplan and the UNFCCC gender action plan and held at COP 27. The dialogue resulted in several key messages and action points¹³ concerning practices that could advance the leadership of women from local communities and of Indigenous women in the UNFCCC process. Participants in the dialogue shared examples from their communities and emphasized that Indigenous women and women from local communities should continue to take the lead in climate policy development and implementation at the local, national and international level. While often disproportionately affected by climate change, these women continuously demonstrate their resilience and their ability to use their knowledge and worldviews to find solutions to the climate crisis.

28. This activity calls for the development of guidance and for an evaluation of the implementation of the recommendations of the FWG to the SBSTA on the engagement and input of Indigenous Peoples and local communities across the UNFCCC process.¹⁴ The activity also calls for updating the mapping of existing policies, actions and communications under the Convention (whether and how they incorporate consideration and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities) and the mapping of existing policies and practices for the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in climate change related bodies and processes under and outside the Convention.¹⁵ The FWG will continue work on this activity in 2024 to complete these deliverables.

B. Lessons learned and good practices

29. The training workshops have equipped Indigenous Peoples and local communities with important, timely information that assists them in effectively participating in the UNFCCC process. The workshops not only complement but also enhance the impact of other activities under the LCIPP and the UNFCCC process in general, including FWG meetings, LCIPP regional gatherings and the work of relevant constituted bodies.

¹³ Contained in document FCCC/SBI/2023/4, which is the report on the dialogue.

¹⁴ Contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2021/1, annex V.

¹⁵ See the technical papers on the mappings available at <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-12/Technical%20Paper%20Activity%209.pdf> and https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-08/Technical%20paper_LCIPP%20Activity%207_Final.pdf respectively.

C. Recommendations for future activities

30. It is recommended that this activity be better aligned with other training opportunities under the work of relevant bodies and processes, in order to maximize the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This training modality could be more effectively integrated into capacity-building processes under and external to the Convention. Future workshops should continue to build on the capacity built in previous workshops but should also be customized to accommodate varying levels of understanding and experience with the UNFCCC process. In addition, participants could benefit from the workshop materials incorporating more diverse methods of communication, such as storytelling and audiovisual content.

31. The strategic selection of themes and scheduling of the training workshops is important to ensuring their overall efficacy and impact. In order to effectively implement the second function of the LCIPP, it is recommended that the training workshops be aligned with key timelines and milestones within and external to the workstreams in the UNFCCC process.

V. Capacity-building for Parties and other relevant entities

A. Achievements and outputs

32. The second function of the LCIPP calls for enhancing the capacity of Parties and other stakeholders to engage with the Platform as well as with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other climate change related processes. Capacity-building efforts targeted at Parties, constituted bodies and other LCIPP contributors have been constructive in strengthening their understanding of the knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and avoiding tokenization. The FWG, with the support of the secretariat, has organized annual training workshops on various topics, including on transforming climate action through engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities.¹⁶

33. This activity also calls for updating and utilizing the technical paper on the analysis of policies, actions and communications under the Convention and whether and how they incorporate consideration and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.¹⁷ Furthermore, it calls for the development of guidance and recommendations based on the updated paper, training workshops, and a call for submissions on the rights-based participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in national climate policies, with special attention to future generations, youth and women's involvement.

B. Lessons learned and good practices

34. The annual training workshops have been scheduled to take place in conjunction with the midyear sessions of the subsidiary bodies with the aim of maximizing stakeholder participation. Nevertheless, there is a recognized need to strengthen Party engagement in LCIPP efforts to weave Indigenous Peoples' worldviews, values and knowledge, and local knowledge systems, into the collective effort to address climate change.

35. Parties' engagement in work under the LCIPP has been increasing (see figure 1 in this document), reflecting their growing interest to enhance their capacity for engaging with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, an area where the FWG plays a key facilitating role. However, there is a need for enhanced communication with Parties to better inform them of available capacity-building opportunities.

¹⁶ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/workshop-parties-and-constituted-bodies-transforming-climate-action-through-engaging-indigenous>.

¹⁷ Available at <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-12/Technical%20Paper%20Activity%209.pdf>.

C. Recommendations for future activities

36. To strengthen Party engagement in the ongoing implementation of the second function of the LCIPP, the FWG should take advantage of opportunities to collaborate with various constituted bodies, continue to hold meetings that serve as a platform to enhance dialogue with Parties, engage with national focal points for various entities and processes, and engage with the United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions and regional groups the FWG members represent.

VI. Collaboration with relevant bodies and processes

A. Achievements and outputs

37. The COP encouraged the FWG to collaborate with various bodies under and outside the Convention to enhance the coherence of work under the LCIPP. Activity 6 of the second workplan focuses on advancing and enhancing the contributions and participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in relation to the work of constituted bodies towards achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. This includes promoting collaboration across the UNFCCC process and inviting constituted bodies such as the Adaptation Committee, the Consultative Group of Experts, the LEG and the WIM Executive Committee to collaborate with the FWG. The activity also calls for the FWG to contribute to the technical dialogues of the global stocktake and to facilitate the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' perspectives in discussions on the global goal on adaptation.

38. The engagement of the FWG with constituted bodies, including the Adaptation Committee, the Consultative Group of Experts, the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures, the LEG, the TEC and the WIM Executive Committee, comprises participation in regular meetings and in events and contribution to technical forums and documentation. These collaborations have led to meaningful contributions and enhanced integration of the knowledge and values of Indigenous Peoples and the perspectives of local communities into relevant work across the UNFCCC process.

39. Two representatives of the FWG attended the 18th meeting of the WIM Executive Committee. They emphasized mandates from the COP, such as the Glasgow Climate Pact, that acknowledge the important role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The FWG invited the WIM Executive Committee to engage experts from Indigenous Peoples and local communities in its expert groups, as relevant, for example the expert group on non-economic losses. The second five-year rolling workplan of the WIM Executive Committee includes several activities calling for the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.¹⁸

40. Two FWG members represented the FWG and made presentations at the 27th meeting of the TEC, sharing updates on the design of the LCIPP annual multi-stakeholder dialogue, which creates a space for sharing information on Indigenous technology, science and innovation as part of the work of the TEC.

41. At the fifth workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation, the two FWG members who participated urged reimagining humanity's relationship with nature, a shift in perspective in climate policymaking processes to reposition humans within rather than above nature, and the adoption of an approach that emphasizes the importance of Indigenous Peoples' values, particularly their reciprocal relationship with nature and intergenerational consideration. Also at the workshop, one of the FWG members highlighted the need for a systems-thinking approach that places natural systems at the core of the global goal on adaptation, moving beyond human-centric views.

¹⁸ Contained in document FCCC/SB/2022/2/Add.2, annex I.

B. Lessons learned and good practices

42. The participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies has increased, especially in the workplan activities under the LCIPP, indicating the important role of Indigenous Peoples' values and knowledge, and local knowledge systems, in effective climate action. The work of the FWG has highlighted the importance of creating a dedicated component of the workplans of relevant constituted bodies and work programmes under the UNFCCC focused on ensuring the sustained engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their activities. The contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to relevant documentation, through their response to calls for submissions or participation in relevant forums, serve as effective ways to weave diverse values and knowledge systems into the collective effort to address climate change.

C. Recommendations for future activities

43. FWG members serve as focal points for other relevant constituted bodies, which further enhances inter-body collaboration. However, FWG members have stressed the importance of being supported in these roles through receiving capacity-building support in the different work areas and to attend meetings of other constituted bodies. It is also important to ensure that invitations from relevant constituted bodies will result in collaborative work that aligns with the vision and strategy of the FWG.

VII. In-session multi-stakeholder dialogue

A. Achievements and outputs

44. The engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process, including the ethical and equitable treatment of Indigenous knowledge and local knowledge, is a common thread linking together the multi-stakeholder dialogues held at the United Nations Climate Change Conferences in Sharm el-Sheikh¹⁹ and in the United Arab Emirates.²⁰ These dialogues embraced a participatory approach to climate action, aligning closely with the goals of the Paris Agreement in promoting climate action that is based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems (Article 7, para. 5).

45. The first part of the dialogue held in conjunction with COP 27 provided examples of existing climate policies and practices that strengthened the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in their design and implementation. The second part offered tangible examples of the ethical and equitable treatment of traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge in research and scientific processes related to climate change, such as the ethical treatment of Maasai knowledge in meteorological monitoring systems.

46. The dialogue held in conjunction with COP 28 was organized in partnership with the TEC, and the aim was to highlight the role of Indigenous technologies and technologies from local communities in transformative climate action. Two sessions dedicated to adaptation and mitigation solutions showcased traditional knowledge systems from different United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions.

B. Lessons learned and good practices

47. Prioritizing hearing the voices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities directly and highlighting their knowledge systems and perspectives in mandated LCIPP activities

¹⁹ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-multistakeholder-dialogue>.

²⁰ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-multi-stakeholder-dialogue>.

enhances the depth and substance of climate discussions. The involvement of the IPO constituency in the multi-stakeholder dialogues has also proven essential to their success.

48. To effectively weave the rich exchanges that occur at the in-session multi-stakeholder dialogues and other mandated LCIPP events into the broader UNFCCC process, it is essential to document these exchanges through formal reporting and communication mechanisms. While informal documents capture the essence of the discussions, they may not be as effective in integrating the outputs into the UNFCCC process.

C. Recommendations for future activities

49. The multi-stakeholder dialogues have been important mechanisms enabling Indigenous Peoples and local communities to provide direct inputs and recommendations on relevant climate actions and thematic areas. A valuable opportunity exists to cross-pollinate discussions and insights among the multi-stakeholder dialogues and other LCIPP forums, including the annual knowledge holder gatherings and regional gatherings. Strengthened formal reporting, recommendation development and communication channels are recommended to fully realize the potential impacts of this activity.

VIII. Youth round table

A. Achievements and outputs

50. Recognizing the important role of youth in addressing climate change and restoring the integrity of nature, the FWG dedicated one of the activities under the second workplan of the LCIPP to strengthening the engagement of Indigenous youth and youth from local communities in the UNFCCC process. The FWG convened two annual youth round tables²¹ with the collaboration of Indigenous youth and youth from local communities and with the support of the IPO constituency and, more recently, a working group of the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change. Discussions at the round tables have explored gender-responsive ways to promote intergenerational knowledge-sharing and equity in the development and implementation of climate policy at all levels.

51. The youth round tables have contributed to building the capacity of Indigenous youth and youth from local communities to effectively participate in the UNFCCC process, as well as providing opportunities for them to directly propose recommendations to support their effective engagement in the process. In addition, these annual round tables have created a formal inclusive space for dialogue and interaction among youth, Parties and other relevant stakeholders.

B. Lessons learned and good practices

52. The round tables are complemented by informal intersessional consultations with Indigenous youth and youth from local communities, which facilitate the direct involvement of these youth in both the design and the delivery of the round tables. Other activities under the second workplan of the LCIPP, for 2022–2024, notably the annual gathering of knowledge holders, have further facilitated the engagement of youth through round tables dedicated to inclusion of perspectives of youth, further strengthening their overall impact and effectiveness.

²¹ For more information on the LCIPP youth round table at COP 28, see <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-youth-roundtable-exchange-amongst-indigenous-youth-and-youth-local-communities>, and for more information on the LCIPP annual youth round table at COP 27, see <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-annual-youth-round-table-part-i-exchange-amongst-indigenous-youth-and-youth-local-communities>.

C. Recommendations for future activities

53. To further enhance the effectiveness of the annual youth round tables, it is important to build on existing good practices, including the informal intersessional consultations. In addition, it is recommended to align the design and delivery of the round tables with key timelines and milestones, including the planning and delivery of key events, relevant reporting and submission schedules and timelines for specific work programmes, under the UNFCCC process.

54. To promote intergenerational equity, activities under future LCIPP workplans should consider broadening the concept of intergenerational equity to include not only the current and the next generations but all future generations. This approach resonates with the Indigenous concept of the seventh-generation principle and has been incorporated into collective approach 3 of the draft LCIPP workplan for 2025–2027.

55. In addition to Indigenous youth and youth from local communities, the participation of key LCIPP contributors and other stakeholders, including COP Presidency youth climate champions and future generations commissioners, in the round tables could enhance both their status and their impact.

IX. Communications

A. Achievements and outputs

56. To foster a holistic, integrated approach to addressing climate change, this activity under the second workplan of the LCIPP, for 2022–2024 calls for identifying diverse communication channels – beyond the LCIPP web portal – to facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices. Acknowledging that the transmission of Indigenous Peoples’ worldviews, values and knowledge and local knowledge systems transcends traditional written communication, the FWG has adopted a variety of modalities for the exchange of information, knowledge and experience. These include small group discussions during its meetings, LCIPP regional gatherings and intersessional informal contributors’ briefings, as well as integrating visual and audio elements (such as photos and music) into its work. These modalities aim to promote the integration of diverse values and knowledge systems into climate policies and action.

B. Lessons learned and good practices

57. The predominant use of English as the operational language of the UNFCCC process presents ongoing challenges to Indigenous Peoples and local communities in conveying the multifaceted nature of their understanding of climate change and its impacts to other stakeholders.

58. The work of the LCIPP, under this activity in particular, strives to identify various communication methods and formats to foster a holistic understanding of climate change issues within and solutions for the global community. The FWG opens and closes its meetings with Indigenous invocations conducted by knowledge holders to express gratitude to nature and establish a connection among participants within the shared space.

C. Recommendations for future activities

59. To pursue the transformational climate action necessary for ecosystems to adapt to climate change and to ensure enduring collective well-being, future efforts under the LCIPP and more broadly the UNFCCC process would benefit from incorporating diverse communication formats. Storytelling series and cultural workshops are recommended to enable Indigenous Peoples and local communities to transmit their diverse worldviews, values and knowledge systems. The integration of these diverse knowledge systems and values into the UNFCCC process is integral to achieving the objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement, fostering a timely, effective response to climate change and building resilience across communities and ecosystems.

Annex IV

Perspectives on holistic, integrated approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation

[English only]

1. The FWG has implemented various measures to foster the ethical and equitable engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process. The FWG invited the Indigenous knowledge holders who participated in the annual gatherings of knowledge holders and regional gatherings and the representatives of Parties, relevant constituted bodies and other LCIPP contributors who participated in various activities to share their perspectives on work under the LCIPP. As a compilation of their views and feedback, this annex provides an overview of the progress and outcomes thus far of the ongoing implementation of the second workplan of the LCIPP, for 2022–2024.

I. Case stories from knowledge holders

2. Annex V of this document presents a collection of case stories from Indigenous Peoples and local communities highlighting the profound impacts of climate change on their ecosystems, as well as on their cultural, spiritual and material well-being. These case stories also showcase the rich, diverse knowledge systems and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities cultivated through generations of close relationship with nature. The purpose of compiling these stories is to enhance their prominence in the global discourse on climate change and restoration of the integrity of nature, underlining the crucial contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to transformational climate action.

II. Perspectives and insights from activity participants and other stakeholders

3. In its efforts to further operationalize the LCIPP and facilitate the implementation of its functions, the FWG has engaged Parties, constituted bodies and other LCIPP contributors in activities under the Platform. Through its meetings and informal briefings, the FWG has gathered perspectives on and insights into these activities and work under the LCIPP more broadly. This chapter provides a compilation of such feedback, with a focus on enhancing the engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the UNFCCC process.

4. Parties, constituted bodies and other contributors to the work under the LCIPP recognized the important role of the Platform in providing a formal inclusive space for the exchange of experience and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Parties and other relevant entities. Having such a space has enhanced the visibility of the knowledge and values of Indigenous Peoples, traditional knowledge and local knowledge systems and their integration into the UNFCCC process, promoting a rights-based approach.

5. LCIPP contributors expressed appreciation for the regional gatherings conducted under activity 2 of the LCIPP workplan, for 2022–2024, which provided Indigenous knowledge holders with the space to share their experience of climate change impacts on ecosystems and livelihoods and their approaches to averting and addressing such impacts in their respective regions. These regional gatherings also provided direct engagement opportunities for regional IPOs. The LCIPP regional gathering in the Arctic was jointly convened with the Arctic Council and included participants from three United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions: Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; and North America. This gathering enabled the exchange of experience and knowledge and facilitated multidirectional capacity-building related to addressing climate change and restoring the integrity of nature. The regional gathering in the Pacific brought together Indigenous Peoples, Parties and other stakeholders from the region. A direct positive outcome of these regional gatherings was the active participation of experts

and knowledge holders from the regions in relevant discussions at COP 28, including during a session on monitoring, evaluation and learning for adaptation¹ and a side event showcasing the adaptation efforts of developing countries.²

6. LCIPP contributors expressed appreciation for youth engagement in the UNFCCC process through work under the LCIPP, particularly the annual youth round table and its preparatory informal intersessional virtual consultations. The round tables contributed to building the capacity of Indigenous youth and youth from local communities to meaningfully engage in the sessions of COP. To build on this momentum and further integrate diverse knowledge systems and values into climate policies and actions, contributors called for more capacity-building opportunities. These opportunities should align with key UNFCCC timelines and milestones, including the planning and organization of key events, relevant reporting and submission schedules, to provide Indigenous Peoples and local communities with timely information for their effective involvement.

7. During the informal briefing sessions³ for contributors held in November 2023 and in subsequent written inputs on future work under the LCIPP, LCIPP contributors invited Parties to share their experience in developing and implementing policies and programmes that incorporate the perspectives, experience and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, particularly in addressing climate change and building resilience.

8. LCIPP contributors invited the FWG to adopt a hybrid format for its meetings, with a virtual participation option enabling access for those unable to attend in person. The dissemination of materials in multiple languages in advance of the meetings was also highlighted as a key enabler for the effective engagement of representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in them.

9. LCIPP contributors suggested the enhanced engagement in work under the LCIPP of contributors who do not self-identify as Indigenous Peoples or local communities, reflecting the function of the LCIPP to facilitate the integration of diverse knowledge systems, practices and innovations in designing and implementing climate policies and actions.

10. LCIPP contributors, while acknowledging the FWG is not a negotiating body, expressed interest in linking the outcomes and recommendations from the rich exchange of experience and insights from Indigenous Peoples and local communities during the LCIPP mandated events to key topics discussed across the UNFCCC process and negotiated during the biannual sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the sessions of the COP. This could be achieved through, among other modalities, building on the experience of developing the recommendations under activity 6 in the initial workplan of the LCIPP,⁴ for 2020–2021, and the ongoing collaboration of the FWG with other UNFCCC constituted bodies.

11. LCIPP contributors highlighted the opportunity for reciprocal knowledge exchange at the country level and through regional hubs to be promoted under the LCIPP. At these forums, Indigenous Peoples and local communities could both learn about the LCIPP and the broader UNFCCC process and share their experience and practices, informing the collective effort to address climate change.

12. Lastly, LCIPP contributors emphasized the importance of monitoring and evaluating the ethical and equitable engagement of Indigenous knowledge, traditional knowledge and local knowledge systems in efforts to address climate change and build resilience. This could build on existing LCIPP mapping efforts,⁵ with training sessions to highlight these efforts, and thus support the enhanced engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in developing and implementing climate policies and action.

¹ See <https://unfccc.int/event/monitoring-evaluation-and-learning-for-adaptation-interactive-feedback-session-on-new-toolkit>.

² See <https://unfccc.int/event/nap-side-event-COP28>.

³ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/virtual-training-workshop-module-3-back-back-informal-contributors-briefing-nov-2023-session-2>.

⁴ See the recommendations in annex V to document FCCC/SBSTA/2021/1.

⁵ See https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-08/Technical%20paper_LCIPP%20Activity%207_Final.pdf and <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2021-12/Technical%20Paper%20Activity%209.pdf>.

Annex V

Case stories from Indigenous Peoples and local communities on climate action and care for nature

[English only]

1. This annex presents a compilation of case stories shared by Indigenous Peoples and local communities at the mandated events of the LCIPP, including regional gatherings. The case stories were compiled with the aim of weaving diverse values, worldviews and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples and local communities into the global effort to address climate change, and of promoting the recognition of the distinctions between and within Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The stories underscore the important role Indigenous Peoples and local communities play in transforming how the global community approaches and makes collective efforts in addressing climate change, preserving nature and building universal resilience.
2. The stories provide information on the multifaceted impacts of climate change on Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including impacts on their ways of life and the ecosystems on which they depend, and impacts on their cultural, spiritual and material well-being. They highlight the practices and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities related to addressing climate change and restoring the integrity of nature.
3. The FWG extends its gratitude to the Indigenous Peoples and local communities who shared their stories, insights and wisdom in this compilation. The FWG requests that any use of or distribution of these case stories be undertaken with the free, prior and informed consent of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved.

I. Sacred balance

4. **The ritual of Monogit in Asia.** Monogit is a traditional practice that derives its name from *sogit*, a term that signifies cooling the spiritual heat and restoring balance. The Monogit ceremony is performed to restore harmony and equilibrium, particularly after a period of imbalance and disturbance. It acknowledges that conflicts, whether interpersonal or communal or with nature, can create disharmony. The Monogit ceremony aims to re-establish a sense of communal well-being and restore connection with nature.¹
5. **Non-encroachment practices in Papua New Guinea.** Papua New Guinea's rich cultural heritage and customary spiritual beliefs are intertwined with the management of natural resources. Local communities have non-encroachment practices that have been upheld for generations to protect specific areas considered to be sacred and as having spiritual significance. These areas are off limits to any human activities that may disrupt the delicate ecosystems or harm the balance of nature.

II. Oneness with nature

6. **The De Por Htoo practice of Karen Indigenous Peoples.** This practice involves depositing the umbilical cord of a newborn baby into a bamboo stem and tying it to a tree. The practice is rooted in the Karen peoples' worldview that the umbilical cord connects a person to the land and their ancestors. The Karen people see the tree as a symbol of life, growth and continuity. They believe that, by tying a bamboo stem with an umbilical cord to a tree, the child will be connected to the land, its ancestors and the tree itself. No one is allowed to cut down the tree. The practice also helps to strengthen the bond between the child

¹ This case story was shared during the LCIPP annual in-session multi-stakeholder dialogue at COP 28.

and its community. The informal summary report of the LCIPP biregional gathering for Africa and Asia,² offers additional details on the practices of the Karen people.

7. **The Māori *whenua*.** In Māori culture, *whenua* represents both the land and the placenta, illustrating the deep bond between life and the Earth Mother, Papatūānuku. Lands are seen as life-giving placentas, birthing islands from the sea. This concept extends to viewing life as unfolding within the world's womb. The term *tangata whenua* means 'people of the land'. A key tradition that reinforces this bond is the burial of a newborn's *whenua* (placenta) in a place of significance, linking the child to its ancestral land from birth and embodying the essence of *mana whenua* – spiritual connection and guardianship over territory.

8. **The reverence and respect the Mansi people in the Russian Federation hold for nature.** This reverence and respect are deeply embedded in their proverbs and daily practices; among their sayings is that 'nature is as alive as mankind'. They adhere to the belief that love of nature is the law of life, and this belief guides their interactions with the environment. This belief prohibits the Mansi from settling near animals' favourite habitats, hunting young or pregnant animals, and creating disturbances in the forest. In their traditional fishing practices, the use of overly narrow nets is avoided to ensure the safety of young fish, further exemplifying their commitment to living in harmony with nature.

III. Impacts of climate change on ecosystems and livelihoods

9. The rapid warming of the Arctic region poses threats to both coastal and terrestrial communities, with the **increased warming and thawing of permafrost having significant negative impacts on the infrastructure** of Indigenous Peoples in the region. Both Sámi and Inuit coastal communities face rising sea level, increased coastal erosion and land loss due to thawing and melting permafrost. These conditions have compelled these communities to relocate their towns inland, in some cases multiple times, for safety.

10. The implementation of response measures, if not done properly, also has negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples in the region. For example, wind farms adversely impact grazing areas, disrupting the natural habitat and migratory patterns of reindeer.³

11. The rising sea level causes **waterlogging of land and high salinity in streams, causing loss and damage related to the water supply and crop production** of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Bangladesh. Indigenous Peoples clean water streams and create small water channels (known as *maleya* in the Chakma language) to manage water resources and equally distribute water.

12. In Fiji and Tonga, several communities have been **relocating inland to escape the impacts of sea level rise**. Indigenous communities in Fiji have been undertaking relocation efforts in response to climate change since 2014. Changes in the coastline have resulted in losses, including of burial sites, fishing resources, freshwater wells, homes and agricultural land.⁴

13. **Climate change adversely impacts the availability and quality of natural resources**, endangering the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Africa and Asia.⁵ In Africa, the Chad Basin has experienced a dramatic 90 per cent reduction in size since the 1960s attributable to climate change and human activities. This reduction has had profound effects on those dependent on the lake for fishing, agriculture and livestock

² For additional information on the event, see <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/biregional-gathering-local-people-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform>.

³ These case stories were shared during the LCIPP regional gathering for the Arctic held in 2023. See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-arctic-regional-gathering>.

⁴ This information was included as part of the FWG input to the first global stocktake. See https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2023-06/Updated%20FWG%20input%20to%20the%20GST%20process_31%20May%202023.pdf.

⁵ These case stories were shared during the LCIPP biregional gathering for Africa and Asia held in 2022. See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/biregional-gathering-local-people-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform>.

farming. In Asia, the water level of the Mekong Delta is adversely affected by climate change, presenting considerable challenges for the Indigenous Peoples and local communities of the region. The Mekong Delta, often referred to as the ‘rice bowl’ of Asia, is a region that spans several countries. Indigenous Peoples in the region rely heavily on the Mekong River for agriculture, fishing and transportation. They have a shared sense of connection with the river and often rely on traditional knowledge to sustain their ways of life. The climate impact on the river challenges Indigenous Peoples’ livelihoods, threatening their cultural heritage and leading to social and economic vulnerabilities.

14. Women in the Karamojong pastoralist community in Uganda make observations that support weather forecasting, including alerting the community about upcoming rain or drought, as well as the arrival of livestock diseases. Climate-related conflict experienced by the community as well as **climate and environmental changes disempower Karamojong women and weaken their own representative institution**.

IV. Practices to address climate change and build resilience

15. Many Indigenous Peoples and local communities in Africa depend on livestock and agricultural practices for food security, income and cultural identity. Recently, persistent droughts have jeopardized their customary livelihoods. In response, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the region are **diversifying their sources of livelihood** by broadening their livestock varieties and cultivating drought-resistant crops.⁶

16. In the United Nations Indigenous sociocultural regions of Asia and Africa, Indigenous women play an essential role in ensuring food security and environmental stewardship in their communities. They use traditional knowledge and practices to conserve seeds, notably through the **creation and maintenance of seed banks**. As well as being vital to knowledge transfer, these repositories ensure that seeds from various plant species are available for future planting and food production. Indigenous women possess extensive expertise in seed-saving techniques and an understanding of the ecology essential for maintaining seed diversity, making their role in ensuring food security and environmental stewardship in their communities important.

17. The Gabra people of northern Kenya have a profound connection with water. Water has an indispensable role in sustaining the Gabra’s livelihoods and in fostering cultural and spiritual harmony, thereby contributing to peace. The Gabra **respect water as a sacred resource**, integral not only to their survival but also to maintaining their cultural and spiritual practices. Their water management techniques are deeply ingrained in cultural traditions and ecological wisdom, and they utilize a diverse array of water sources, including seasonal rivers, wells, ponds, natural catchments, traditional underground reserves, dams and boreholes.

18. A notable aspect of the Gabra’s water stewardship is their **unique system of managing shallow wells** through the appointment of an *abriega* – a water system manager who, by drawing on community consensus and feedback, allocates and rations water, ensuring equitable distribution. In the rainy season, communities strategically use wells situated at some distance from their settlements, conserving the closer wells for the arduous dry spells. This intricate system of water management is emblematic of the Gabra’s deep respect for water, the conservation and sustainable use of which is embedded in their cultural ethos.⁷

19. In the Pacific, a key strategy to mitigate climate change is the active revitalization of traditional technologies connected to agriculture, aquaculture and natural resource management. In **Hawai‘i**, there is a strong effort to **restore the sustainable loko i‘a, or fish-pond system**, to replace extractive and unsustainable commercial fishing. As food

⁶ These case stories were shared during the third annual gathering of knowledge holders, held at COP 28. See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-third-annual-gathering-knowledge-holders-exchange-amongst-knowledge-holders-coordination>.

⁷ This case story was shared from the Africa region during the LCIPP annual gathering of knowledge holders held at COP 28.

production systems, *loko i'a* have the potential to produce thousands of pounds of sustainable protein annually while mitigating coral bleaching, reef death, beach erosion, fish population overkills and other imbalances in the marine ecosystem. The Native Hawaiian community has established a streamlined permit process, making the restoration of ponds more feasible for the community.

20. In Solomon Islands, villagers employ strategies such as **cultivating resilient crops in the bush**, which enhances food security because communities can depend on these food sources during the wet season, thereby building climate resilience. In addition, the utilization of specific trees as a resource serves as a mitigation measure – these trees not only provide a traditional food source for Indigenous Peoples but also provide the material for traditional tools. By incorporating these trees into their environment, communities are taking steps towards improving sustainability and building resilience.

21. In Rapa Nui, Indigenous Peoples employ the **traditional and sustainable practice of collecting night dew** to protect food and preserve plants, thus ensuring food security and demonstrating a profound knowledge of their ecosystem. This method effectively hydrates crops and approaches nature with respect, ensuring that the community's needs are met without depleting or damaging nature, by reducing dependence on conventional irrigation techniques. This sustainable and eco-friendly approach demonstrates how communities leverage their ancestral knowledge and practices to address and apply innovative solutions to challenges such as climate change and food security.

22. In Fiji, **hybrid sea walls** are created as a cost-effective and efficient alternative to traditional concrete barriers to protect coastal communities. Sea walls are built using locally sourced boulders. Mangroves are planted in front of the walls to mitigate tidal flows and dissipate wave energy and storm surges, and vetiver grass is planted behind the walls to create a strong hedge. The deep roots of vetiver grass hold in the soil and can thrive even in soil inundated by seawater. The mangrove ecosystems also provide an important local source of food, sequester carbon, protect coral reefs by holding in soil, and are home to shellfish and other marine life.⁸

23. In West Papua, coastal communities have established **traditional fishing zones** called *sasse*, where fishing activities are restricted for three to six months of the year in order to protect marine biodiversity, preserve ecological processes and uphold the cultural practices linked to these areas. Integrating these traditional conservation methods into modern marine protected area strategies.

24. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Indigenous Peoples have developed **ecotourism that leverages their traditional** knowledge and practices for both economic development and nature conservation. Visitors to the Tacana territory are offered an immersive cultural experience that includes exposure to the traditional lifestyle, knowledge and practices of the Tacana people. Central to the Tacana ecotourism model is the conservation of their land and educating visitors about Indigenous Peoples' relationship with the land.

25. Indigenous Peoples and local communities across Asia engage in **collective, sustainable forest management**, playing a crucial role in the global effort to address climate change. For example:⁹

(a) In Nepal, the planting of native trees not only sequesters carbon but also **reinforces cultural values tied to forest stewardship**;

(b) In Bangladesh, natural forests managed by local communities, often **referred to as village common forests**, are essential to meeting daily community needs and preserving local biodiversity;

(c) In Indonesia, Indigenous Peoples use sustainable farming and agricultural practices, **regarding forests as sacred spaces for worship**. The diverse knowledge systems

⁸ This case story was shared at the LCIPP regional gathering for the Pacific held in 2023. See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/lcipp-pacific-regional-gathering>.

⁹ As footnote 4 above.

and common values of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in this country are rooted in their **sympiotic relationship with nature**.

26. The Ifugao Rice Terraces in the Philippines are an example of how a time-tested Indigenous practice can sustain a harmonious ecosystem while maintaining water, energy and food security. Dating back two millennia, these rice terraces are a sustainable and primarily communal system of **rice production that captures water from the forest-covered mountains to irrigate stone terraces and ponds**. The rice terraces stand as a testament to the harmonious relationship between people and the land.¹⁰

27. Globally, there is a growing movement calling for the protection of **Mother Earth's rights**, also known as the Rights of Nature. For example:

(a) In 2008, Ecuador adopted a new constitution that included a chapter dedicated to the **Rights of Nature, or Pachamama**, to exist, thrive and evolve;

(b) In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, **the Rights of Nature, or Pachamama** – or Mother Earth in Bolivian Indigenous tradition – are protected under two key items of legislation: the Mother Earth Rights Law (Law 071 of 21 December 2010), which delineates specific rights for Mother Earth; and the Framework Law of Mother Earth and Integral Development for Living Well (Law 300 of 15 October 2012);

(c) In New Zealand, several sacred places have been granted legal personhood as part of the Treaty settlement process, recognizing the deep whakapapa (genealogy) ties that Māori have with the land and rivers. These places include Te Urewera National Park, Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River) and Te Kāhui Tupua (Mount Taranaki and its surrounding peaks).

¹⁰ This case story was presented by an FWG member at the joint thematic dialogue of the TEC and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held in 2023. See <https://unfccc.int/news/how-climate-technology-connects-to-action-on-water-energy-and-food>.

Annex VI

Membership of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform as at 15 March 2024

[English only]

<i>Member</i>	<i>United Nations region</i>
Grace Balawag	Indigenous sociocultural region: Asia
Natasha Banda Museba	Regional group: African States
Tiana Carter	Regional group: Western European and other States
Maheshwar Dhakal	Regional group: Asia-Pacific States
Cathryn Eatock	Indigenous sociocultural region: Pacific
Daria Egereva	Indigenous sociocultural region: Central and Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia
Walter Gutierrez	Regional group: Latin American and Caribbean States
Kathy Jetñ il-Kijiner	Small island developing States
Edna Kaptoyo	Indigenous sociocultural region: Africa
Agrafena Kotova	Regional group: Eastern European States
Onel Masardule	Indigenous sociocultural region: Central and South America and the Caribbean
Graeme Reed	Indigenous sociocultural region: North America
Gunn-Britt Retter	Indigenous sociocultural region: Arctic
Radha Wagle	Least developed countries

Annex VII

Submissions on the review of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform to be held in 2024

[English only]

1. COP 26 decided that the next review of the FWG, including consideration of the request in decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 4 (relating to the representation of local communities on the LCIPP), would be held in 2024 with a view to COP 29 adopting a decision on the review.¹ COP 26 also requested the FWG to invite Parties, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and other stakeholders to make submissions on the review by the 10th meeting of the FWG (November–December 2023).²

2. Pursuant to this mandate, the FWG invited Parties, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders to submit their views on the review of the FWG by 28 November 2023 (the last day of its 10th meeting). To encourage submissions, the FWG developed guidance to help Parties and observers prepare their submissions.³ The guidance was informal, and its use was voluntary. The FWG also shared the call for submissions with LCIPP contributors during the various LCIPP activities conducted virtually and in person in 2023.

3. The table below provides a list of Parties, admitted non-governmental organizations and non-admitted entities that formally submitted inputs for the upcoming review by the deadline. The submissions are available at the LCIPP web portal's resource hub.⁴

Submissions on the review of the Facilitative Working Group to be held in 2024

<i>Entity type</i>	<i>Submission</i>	<i>Submission date</i>
Party	European Union	15 November 2023
	Canada	22 November 2023
	Australia	24 November 2023
Admitted non-governmental organization	International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs	21 November 2023
Non-admitted entity	Australian South Sea Islanders, Port Jackson	29 November 2023
	Indigenous Environmental Network	29 November 2023
	Arctic region	3 December 2023
	Indigenous Peoples Organization – Australia	3 December 2023

¹ Decision 16/CP.26, para. 12.

² Decision 16/CP.26, para. 13.

³ The guidance is available at https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2023-10/Informal%20Guidance%20for%20Submissions%20re%20SBSTA%20Review%20of%20FWG_FI_NAL.pdf.

⁴ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/review-facilitative-working-group-local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform-2024>.