

The importance of biodiversity for the health and well-being

**IFAD experiences in its engagement with Indigenous
Peoples**

Ilaria Firmian

Senior Technical Specialist – Indigenous Peoples

IFAD

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

IFAD is the only development organization exclusively focused on **transforming rural areas and food systems** to make them more inclusive, productive, resilient and sustainable

About: IFAD invests in rural people to improve their food security and nutrition, increase incomes and strengthen resilience



Specialized **UN Agency** and Development **Finance Institution** dedicated to agricultural development and rural transformation (**founded in 1977**)



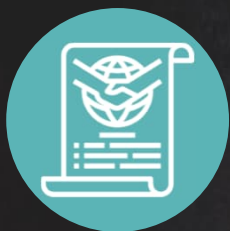
176 member countries comprised of developing, middle and high-income countries from all regions of the world



Provides **loans, grants** and **technical assistance** to developing countries from Low to Upper Middle income (more than **US\$22 billion** of financing delivered in 42 years)



Active in **92 countries**. **HQ** based in **Rome** + **40 country offices**



IFAD Policy on
Engagement with
Indigenous Peoples



Indigenous
'Peoples Forum at
IFAD



Indigenous Peoples
Assistance Facility
(IPAF)



Country
Programmes



Other activities
(e.g. policy
engagement &
knowledge
management)

IFAD's engagement with IPs




IFAD's Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples: 2022 update

IFAD IPs Policy: Overview

- 2009: Approval of the 1st IFAD IPs Policy
- December 2022: Approval of the updated IFAD IPs Policy

10 Principles of engagement:

- Cultural heritage and identity as assets
- Free, prior and informed consent criterion for project approval
- Community-driven development
- Land, territories and resources
- **Indigenous Peoples' knowledge**
- **Environmental issues and climate change**
- Access to markets
- Empowerment
- Gender equality
- Food sovereignty, food security and nutrition 





IFAD IPs Policy: Instruments for engaging with Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (IPFI)

IPs' Forum at IFAD acknowledged as a good practice by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), setting an example for other UN entities.

- 6 global meetings held in Rome up to date (every 2 years)
- From 2021: IPs Awards to promote best practices, knowledge sharing, and scale up successful results
- Latest global meeting in February 2023 with the theme **Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership: Community-based solutions for resilience and biodiversity**



About:

Permanent process of consultation and dialogue (regional and global meetings) between representatives of IPs, IFAD and governments



Aims:

Improve IFAD's accountability, enhance its development effectiveness and exercise its leadership among development organizations



Governance:

Steering Committee IPs' Forum
Composition of IPs representatives including from UNPFII and IPAF, with gender balance and youth representatives.

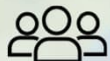
Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF)

6 IPAF global calls issued so far (2007-2022)

- Innovative funding instrument financing small projects that foster IPs' self-driven development
- Projects build on IPs' culture, identity, knowledge, natural resources, intellectual property and human rights to:
 - Empower IPs' grassroots organizations
 - Strengthen IPs' networks and linking them with the global indigenous movement



161 projects since 2007



Reached 120 000 indigenous people



US\$ 12.4 million mobilized



Eligibility criteria: Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)



6th IPAF Cycle (2022 - 2026)

Focus: Advancing IPs' conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity for adaptation and resilience to climate change

IPAF in action

Project: Amazonian women grow native fish for food security and commercialisation

- **Implemented by:** Fundación Centro Lianas in Ecuador
- **This initiative aimed to** address threats to the food security of Kitchwa communities generated by oil extraction, indiscriminate fishing, and the introduction of exotic species such as the tilapia.
- The project promoted the farming of *cachama*, a native fish with a good capacity to adapt and low production costs.

As results this project:

- (1) enabled a native Amazonian fish to be recovered through local traditional knowledge;
- (2) improved food security by ensuring a sufficient intake of protein for families; and
- (3) enabled women to gain surpluses, and 30 per cent of their production was sold in the local market, thus increasing their access to capital and boosting their power of decision-making in their communities.





IPAF: project Shaucha Wuata: Preservation and promotion of five varieties of potato with agro-industrial potential to strengthen the food system of the Pastos Indigenous Communities in the Great Cumbal Territory

Between 60% and 70% of families in El Gran Cumbal grow shagra on small plots of land adjacent to their homes. This fosters a kind of internal market, where the community exchanges products as needed and creates an effective food security and food sovereignty network.

In Colombia, ASODAPI focused specifically on the conservation and promotion of potato varieties with great potential for both improved marketing and improved food security and nutrition for the pastoral indigenous communities of the Gran Cumbal territory.

15 ha

The project conducted research and identified more than 36 native potato varieties and selected 5 varieties with high production potential. It also established seed banks and promoted traditional techniques for organic potato production, planting, cultivation, harvesting and storage in experimental units covering a territory of 15 ha.



IFAD Country Programmes

Country strategies (COSOPs and CSNs):

- Consider IPs' specific dimensions of rural poverty, nutrition, and climate change
- Consult IPs and invite their representatives to contribute to strategy development

Investment projects:

- Full and effective IPs participation in all project stages
- IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP): Applying mandatory requirements, including FPIC
- Monitoring and evaluation: Develop specific indicators e.g. on well-being and IPs' rights

In the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12), the Fund committed to approve at least 10 projects that include IPs as a priority target group (in the period 2022-2024)

NEW

Current global portfolio of IFAD IPs projects:

84 projects
in 46
countries

IPs outreach
target: 6
million

73% of 2022
new projects
target IPs

Country project example: PERU

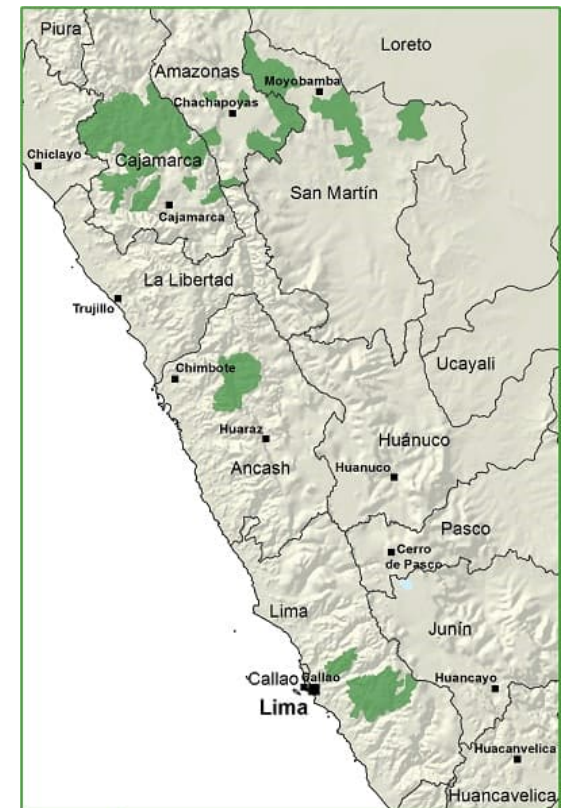
Project: Local Productive Development Project in the Highlands and Rainforest of Peru (Avanzar Rural)

The project addresses the problem of small-scale agricultural producers' limited capacities in terms of productive innovation and the development of profitable, inclusive and sustainable rural businesses which, in turn, limits their competitiveness and resilience.

The target group includes 17,400 organised small-scale agricultural producers, and promotes the participation of women, youths and indigenous peoples. The project promotes the development of value chains for agricultural and forestry products including native crops to promote agrobiodiversity.

Success story – Saving the Amazon: The story of the indigenous women fighting climate change

- The Awajún women began cultivating medicinal plants in a bid to revive both the ecosystem and livelihoods. Over nine hectares of land, the Bosque de las Nuwas group grows plants for infusions, while creating a thriving ecotourism business.
- Since 2015, the Nuwas have planted more than 100 medicinal plants and registered 136 of them in the regional archive. Today, they grow 42 varieties of cassava – an edible woody shrub – and produce tea from three plants, which they sell on the market under the registered brand Nuwa.



■ Project area



VIDEO
BOSQUE DE LAS NUWAS



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiT00iX000Y>

Digital Toolbox on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems for Improved Nutrition

The toolbox provides guidelines for designing, implementing, monitoring, and supervising projects to improve the diets and nutrition of Indigenous Peoples, with emphasis on leveraging local food biodiversity in Indigenous Peoples' food systems (IPFS). The focus on biodiversity for food and nutrition is supported by research studies and aligned with Indigenous Peoples' aspirations to promote biodiversity of local foods, which is interlinked with traditional knowledge, practices, languages, culture, and environment.

The toolbox describes IPFS and key actions and approaches to strengthening IPFS, followed by step-by-step guidance on how to assess food biodiversity and dietary diversity, and design project activities together with local communities by taking into consideration their views, knowledge, and experiences. The toolbox includes participatory videos produced with Indigenous Peoples' communities in four different countries and livelihood contexts.



Useful resources (click to access):

- [Indigenous Peoples \(IFAD's webpage\)](#)
- [IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples: 2022 update](#)
- [How to do note: Seeking, free, prior and informed consent in IFAD investment projects](#)
- [Standard 4, Guidance Note 4 and Standards requirements checklists, IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures \(SECAP\)](#)
- [Country Technical Notes on Indigenous Peoples' Issues](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility \(IPAF\)](#)
- [Digital Toolbox: Sustainable and resilient Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems for improved nutrition](#)
- [Good practices in IFAD's engagement with Indigenous Peoples](#)





Thank you!

Contacts:

i.firmian@ifad.org | indigenouspeoples@ifad.org