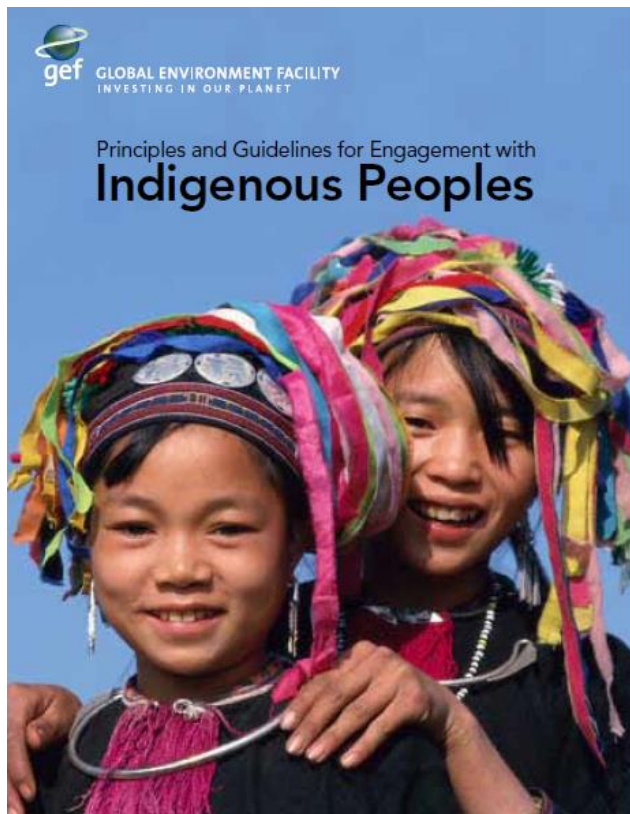




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Indigenous Peoples Engagement in GEF

**Thomas Jalong,
IPFP Asia
16 March 2015**

Participation of Indigenous Peoples at the GEF

- Access to GEF funds for projects
- Involvement and participation in GEF projects
- Involvement in GEF policy and operation processes (e.g. GEF Assembly, Council, etc)
- Involvement in COP processes and help provide guidance to GEF



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GEF Indigenous Peoples Principles and Guidelines

- CBD COP10: GEF CEO acknowledged need to review and enhance engagement of indigenous peoples
- Consultation process Spring 2011 – Spring 2012
 - Establishment of Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) and series of global and regional workshops and consultations
 - Swiss government support
 - Development of Issues Paper by IPTF

GEF Principles & Guidelines developed

- Principles: Built on existing policies, including IP safeguard policy.
- Guidelines: Practical guidance for project preparation, implementation, and monitoring.



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Principles

- Respect for Indigenous Peoples' and their members' dignity, human rights, and cultural uniqueness
- Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the identification, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project activities.
- Activities are to be carried out in transparent and open manner, including full documentation
- Adoption of a standard of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) for GEF-financed projects for which FPIC is required by virtue of the relevant state's ratification of ILO Convention 169, and where it is required by domestic legislation or other applicable international obligations
- Availability of GEF Indigenous Peoples Focal point and the Conflict Resolution Commissioner as needed



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Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group: Origins

- Concern with inadequate coordination between Indigenous Peoples and the GEF related to policy, projects and processes
- An Indigenous Peoples Task Force was created and contributed to the *GEF Principles and Guidelines for Engagement of Indigenous Peoples*
- IPAG was established as a key implementation mechanism of the *GEF Principles and Guidelines for Engagement of Indigenous Peoples*



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IPAG Composition

– 7 Members comprised of:

- 3 Indigenous Persons, drawn from a pool of candidates self-selected by Indigenous Peoples worldwide, with appropriate consideration for geographical balance
- 1 Indigenous Peoples representative chosen from the GEF NGO Network's Indigenous Peoples Representatives, to ensure synergy and coordination
- 1 independent expert drawn from a range of partners and stakeholders
- 1 representative among the GEF Partner Agencies
- 1 GEF Indigenous Peoples focal point, serves as a Secretariat of the Group



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Key Functions (part 1)

- Provide guidance and expert advice to the GEF Indigenous Peoples focal point on the operationalization of the GEF *Principles and Guidelines*, including
 - modalities to enhance dialogue among Indigenous Peoples and GEF
 - modalities and specific activities for enhancing Indigenous Peoples capacity to engage in GEF projects and processes
 - inputs to the GEF IP focal point related to the review and updating of the *Guidelines*



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Key Functions (part 2)

- inputs to the GEF Indigenous Peoples focal point on resources and tools that can be used to enhance implementation of the *Guidelines*
- inputs on the identification and strengthening of financial arrangements to support Indigenous Peoples efforts to protect their rights and effectively manage their resources
- Maintain effective outreach with appropriate Indigenous Peoples organizations and relevant communities



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IPAG Operations

- Meets 2x per year initially, then as needed
- Chair selected among IP representatives to the Group, rotates yearly
- Members serve 2-year terms, eligible to serve no more than 2 consecutive terms (4 yrs)
- Responsible for developing, adopting and implementing a 2yr work plan
- Members do not receive remuneration but receive travel support



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2-year Work Plan

- Financing arrangements to expand the number of GEF Indigenous Peoples projects
- Capacity building for Indigenous Peoples and the GEF
- Enhanced participation in GEF projects and processes
- Improved measuring, monitoring and reporting tools
- Input into GEF policies and plans



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Mechanisms for Implementation

GEF Indigenous Peoples Focal Point

Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group

Enhanced Monitoring Systems

Capacity building and Information exchange

Strengthened Financial Arrangements



Issues and Needs

- Respect for Self-election process
- Allocation of special fund for indigenous women and biodiversity conservation
- Inclusion of IP representative at the national level committee – monitor implementation of SGP and other GEF funded projects
- Dedicated fund for IPs at all levels
- Capacity building for IPs, CBOs for SGPs, MSPs, etc.

