

# **Meeting Summary**

## **First Gathering of the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group**

### **2-3 July 2013**

### **Washington DC, USA**

#### ***Introduction and Welcome***

Yoko Watanabe welcomed the new members of the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG). She thanked everyone for coming and highlighted the important role IPAG can play in providing concrete advice to enhance the GEF's policy and project work. Yoko introduced the Agenda and solicited input.

Members of the IPAG introduced themselves, providing insights on where they are from and their relevant expertise and interest in serving on the IPAG.

The GEF's CEO, Naoko Ishii welcomed the members of the IPAG. Dr. Ishii reemphasized the GEF's desire to partner with Indigenous Peoples, especially given the important role of Indigenous Peoples in addressing global environmental issues, particularly the drivers of degradation. She also highlighted the important role results-based management plays in providing evidence and insights to raise the impacts of the GEF's work. As part of this, Dr. Ishii discussed current GEF efforts to update the GEF Public Involvement Policy and analyze the impacts of current CSO and IPs involvement in the GEF. Finally, she relayed her expectations to see practical recommendations from the group. She hopes these recommendations can feed into the GEF's short-term and longer-term strategic exercises currently underway, including the 20/20 Strategy.

#### ***Terms of Reference, Workplan and Chair selection***

GEFSEC introduced the Terms of Reference (ToR) and IPAG members discussed and suggested several changes to the text. Issues were raised on cost-effectiveness, the involvement of GEF Agency staff and national governments, meeting date selection, communication modalities, the definition of "representative" of IPs members, selection and term of the IPAG Chair.

The Workplan was also reviewed by IPAG members, and it was highlighted that the document will likely change and be updated over the next 2 years as important topics come up. Also, it was noted that the scope of work was guided by the Principles and Guidelines document.

The IPAG adopted both the ToR and Workplan. The next meeting was tentatively agreed on Oct 31 – Nov 1, which Yoko will consult with GEFSEC and confirm with IPAG members as soon as possible.

Finally, the group discussed the role of Chair and Vice-chair. The group agreed that a Vice-Chair was not needed, that the Chair should be an Indigenous Person and that the term would be for one year. Ms. Lucy Mulenkei was nominated and supported by all IPAG members as the first IPAG Chair.

### ***Overview of the GEF***

Yoko Watanabe made a presentation and provided insights on the structure and operations of the GEF. Discussions focused on the GEF's project cycle and IPs involvement, as well as insights on the allocation process and uptake of GEF policies throughout GEF Agencies.

### ***Draft GEF-6 Focal Area Strategy Presentations and Discussion***

As the new Focal Areas Strategies are currently under development for the GEF-6 Replenishment discussion, the Group took this opportunity to learn how IPs are incorporated into each strategy and discuss how/where there may be opportunities moving forward.

The following GEF Secretariat staff presented their respective strategy. A few highlights are included from their presentations:

1. Mark Zimsky – Biodiversity

Mark emphasized a few areas where IPs are incorporated into the new biodiversity strategy, including ICCAs, sustainable use and mainstreaming, genetic resource conservation and some capacity building work related to traditional knowledge. Mark also noted that the biodiversity team's capacity building strategy is focused on a learning-by-doing approach as a way to integrate need-based capacity building programs.

2. Jean Mark Sinnassamy – Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management

Jean Mark highlighted the link between the UNCCD and IPs issues. He also highlighted the overlap between much of the GEF project work in high conservation forests and the desire to work with IPs.

3. Saliha Dobardzic – Climate Change Adaptation

Saliha highlighted the GEF's focus on vulnerable countries and populations and the synergy with vulnerable IPs. She also discussed the role of traditional knowledge as a solution and early warning signal for certain changing climatic conditions. She emphasized the many projects and their small team, as well as their heavy reliance on national governments and partners to implement projects.

#### 4. David Rogers – Climate Change Mitigation

David highlighted the main goals of the climate mitigation strategy and emphasized the potential role of IPs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> pillar of the strategy: fostering enabling conditions to mainstream mitigation concerns. David indicated that he would like to receive feedback from IPAG on types of activities the GEF can support that deliver clean sustainable energy for rural/IP populations that can then be scaled up.

#### 5. Ibrahima Sow – Chemicals

Ibrahima introduced the Chemical strategy as the newest focal area at the GEF and highlighted areas of interest to IPs such as mercury phase-out in mining operations in LA and Africa, removal of POPs in transformers, open burning and its impact on POPs food content, and other waste management practices affecting IPs.

#### 6. Astrid Hillers – International Waters

Astrid highlighted that the IW focal area has a slightly different approach because of its emphasis working on a regional scale, with multiple countries working together. Astrid highlighted the overlap with IPs related to the coastal zone development work, specifically with relation to rights and alternative livelihoods. She noted that the GEF is looking into the piloting of signature programs related to coastal zone fisheries.

IPAG members were pleased to expand their knowledge base of GEF Focal Areas beyond their traditional areas of focus (biodiversity and land degradation) and saw increased opportunities for IP inclusion, particularly in the chemicals, international waters and climate change areas. It was noted by IPAG members that there was insufficient inclusion of traditional knowledge, governance regimes, capacity building for IPs in the focal area strategies. IPAG members also expressed some surprise in the lack of clarity on how the focal areas work together given the many synergies and overlaps in the work.

IPAG members were asked to provide any additional comments on the focal area strategies to the GEF NGO Network or Yoko, as the Indigenous Peoples Focal Point.

### ***Discussions on Financial Arrangements and Capacity Development***

#### Financial Arrangements

IPAG members brainstormed on possible financial mechanisms to enhance IP engagement with the GEF. Discussions included the rationale for a separate funding

mechanism for IPs, particularly given the burdensome requirements of existing financing systems and the limitations imposed by national governments. There was also a discussion focused on the potential for earmarks within the SGP and CEPF.

Moving forward IPAG agreed that it would be useful for the group to offer a preliminary concept of what the fund would look like and how it would work, perhaps including key principles. A concrete review of best practices and a reflection on existing IPs-targeted funds may be helpful to learn from. At the same time, it was discussed that because current GEF resources are allocated to countries, it may also be useful to think about how to best engage with country governments to direct more funding toward IPs. This may involve capacity building or other engagement strategies.

Next steps:

- 1) Lucy will lead further thoughts and ideas on this topic for the group, with support from Saro, and present it at the next meeting.
- 2) Invite UNDP-SGP's Global Manager to present to the next advisory group meeting on how to improve SGP process for IP access and the potential idea of earmarked IPs funds in SGP.

### Capacity Development

Ana Maria Currea from the GEF SGP presented on capacity development work with IPs and emphasized that the GEF SGP promotes participation of IPs at every stage from project design to evaluation, using innovative formats such as participatory videos and photo-story software (handbook available in multiple languages on how to do these videos and photo-stories). It was also highlighted that SGP has also been contributing to Aichi targets, particularly the traditional knowledge aspect for use by future generations. The program has also been piloting some community landscape and seascape initiatives and some REDD capacity development with IPs.

A brainstorm discussion followed centered around IPs capacity needs to participate in relevant international processes and design and implement programs, as well as effectively participate in monitoring and evaluation processes. There was also a discussion regarding areas for GEF Secretariat's capacity development, particularly with respect to supporting implementation of the Guidelines and minimum standards on IPs under the Environment and Social Safeguards Standards. Members also discussed interest in IPAG reviewing the GEFSEC's evaluation of existing GEF Agency Policy and Safeguards once complete and offering recommendations on what types of capacity development activities may be useful based on the findings. Finally, members discussed the need for a multi-staged/level outreach process, which may involve capacity building opportunities that piggyback on relevant meetings, such as UNPFII and CBD meetings and also perhaps their regional meetings.

Next steps:

- 1) Continue to brainstorm ideas and share with group at November meeting;
- 2) GEFSEC to look into presenting at the upcoming CBD Article 8j meeting, but will look for feedback from IPAG on what the best topic/focus should be based on the audience. Is it a GEF training or info sharing on IPAG?

#### GEF Evaluation Office – Review of the GEF Engagement with Civil Society and IPs

As part of the Fifth Overall Performance Study, the GEF Evaluation Office is doing an evaluation of GEF engagement with civil society, including IPs. At this stage, they have developed an approach paper on how to do the sub-study on civil society and hired a consultant to conduct the study. The study may include a recommendation on how IPs engagement could be further enhanced in the future. The next step will be an e-survey in July. IPAG's thoughts are most welcome in this initiative. Yoko will inform the IPAG members once the survey is ready.

### ***Conclusions***

The IPAG Chair summarized the meeting by highlighting the fruitful discussions over the past day and a half, noting that much was accomplished including adopting the ToR, the Work Plan, selecting a Chair, discussing the GEF-6 focal area strategies, capacity development opportunities and needs, and potential financial mechanisms. Discussions will continue amongst the group, and there is some homework as we move forward.

#### **Next steps**

- Final ToR to be distributed;
- Final Work Plan to be distributed,
- Invite IPAG to provide a few bullet points as feedback to the focal areas strategies (and some IPAG members will also share with wider networks),
- Yoko to follow up and explore with SGP on how they can expand their IP portfolio and arrange a presentation for the next IPAG meeting;
- Lucy, with support from Saro, will take the lead on providing some insights on existing financial mechanisms for IPs and what GEF can build on.
- Continue collecting thoughts on capacity development opportunities and needs, and share thoughts at next meeting

Dr. Gustavo Fonseca closed the meeting by thanking IPAG members for their dedication and highlighted the commitment within the GEF to working with IPs, an important stakeholder group. He also noted that the GEF looks forward to hearing more about the recommendations of the group and is available for questions or support any time.

## **Annex A**

### **Attendees:**

#### Members of IPAG:

1. Ms. Lucy Mulenkei (Chair),  
Executive Director of the Indigenous Information Center (Maasai, Kenya)
2. Ms. Mrinalini (Tina) Rai,  
Chiang Mai University (Rai, Nepal/India)
3. Mr. Marcial Arias Garcia,  
Policy Advisor, International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the  
Tropical Forests (Kuna, Panama)
4. Mr. Legborsi Saro Pyagbara (Representative of the GEF NGO Network – Indigenous  
Peoples),  
President, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Ogoni, Nigeria)
5. Mr. Gonzalo Oviedo,  
Senior Advisor, Social Policy Program, IUCN
6. Mr. Carlos Perez-Brito (GEF Agency Alternate Representative)<sup>1</sup>,  
Social Scientist, Inter-American Development Bank
7. Ms. Yoko Watanabe (GEFSEC Indigenous Peoples Focal Point),  
Senior Biodiversity Specialist, GEF

#### Support Staff:

Ms. Sarah Wyatt, Professional Associate, GEF

Ms. Laura Ledwith, Consultant, GEF

Mr. Andrew Chilombo, Program Associate, GEF

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<sup>1</sup> Principle GEF Agency Representative to the IPAG is Terence Hay-Edie from UNDP but he was unavailable for this meeting.

