

Indicators

Relevant for Indigenous Peoples:

Local-global monitoring of human rights, knowledge and well-being

Joji Carino, Tebtebba Foundation
Coordinator, IIFB Working Group on Indicators

Some Questions

- Why collect data on indigenous peoples?
- What data is important ?
- What should be measured?
- How do we collect the data?
- Who will use this information?
- At what level is this information collected and analyzed?

Why are indigenous peoples interested in indicators?

Which Indicators? What work has been done?

Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples

- The UN Statistics Division has noted that the issue of indigenous peoples and data collection is ground-breaking work.
- Indigenous issues are an important emerging theme in social statistics.
- Data collection and disaggregation concerning indigenous peoples pose unique challenges in terms both of developing data for global comparative purposes and of developing data that is useful at a micro-level for indigenous peoples.

UN initiatives on data collection relevant for indigenous peoples

2002 - UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Workshop on data dis-aggregation

2004 - Convention on Biological Diversity 2010
Biodiversity Target- indicators on Traditional
Knowledge, Innovations and Practices

2006 - UNPFII - Regional Workshops on
Indigenous Peoples Well-being and Sustainability

What is an Indicator?

- A summary measure to show positive or negative change. The evaluative nature of an indicator distinguishes it from the descriptive nature of statistics.
- Indicators are measurable aspects of a situation that can be used to monitor its progress and direction.
- A key function of an indicator is to reduce the volume of information to which decision makers must attend.

Global Core Themes/ Issues for Indigenous Peoples' Well-being

- 1. Security of rights to territories, lands and natural resources.**
- 2. Integrity of indigenous cultural heritage**
- 3. Gender dimensions - elders, youth, men, women**
- 4. Respect for identity and non-discrimination**
- 5. Fate Control or Self-Determination**
- 6. Culturally-appropriate education**
- 7. Health**
- 8. Full, informed and effective participation (FPIC)**
- 9. Access to infrastructure and basic services**
- 10. Extent of external threats**
- 11. Material well-being**
- 12. Demographic patterns of indigenous peoples**

Human Rights Indicators

- Monitoring based on UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO 169
- Structure, Process and Outcome Indicators
- Technical Expert Meeting: “Keeping track: indicators, mechanisms and data for assessing the implementation of indigenous peoples’ rights” (Geneva, September 2010)

Human Rights Indicators

- 10th Session of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended that the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the secretariat of the Forum continue to work with the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples Issues to develop a common framework for monitoring the situation and well-being of indigenous peoples and the implementation of the Declaration, including through the identification of indigenous-appropriate indicators, possible data sources and linkages to relevant mechanisms.

Human Development Index for Indigenous Peoples

- Arctic Human Development Report - Arctic Social Indicators Project
- Community Well-being Index (Canada)
- India - Poverty Index, and Human Development Index (disaggregated for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes)

Arctic Social Indicators Project

- Income
- Health
- Education

- + Fate Control- *the percentage of surface lands legally controlled by the inhabitants through public governments and Native corporations.*
- + Contact with Nature- *consumption and harvest of country food*
- + Cultural Well-being and Cultural Vitality- *cultural vitality index*

Indicators on Traditional Knowledge for the Convention on Biological Diversity

Focal Area: Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices

- Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages - UNESCO
- Status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations- ILO and IIFB Working Group on Indicators
- Status and trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities - further development by IIFB Working Group on Indicators, FAO
- Demographic trends/ Data dis-aggregation - Statistics Divisions/Census of Population and Households

IIFB WORKING GROUP ON INDICATORS

- Indigenous Peoples organisations to collaborate in identifying relevant indicators about status and trends relating to indigenous peoples rights, knowledge and welfare.
- Such indicators work will contribute towards a global overview and understanding of indigenous peoples' situation, based on concrete research at local, national, regional and international scales.

IIFB WORKING GROUP ON INDICATORS

- Working as a research and information network, collaborators will engage in various activities, which will be linked and organized to deliver specific outputs:
 - * CBD Indicators
 - MDG Indicators
 - Human Rights Indicators
 - * National Indicators
 - Local Indicators
- This is an open network, in need of active collaborators

Activities IIFB WG on Indicators

- **Regional and Thematic Workshops (2006-2007)**
- **International Seminar (February 2007)**
Executive Summary of the International Expert Seminar on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples, the CBD and the MDGs (UNEP/CBD/WG8j/5/8)
Full report - UNEP/CBD/WG8j/5/Inf.2
- **Resource Book on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples (2008)**
- **Technical Workshops on Indicators (2008-2010)**
- **Pilot Testing of Traditional Knowledge Indicators in the Philippines (2010)**

International Technical Workshops on TK Indicators

Baguio City, Philippines - Nov 17-19, 2008

(IIFB WG Indicators, ILO, UNPFII, SCBD)

- Focus on Traditional Occupations and Indices of Community Well-being

Nairobi, Kenya - October 1-3, 2009

(IASG, SCBD, IIFB Working Group on Indicators)

- Focus on Land Indicator, Vitality of Languages and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Technical Workshops on TK Indicators

Nairobi Kenya - May 7-9, 2010

(IIFB WG on Indicators and Forest Peoples' Programme)

International Workshop on Land Use Indicators and Community Mapping

Benguet, Philippines October 9, 2010

(Philippine Traditional Knowledge Network)

Training on VITEK (Vitality of TEK) tool and methodology- by Dr. Stanford Zent

Activities of IIFB WG on Indicators

- Participation in relevant CBD meetings on Indicators (July 6-10, 2009) in Reading and Cambridge, UK
- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership: Paris Workshop on Biocultural Diversity (November 25-27, 2009)
Biocultural Diversity: The intertwined status and trends of biodiversity, indigenous languages and traditional knowledge. 2010 BIP, Cambridge, UK.

United Kingdom, June 20-25, 2010

- International Expert Workshop on Indicators
- Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

2010 Activities of IIFB WG Indicators

- In 2010, work focused on **advocacy work towards COP10 adoption of the CBD TK indicators**, which was successful.
- Complemented by **research and partnerships to develop local-global methodologies for applying the CBD TK indicators**, bringing together indigenous peoples, researchers, international agencies and governments agencies to study the issues and propose ways forward.

Commissioned Research (with ILO)

- Tebtebba commissioned two research papers to better understand ways of including indigenous peoples in official statistics.
 - ***Guide to using ISCO-08 and its relevance for collecting data on traditional occupations*** - written by Harishwar Dayal from the Institute on Human Development , provides useful information about the ILO's International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO).
 - ***"Overcoming the Statistical Divide: Indigenous Peoples and the Philippine Statistical System"*** - written by Benjie Navarro provides basic information about the Philippine Statistical System and entry points for indigenous peoples.

Traditional Occupations

- Practice of traditional occupations could also serve as a proxy indicator for preservation of traditional knowledge.
- Directly relevant to ILO Convention 111-Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention 1958 which prohibits discrimination in employment and occupations.
- The ILO has a comprehensive reporting framework and a Committee of Experts. Compatibility of indicators with this supervisory mechanism is crucial.

Traditional occupations

The group agreed that the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) offered a useful framework for developing an indicator for traditional occupations.

Having considered the options outlined by ILO, the participants selected the most suitable option to serve as an indicator of traditional knowledge:

- ***occupations where knowledge of traditional culture and practices may influence the way the work is performed, and the person in the job identifies as indigenous.***

Right to Practice Traditional Occupations and Livelihoods

- Structural or Policy Indicator
 - Legal recognition of indigenous peoples traditional occupations (e.g. hunting-gathering, shifting cultivation, pastoralism)
- Process Indicators
 - Existence of special programmes to strengthen indigenous peoples' traditional occupations
- Impact Indicators
 - Status and trends in the practice of indigenous peoples' traditional occupations

Traditional Occupations

- Traditional occupations can address not only the right to subsistence and non-discrimination, but also the right to identity and culture.
- Traditional occupations are linked to customary sustainable use.
- In some countries indigenous peoples are identified by their occupation, eg in Bangladesh the Jumma people are the shifting cultivators, and in Africa, many indigenous peoples are the pastoralists and hunter-gatherers.

Land use

- The workshop recommended that land use was a good indicator for traditional knowledge because it highlights the relationship between traditional knowledge and secure rights to territories.
- Changes in land use that take land and natural resources away from indigenous peoples' control imply decreasing opportunity to practice traditional knowledge.
- Data is likely to be available: the Food and Agriculture Organization publishes reports on the status of the world's forests, agriculture and fisheries; Indigenous peoples' organisations have also collected much information on changes in land use through community mapping. This indicator should take in waters as well as land.

International Land Coalition

- The organization was created in 1995 during conference organized by IFAD, having identified the need for access to land for the poor as an urgent priority.
- The ILC mandate focuses on advocacy, dialogue and capacity-building at country, regional and global levels. It has a Land Reporting Initiative- LRI, launched during ECOSOC in 2004 with the aim of developing one unique land indicator. However different constituents have requested different indicators for different purposes

Land Indicators

- The LRI initial phase has shown a divide between IGO and CSO interests. There were demands to support land monitoring done by CSO at local and regional levels. There were demands to support multiple forms of monitoring rather than one unique model to fit all different needs.
- ILC also supports an initiative know as Land Watch. IGO members have developed their own indicators. It was noted that UN-HABITAT, WB, IFAD, all have different land indicators.

Land monitoring and land governance

- Land monitoring activities can be an important tool for promoting constructive, inclusive and evidence-based dialogue on land governance issues. It can be a tool for empowerment and provides information for well-informed public participation.
- ILC's approach to land governance is to see it not just as the state's role in administering access to land resources, but as a wider governance process that is a subset of democratic governance. It is how society governs the use of its land resources. Assuming this broader view of land governance, monitoring land issues can be seen as an important part of the land governance process itself.

Vitality Index of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (VITEK)

VITEK is an experimental indicator or method for measuring the vitality of TEK across generations, and between sexes within a given community or population, covering both conceptual knowledge and practical skills.

Vitality is defined as the rate of retention of knowledge over a specified time period. The inverse of the retention value is effectively the amount and speed of change. Thus the VITEK can reveal how much of the knowledge base is or is not being transmitted from one generation to the next.

Retention of Traditional Knowledge

- Mr. Stanford Zent, an expert from the LAC region, presented on a Venezuelan experience in developing indicators which directly measure TK retention. The tools being designed are based on local community methodologies, which attempt to address the problem from the bottom up. The methodology relies on sampling for an efficient process and it involves two major steps:
 1. construction of a data-register and
 2. application of a test instrument for rating individual knowledge.

Vitality Index of TEK (VITEK)

- The first step starts with a list of predetermined topics or principal categories of items that local people decide are important, based on local experts and should be gender sensitive, to arrive at an arbitrary list of up to 100 plants/animals/etc. (cosmopolitan list: for example, plants, animals, soils, subsistence tasks, etc.)
- In the second step, items are selected for testing and applied to a random sample of local subjects covering at least three generations. There are three measures including: intergenerational rate of retention, accumulative rate of retention, and annual rate of change. This test attempts to measure vitality of TK as expressed by the rate of retention vs. change of knowledge across generations.

Philippine Pilot Work: Indicators on Traditional Knowledge

Advocacy work to make indigenous peoples visible within the Philippine Statistical System

- Collaboration with NCIP on inclusion of an ethnicity variable/ IP identifier in 2010 National Census on Population and Housing, including education campaign among IPs
- Inputs into review of Philippine Standard Classification of Occupations, for the inclusion of traditional occupations

Development of methodologies for community-based monitoring of Traditional Knowledge indicators - land use change and land tenure, traditional occupations and other relevant indicators identified by communities

Data Disaggregation

- The collection of data that can be disaggregated to show the situation of indigenous peoples requires an identifier for indigenous peoples, and their inclusion and participation in the national census and other surveys.
- The workshop group concluded that self-ascription, or self-identification, should be used as an identifier, along with mother tongue.
- It also made a number of recommendations to ensure inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples in the census.

Philippine Pilot Work: Indicators on Traditional Knowledge

- **National Workshop for Indigenous Peoples on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples (Aug 10-12, 2010)**
- **Pilot testing of these indicators and methodologies with the Mangyan Tagabukid people** in Sibuyan Island, Romblon (Sept 2010) and with the Kalanguya people in Tinoc, Ifugao
- **Training Workshop: Vitality Index of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (VITEK) - (Oct 9, 2010)**

Pilot Testing of TK Indicators

- Philippine Traditional Knowledge Network is testing TK Indicators at community level
 - Cultural mapping, 3D community maps combined with GIS -
 - Need for information management systems
 - Need for collaborating researchers/ institutions
- Review of Philippine Standard Classification of Occupations to include traditional occupations
 - Community listing and monitoring of traditional occupations and out-migration for jobs
- Coordination with National Focal Point of CBD in updating of NBSAP and associated indicators
- Publication of Resource Book and Experience papers

Recommendations

- Consider local-global linkages for indicators work on Traditional Knowledge
- Need for institutional support and resources to implement continuing work on indicators
- Hold a technical workshop on mapping land cover, land use and land security indicator by mapping overlays of data (global, regional, national and local)
- Strengthen gender dimension of indicators work
- Identify countries and collaborators for pilot testing of indicators

Next Steps

- Discussion with possible partners - global, national, local
- Carry out workshops to consider availability of data, methodologies, and coordinating organizations, and to further refine the proposed indicators
- National Pilot Processes - adoption of relevant indicators in by key government bodies, reporting on experiences
- Indigenous peoples to strengthen our indicators work - links to community-based MRV tool for REDD