

Meeting Summary

Second Meeting of the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group
1-2 November 2013
Washington DC, USA

Introduction and Welcome

Mr. Laperrière, Deputy CEO of the GEF, welcomed the members of the IPAG and thanked them for their commitment. Mr. Laperrière congratulated IPAG members for their accomplishments to-date, including adoption of a TOR, 2-year Work Plan, and selection of a Chair. He also recognized the valuable contributions IPAG made to the GEF-6 cycle and highlighted his desire to continue to see the GEF work closely with Indigenous Peoples. Mr. Laperrière also recognized the IPAG's support in helping the GEF implement its Principles and Guidelines, with a current focus on financing arrangements, monitoring, and capacity building. Mr. Laperrière is eager to hear the Group's recommendations and reiterated his full support behind the IPAG's work. Mr. Laperrière also offered a suggested topic for the IPAG to consider -- how can the GEF improve knowledge sharing, particularly given the numerous projects that the GEF has supported? He welcomed suggestions for how to capture traditional knowledge and other Indigenous Peoples contributions to GEF projects.

The IPAG Chair thanked the Deputy CEO for his remarks and support. She highlighted the IPAG's outreach efforts, including the side event at the CBD Article 8j meeting in Montreal. The Chair also expressed her gratitude to the CEO and the GEF Secretariat in general for their support to IPAG members to participate in the upcoming GEF NGO network discussion prior to the GEF Council Meeting.

Review of Agenda and Prior Minutes

The Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes were proposed and adopted by members.

Updates from the GEFSEC

Yoko Watanabe, on behalf of the GEFSEC, updated members on the successful side event at the CBD Article 8j meeting in Montreal, where she and IPAG Chair, Ms. Mullenkei, presented on the GEF's work on Indigenous Peoples and the IPAG. Both presenters emphasized the positive dialogue with attendees and noted questions related to access to GEF funding by Indigenous Peoples and the application of FPIC.

A brief update was provided on the GEF Evaluation Office Report on Civil Society as part of the Overall Performance Review (OPS5), including key elements related to

Indigenous Peoples. IPAG members noted concern with the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples as part of the definition of CSO. GEFSEC agreed to share a copy of the report with IPAG members, and also suggested that they attend the GEF NGO Network session related to this report during their Sunday Strategy meeting and raise their concerns in that forum.

GEFSEC also briefed IPAG on the inclusion of IPAG comments into the GEF-6 Focal Area Strategies. The adoption of new language comprising “indigenous peoples and local communities” in the biodiversity strategy (an outcome from the recent Article 8j meeting) was shared; as well as the inclusion of additional Indigenous Peoples-relevant language in the protected areas, mainstreaming sustainable use, and agro-biodiversity strategy themes. The importance of the prior IPAG meeting in raising the level of awareness among GEFSEC staff in other focal areas was also highlighted.

Mr. Andrew Velthaus from GEFSEC provided an update on the GEF’s assessment of GEF Agency compliance with the new GEF Policy on Agency Minimum Standards for Social and Environmental Safeguards. He detailed the process and findings to date, including the finding that there is still considerable work to be done to ensure all GEF Agencies comply with the Standards. IPAG members were pleased to see this process underway and appreciated GEF’s role in raising the standards and driving consistency across the Agencies.

To highlight some of the recent GEF projects with Indigenous Peoples involvement, Ms. Sarah Wyatt from GEFSEC briefed IPAG on the Colombian Amazon Project that will be discussed at the upcoming Council meeting. She highlighted the unique elements of the project, including components involving Indigenous Peoples, including uncontacted groups.

Strengthening Financial Arrangements

Guided by the terms of the IPAG TOR and 2-yr workplan, this session was organized to discuss the following: 1) what financing mechanisms currently exist in support of Indigenous Peoples activities and how can the GEF learn/complement them; and 2) how can Indigenous Peoples better engage with SGP and benefit more fully.

Mr. Terence Hay-Edie, UNDP SGP, provided background on the types of Indigenous Peoples projects SGP currently supports and the innovative formats available for submitting proposals. Currently, approximately 15% of the SGP funding is directed to the Indigenous Peoples. He also presented a preliminary Indigenous Peoples Funding Window for consideration under GEF-6 SGP. The proposal involves two key components: 1) thematic and country-specific activities; and 2) an Indigenous Peoples Fellows program, incorporated through the strategic projects window of SGP. IPAG members discussed support for the preliminary IP Funding Window, but also

recommended additional elements to be incorporated into the Indigenous Peoples Fellows Program.

Ms. Lucy Mullenkei presented on existing financing arrangements available to Indigenous Peoples, including the types of funding available for Indigenous Peoples participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity process, where Indigenous Peoples and the Convention Secretariat worked together to put in place a voluntary fund. The fund allows Indigenous Peoples and local communities to participate effectively in all aspects of the Convention, including policy processes and other capacity building activities. The Parties of the Convention contribute to the voluntary fund. Ms. Mullenkei highlighted Spain's contributions over a three-year time period to build capacity of Indigenous Women from Latin America. Similarly, since COP10 the Government of Japan has provided funds for capacity building for Indigenous Peoples and local communities (funding ends in 2014). Ms. Mullenkei also provided insights on how the International Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), an organization totally managed by Indigenous Peoples, accesses funding from donor institutions, such as SwedBio, NORAD, and others for the participation of Indigenous Peoples, and other activities, in CBD activities.

Examples were provided related the GEF Small Grants Programme, and how different Indigenous peoples have benefited from these funds. The Equator Initiative was also highlighted, particularly its support in helping Indigenous and local communities with successful conservation projects and activities to share their experiences with others during Convention meetings, particularly the COP.

The GEFSEC shared insights on the GEF voluntary fund under the GEF NGO Network, which includes Indigenous Peoples participation. IPAG members also discussed how the GEF, particularly given the STAR allocation framework, can help support continued involvement of Indigenous Peoples in GEF projects, particularly Indigenous Peoples-led MSPs and FSPs.

Based on the presentation and discussion, the following was agreed as next steps:

- Lucy and Saro to draft a paper on potential financial arrangements for increased Indigenous Peoples engagement at the GEF.
- Terence and Johnson to update and draft a proposal to strengthen IPs involvement in SGP, including a dedicated window, fellows program, and others.

These proposals will be circulated among the IPAG members for further inputs. The proposal on SGP is expected to be part of the GEF-6 strategy for SGP.

Strengthening Monitoring Systems, including indicators, on Indigenous Peoples related Initiatives at the GEF

The session was aimed to learn from IP monitoring practices employed by other organizations, and to suggest appropriate monitoring system and indicators to show progress on indigenous peoples engagement at the GEF.

Mr. Gonzalo Oviedo, IUCN, provided an overview on IP indicator development and use, noting the current gaps between policy guidance and information on results monitoring. He also highlighted the need for disaggregation of data sampling and the development of monitoring systems alongside policy development. He shared sample indicators from a variety of institutions, including IUCN's analysis of how to implement IUCN's endorsement of UNDRIP across the institutions. Mr. Oviedo concluded by emphasizing the importance of ensuring legitimacy and joint understanding of the indicators across stakeholder groups, as well as linking monitoring and indicators with relevant existing frameworks and conventions.

Mr. Omid Parhizkar, GEFSEC, provided an overview of the GEF's Results Based Management (RBM) framework. He also shared detail on the GEF's annual monitoring review, which involves reviewing the GEF's portfolio of projects that involve IPs, and noting progress.

IPAG members noted a desire to address "exclusion by design", the pattern where project managers design a project based on the avoidance of Indigenous Peoples in order to avoid the triggering of safeguard standards and extra work. While this may seem desirable at first, IPAG members noted that this could extend the project term and the costs over the long term. All participants agreed that fewer but better indicators are a welcome goal. GEFSEC also sought input from IPAG on what the GEF should monitor or track to show meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples. IPAG members noted a desire by Indigenous Peoples to see UNDRIP implemented through GEF projects. ICCA tracking was also mentioned.

Reflecting on the presentations and discussion, it was agreed that Gonzalo will refine thoughts on a GEF Indigenous Peoples Indicator and/or Monitoring system with inputs from other interested members, and circulate for discussion at the next meeting.

Wrap up of the first day meeting

Ms. Gustavo Fonseca, GEF Natural Resources Team Leader was briefed on the discussions of the first day. Mr. Fonseca suggested developing language in support of Indigenous Peoples in the GEF-6 Strategy to ensure continued and strengthened engagement of Indigenous Peoples in GEF operations. Mr. Fonseca also reinforced the value of meeting with GEF Agency IP Focal Points, possibly creating a working group.

Review of IPAG Work Plan, Coordination with other Conventions, and TOR

IPAG Work Plan

The IPAG Chair noted the good progress on key areas thus far on the IPAG's 2 year Work Plan. Members discussed the pros and cons of more/less topics at each meeting due to a general feeling of time pressure. All members agreed to a need to focus on developing recommendations and conclusions at each meeting to move Agenda items forward. It was agreed that the next IPAG meeting will focus on finalizing the recommendations on financial mechanisms and monitoring system for IPs.

Coordination with other Conventions

Members discussed upcoming meetings where IPAG engagement will be useful. These events will be added to the Work Plan.

- UNPFII (NYC 12-23 May, 2014),
- GEF Assembly (Mexico 25-30 May, 2014),
- UN General Assembly - World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (NYC Sept 2014),
- CBD COP12 (Korea 6-17 Oct, 2014),
- World Park Congress (Australia 12-19 Nov, 2014),
- UNFCCC COP (Peru Dec 2014), and UNCCD.

On the UNPFII, members discussed the pros and cons of a GEF information paper at the UNPFII. It was also agreed that the next IPAG meeting will be held during the weekend prior to the UNPFII (potentially 10-11 May, 2014), with logistical support from Terence. IPAG will also aim to meet with GEF Agency IP Focal Points during this time period.

IPAG Members discussed and agreed on the importance of full engagement and participation in the GEF Assembly, in coordination with the GEF NGO Network. Terence agreed to share more information on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and World Park Congress when available. On the CBD COP12, a possibility to organize a GEF side event on Indigenous Peoples will be discussed at the next IPAG meeting.

Terms of Reference

Members discussed the issue of the Chair's absence and agreed to add language to the TOR stipulating the Chair's authority to identify an alternate in the event the Chair is unavailable. Members also discussed the need to translate certain IPAG documents into Spanish and French and agreed to add appropriate language in the TOR.

Capacity Development

The session was organized to discuss capacity development opportunities for the GEF to enhance IP participation in GEF policies, processes and projects as well as capacity building activities to strengthen GEFSEC, GEF Agency and GEF Focal Point capacity with respect to Indigenous Peoples.

Ms. Mrinalini Rai presented some of the points from the Issues Paper developed by the Indigenous Peoples Task Force to the GEF. Ms. Rai also emphasized the need to focus beyond the biodiversity focal area with respect to Indigenous Peoples, and a need for IP capacity to effectively engage on other thematic areas including climate change and land degradation. Members noted a need for case studies and other knowledge sharing tools to facilitate IP influence.

Discussions focused on the opportunity for capacity development efforts around:

1) For Indigenous Peoples – how to develop GEF projects as well as effectively engage in GEF policies, processes, and general knowledge sharing. Opportunities to coordinate with CBD’s regional capacity development workshops for IPs were discussed. It was agreed that it would be useful to develop a training modules for both GEF project cycle as well as IP involvement in GEF projects.

2) For GEFSEC - Inclusion of IP issues in the formulation of the GEF Focal Areas Strategies (E.g the Draft GEF2020 Long Term Strategy). An important aspect is making space for IPs to be involved in the different levels of project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation process. M&E systems should include such indicators that are relevant to indigenous peoples. Potentially organize brownbag lunch sessions to increase awareness and opportunities, and consider learning missions with relevant staff.

3) For GEF Agencies – begin dialogue with Agency IP Focal Points, and potentially also with Agency GEF Focal Points. Members discussed the need for a clear message and tool that will enable Agencies to properly respond when Indigenous Peoples are involved in a project. An important first step for IPAG members is to learn what Agency IP Focal Points are currently doing to address IP issues in GEF projects and implementation of the safeguard standards.

4) For GEF Operational Focal Points at the Country level –ensure understanding of the GEF Principles & Guidelines on IPs, and raise awareness and support opportunities for partnership with Indigenous Peoples. Extended Constituency Workshops and other venues were discussed for potential capacity development of the OFPs on the IP issues.

Based on the discussion, the GEFSEC agreed to follow-up with the CBD on the regional capacity development workshops and start preparing the training modules (i.e. PPTs). On the work with GEF Agencies, it was agreed that the next IPAG meeting in NYC in May could serve as a good venue to start dialogue with the Agencies’ IP focal points. On

GEFSEC staff capacity development, IPAG members agreed to suggest and inform the GEFSEC regarding potential speakers for the coming months. As for GEF OFP, GEFSEC agreed to get back to the IPAG on the plan for ECWs and other opportunities for 2014.

IPAG Participation in GEF CSO Meeting and GEF NGO Network

Mr. Faisal Parish, Coordinator for the GEF NGO Network, presented to IPAG members on the ongoing work to update the GEF Public Involvement Policy. He also briefed IPAG members on the following two days of GEF NGO Network meetings that the IPAG members will participate in.

Member discussed the potential role of IPAG in the GEF NGO Network and stressed the need to coordinate with the other IP Representatives within the GEF NGO Network. Members also discussed the value of IPAG's engagement in the GEF NGO Network's recommendations related to the GEF's Public Involvement Policy review. Members brainstormed topics to highlight in their comments to the GEF CEO and the presentation to the GEF NGO Network on the IPAG.

Conclusions

GEFSEC thanked the members for their active and thoughtful engagement. GEFSEC felt the discussions were very rich with information and ideas. The IPAG Chair agreed that it was a successful meeting and thanked all the participants for their engagement. The Chair summarized the meeting by noting the fruitful discussions over the past two days and also highlighted the value of coordinating this meeting alongside the GEF NGO Network meetings. IPAG members expressed a commitment to communications over the next few months on the many next steps assigned as below:

Next steps

- Lucy and Saro circulate 1st draft on potential financial arrangements for increased Indigenous Peoples engagement in GEF.
- Terence and Johnson circulate a revised draft detailing a potential SGP Indigenous Peoples window.
- Terence to coordinate with GEF Agency IP Focal Points to have them join for a session of the 3rd IPAG meeting (10-11 May, 2014); coordinate with Carlos on the potential for Bank staff to join.
- Gonzalo refine thoughts on GEF Indigenous Peoples Indicator and/or Monitoring system.
- Sarah develop IP module for use by GEFSEC and IPAG members (GEF overview, engagement with IPs/IPAG, GEF project development/finance).

- Lucy lead development of IPAG presentation to GEF NGO Network and Comments to Naoko
- Everyone to update IPAG on relevant side event opportunities and partnerships, especially with respect to UNPFII
- Yoko follow-up with John Scott (CBD) related to participation in IP capacity building workshops.
- Yoko to work on language on continued Indigenous Peoples support in GEF-6 Strategy.
- Yoko will have TOR translated into Spanish and possibly in French.
- Yoko to develop IP section of GEF website, including posting relevant IPAG documents.
- Yoko to consider GEF statement to UNPFII on enhanced participation of IPs, as conference room paper.
- Yoko to follow-up with William and Pilar on IPAG participation at GEF Assembly in May 2014. Yoko/Terence to explore potential IP project for GEF National Focal Point field trip
- Yoko to look into Extended Constituency workshops (ECW) agenda for 2014 to determine feasibility of inclusion of session on IP.
- Yoko and Johnson to coordinate on first GEFSEC BBL. Terence to coordinate with Yoko on ICCA BBL at GEFSEC. Other IPAG members to let Yoko know when in DC and/or other ideas.
- Yoko follow-up on learning mission opportunities
- Yoko develop Agenda for 3rd Meeting.
- Laura update TOR and Work Plan, prepare draft Meeting Summary

Post-GEF CSO Consultation and interaction with the GEF NGO Network

Members reiterated the value of having the IPAG meetings back-to-back with the GEF NGO Network meetings. Issues on Indigenous Peoples were visible during the course of the GEF Consultation meeting before the GEF Council meeting. IPAG members felt they constructively added to the voice of IPs in the GEF NGO Network. Members felt positive about their presentations to the GEF NGO Network and the GEF CEO. Members reiterated a need to stay engaged in the month(s) in-between IPAG meetings. Members would like to maintain involvement in the Public Involvement Policy review and investigate the review of implementation of the IP strategies/policies of GEF Agencies, as well as the developing GEF 20/20 Strategy.

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. Johnson Cerda (Interim LAC IP Representative),
Indigenous Advisor at Conservation International (Kichwa, Ecuador)
4. Mr. Gonzalo Oviedo (IP expert),
Senior Advisor, Social Policy Program, IUCN
5. Mr. Terence Hay-Edie (GEF Agency Representative),
UNDP, GEF Small Grants Program
6. Mr. Carlos Perez-Brito (GEF Agency Alternate Representative),
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. Kettly Denis, Program Assistant, GEF

Ms. Laura Ledwith, Consultant, GEF

Absent:

Mr. Legborsi Saro Pyagbara (Representative of the GEF NGO Network – Indigenous Peoples), President, Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Ogoni, Nigeria)