

**UNPFII Twenty-second Session: 17-28 April 2023**

**Theme: "Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach".**

**Dates: 17-28 April 2023**

**Location: United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**Official Side-event**

**Confirmed date and time:**

- 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 13.15 - 14.30

**Venue:**

- Conference Room-4

**Organiser: Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact**

**Co-Sponsor:** Diplomacy Training Programme (DTP)

International Workgroup for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)

Forest Peoples Programme-

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)- Lakpa

UNPFII Asia member- Ei Ei Min

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Rights and Resource Initiatives

**Contact person-**Guangchunliu Gangmei, **email-** [guangchunliu@aippnet.org](mailto:guangchunliu@aippnet.org), **Phone-** +66855450502,

**Title:** *Securing land and territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples, equitable participation in decision making is central to ensuring the survival of biodiversity, improve planetary health and mitigate climate change.*

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) recognises the integrity and distinct nature of the lands, territories and resources of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC), and their full and equitable participation in decision-making towards implementing the framework and in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) praised the text for its "strong language on respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities." <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://iifb-indigenous.org/wp-content/plugins/pdfjs-viewer-shortcode/pdfjs/web/viewer.php?file=https://iifb-indigenous.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PRESS-RELEASE-Indigenous-Peoples-and-Local-Communities-celebrate-COP15-deal-on-nature-19-Dec->

The [new biodiversity framework adopted in COP15 recommendation framework](#) published on December 19, also highlighted 'the important roles and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and partners in conservation, restoration and sustainable use.' This has also been increasingly acknowledged over the past few years and has been reflected at international conferences on climate and biodiversity, and in funding pledges.

The GBF consists of four overarching global goals to protect nature, including: halting human-induced extinction of threatened species and reducing the rate of extinction of all species tenfold by 2050; sustainable use and management of biodiversity to ensure that nature's contributions to people are valued, maintained and enhanced; fair sharing of the benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, and digital sequence information on genetic resources; and that adequate means of implementing the GBF be accessible to all Parties, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Indigenous Peoples, particularly Indigenous women and the Women Caucus welcome the adoption of Target 23 and the Gender Plan of Action.

### **What next: Putting commitments and pledges into action**

It is already established that securing land and territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples is vital to protecting their sustainable links with their territories, ensuring the survival of biodiversity and planetary health for the humankind. The role and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples including Indigenous Women and their contribution is extremely vital.

How do we then ensure the full and equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Women, and Youth in decision making and its implementation? The IIFB in its [press release](#) after the adoption of the GBF, pledged to be partners in applying the adopted monitoring and reporting framework through community-based monitoring. They also stressed on robust indicators for monitoring contributions of IPLCs, will provide a fuller picture of post-2020 GBF implementation, also applying indigenous concepts and local languages.

To bring real action, human rights-based Indigenous-led conservation models should become the standard, as Indigenous Peoples conservation models have proved to more efficient and effective.

We echo the voice of the IIFB, in their demand for increased direct access to financial resources for all IPLCs in the seven bio-cultural regions inclusive of all landscapes and seascapes, less

bureaucratic financial mechanisms, and inclusion in the GBF governance committees to better design and implementation of grants.

Subsequent meetings to discuss on different articles and related provisions, must ensure broad participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to consider new work programme of work on Article 8 (J) and other Provisions of the Convention related to Indigenous Peoples and Communities and institutional arrangements to take our work forward.

The implementation of the Kunming-Montreal deal must respect their territories, ensure their rights, access to justice, and their free, prior and informed consent – according to the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples – and their effective participation in decision making.

‘Without a commitment to safeguard human rights, the 30x30 target will result in conservation efforts that would lead to Indigenous Peoples and local communities being evicted from their ancestral lands and being denied access to critical resources needed to sustain their rights to food, health, and land. When creating protected areas, the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples should be respected , they should be allowed to manage such areas and be provided with the financial resources required to support them’<sup>2</sup> The full implementation of the commitment will be crucial to in realising the target.

This side-event will focus on the question of full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, what enabling conditions do we need and what collaborations and dialogue are required to make these commitments, recommendations and pledges into action.

### **Crucial questions to be raised in this side- event;**

1. How can we ensure full and equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples in the revision of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework? And in applying the adopted monitoring and reporting framework through community-based monitoring?
2. How can we ensure increased direct access to financial resources for Indigenous Peoples in all seven regions inclusive of all landscapes and seascapes, less bureaucratic financial mechanisms, and inclusion in the GBF governance committees to better design and implementation of grants?
3. What partnerships and what these partnerships (SDG goal 17) can contribute are to ensure that these proposed solutions will ensure mitigation of climate change, biodiversity restoration and ensure planetary and territorial health?

### **Duty bearers’ support and commitment to Indigenous Peoples rights**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/cop15-target-30x30-threat-rights-indigenous-peoples-oxfam>

This side event also seeks to bring together multiples stakeholders, including government, international organisations and Indigenous Peoples in its attempt in bridging the gap in understanding the lived realities of Indigenous Peoples, the discourses, commitments and policy dialogues at the global and national level and the implementation of those commitments and pledges in equitable partnership with the Indigenous Peoples. This we believe will enhanced the dialogue and find concrete pathways towards finding solutions to climate and biodiversity crises and ensure planetary and territorial health.

### Side-event Format

Panel discussion with Q and A

Session plan:

Time		Time allocated
13.15 PM	Moderator: Gam A. Shimray (AIPP)	5 minutes
13.20 PM	Opening remarks: Ei Ei Min- Asia UNPFII member	7 minutes
13.27 PM	Speaker 1: Viviana Figueroa(IIFB) Potentially addressing the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> question	7 minutes
13.34 PM	Speaker 2: Dr. Terence Hay-Edie Programme Manager, Global ICCA Support Initiative Nature, Climate and Energy Bureau of Policy and Programme Support/Global Policy Network United Nations Development Programme Potentially addressing 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> question	7 minutes
13.41 PM	Speaker 3: Beverly Longid Potentially addressing Q 1 and 2	7 minutes
13.48 PM	Reactor 1: Oda Almås Smith, Policy Advisor, Responsible Finance Programme Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)	5 minutes
14.53 PM	Reactor 2: Patrick Earle, Executive Director, Diplomacy Training Programme	5 minutes

14.58 PM	Reactor 3: Alain Frechette, Director for Rights, Climate and Conservation, RRI	5 minutes
14.05 PM	Q and A: Moderated by Gam A. Shimray	15 minutes
14.25 PM	Closing remarks: Kathrin Wessendorf, Executive Director, IWGIA	5 minutes