



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



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# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES OF AFRICA

*Combined safeguards and sub-regional capacity  
building workshop on REDD-plus,  
Cape Town, South Africa  
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## Are there indigenous peoples in Africa?

- ◆ ACHPR this is an organ of the African Union mandated to promote and protect human rights in the continent.
- ◆ It has produced a report by the Working Group of Experts in which it accepts that there are Indigenous Peoples in Africa
- ◆ African governments voted in favor of the UNDRIP when it was adopted by the UN General assembly in 2007,
- ◆ Some African countries e.g Central African Republic have ratified ILO 169. Congo Brazzaville has enacted a law on indigenous Peoples
- ◆ Africans are actively involved in the three UN mechanisms eg, the President of the UNEMRIP is an African, a Batwa from Burundi.
- ◆ Concept of aboriginality does not apply.



# **African Union/African Commission's Characteristics for identifying Indigenous Peoples include.**

- ◆ occupation and use of specific territory,
- ◆ voluntary perpetuation of cultural distinctiveness,
- ◆ self identification and recognition by other groups as distinct collectively
- ◆ An experience of subjugation, marginalisation, dispossession and exclusion



# INVOLVEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN REDD+/BIODIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

**IPS and LC are involved mostly at the tail end of processes but there is light at the end of the tunnel**

**Re :**

- 1.CBD/The Nagoya Protocol.**
- 2.UN REDD policy on stakeholders engagement at the National level.**
- 3. FCPF on the composition of the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)**

# CONCRETE CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

1. Dialogue with governments on the concept of indigenous peoples in Africa and the Role of Indigenous Peoples in Biodiversity conservation as per the CBD e.g Article 8j and 10c
2. Alternative livelihood options for poverty eradication to minimize the drivers of deforestation and biodiversity loss
3. Ensuring that Benefits accruing from REDD+ are accessible to indigenous peoples and local communities
4. Technical and financial capacity building to Indigenous Peoples Representatives or organizations

# Obstacles for developing/applying biodiversity safeguards by indigenous peoples.

1. Limited knowledge on REDD+ and Biodiversity as a whole
2. Lack of meaningful engagement as per the international human rights standards
3. Suspicion on land/community forest dispossession given the past experiences in many countries.
4. Hesitation on the part of some African Governments to recognize Ips as custodians and co managers of forests and their biodiversity.

## Regional collaboration regarding safeguards and impact assessment

Indigenous Peoples collaborate at the regional level through networks such as IPACC there are also regional representatives in UN-REDD policy Board and FCPF.

Bilateral donors should also fund IP organizations directly, not through governments.

UNCBD Secretariat, FCPF and UN-REDD should fund IP organizations to see the implementation of safeguards.



***thank you!***

***merci!***

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