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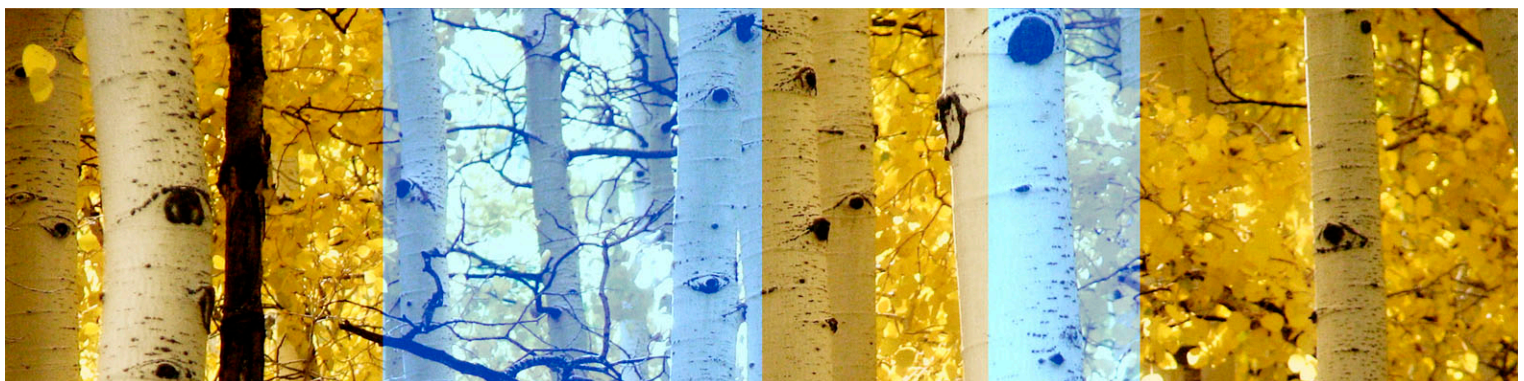
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

**Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Needs Assessment  
for Indigenous Peoples in the context of Climate Change  
Mitigation and Adaptation**

*Desk Review*

Washington, DC  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Climate change is causing increasing challenges for communities all around the world. One of the most vulnerable groups affected by changes in climate are Indigenous communities. Many of these communities already face challenges related to recognition of their rights of access and ownership of ancestral lands. Changes in climate, and the resulting impacts on Indigenous Peoples' territories, are presenting new and urgent problems. The challenges Indigenous Peoples face due to climate change are multiple and complex in nature. They range from entire island nations turning uninhabitable as a result of rising sea-levels to fluctuations in temperature and precipitation that threaten the biodiversity and traditional ways of living in certain landscapes. Given that Indigenous Peoples generally live in close relationship with the surrounding environment, even small changes in climate can cause serious difficulties for communities to sustain and adapt their traditional livelihoods.

A number of international efforts to forestall and mitigate further changes in climate also impact Indigenous Peoples. Many developing countries have been encouraged to contribute to climate change mitigation through reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+); conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks; and through sustainable management of forests. With many Indigenous communities residing in and basing their livelihoods off the forests it is important that they be equipped with the necessary assistance and training to participate and fully benefit from such processes.

This desk review aims to identify and summarise the main technical assistance and capacity building needs by region that are essential for Indigenous Peoples to adapt to and mitigate further changes in climate. To accomplish this, the research team identified the most relevant and recent documentation related to the review's thematic issues. The second phase consisted of systematic reviews of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposals (R-PPs) developed for the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. The documentation was then analysed and the findings organized by region and whether the identified technical assistance and capacity building need was related to climate change mitigation, adaptation or cross-cutting.

The paragraphs directly below highlight some trends and observations related to the technical assistance and capacity building needs of Indigenous Peoples across the different regions. This is followed by a table that summarizes the main capacity building needs by region as identified in the literature review.

It is worth noting that the identified capacity building needs are based on the referred documentation and the personal experiences of authors, and are thus limited in nature. A more exhaustive research and targeted consultation process is recommended for all regions to further identify activities to be implemented.

### **Indigenous Peoples Capacity Building Needs for Climate Change Mitigation:**

- Within the literature reviewed as well as the FCPF R-PPs, there is a strong expression of interest in most regions for greater and higher quality training and public awareness on REDD+ and its related parts (e.g. benefit sharing, carbon rights). Training should occur more frequently, in the local language, and occur in culturally appropriate formats understood by Indigenous populations.
- Technical support for clarification and strengthening of land and property rights is also repeatedly stated as a priority need across all the regions where REDD+ is being considered. This often takes the form of settling land conflicts, demarcating boundaries and assisting Indigenous communities with obtaining the requisite legal documentation needed to protect their ancestral territories.



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- Training in sustainable forest management is often requested as a means to improve the carbon stock and productivity of forests, but also as a means to improve upon and broaden livelihoods based on the production and distribution of forest products.
- There is a strong interest in Indigenous populations receiving training in aspects of forest, carbon and biodiversity monitoring and verification. This is because they have the local knowledge of the environment, the rights to the land and resources, and see it as an opportunity for local employment generation.

#### **Indigenous Peoples Capacity Building Needs for Climate Change Adaptation:**

- Technical support and capacity building for water resource management is requested frequently amongst most of the regions as a necessary adaptation need. This is in response to erratic rainfall and drought risk in parts of Africa and Latin America, melting glaciers in Asia, and groundwater salinization in the Pacific.
- Capacity building for diversification of livelihoods and nutrition is the most common request made across all the regions as a climate change adaptation measure. This is largely in response to the diminishment and disappearance of certain traditional foods, plants, animals and medicines. Many Indigenous communities are now being forced to reconsider food and livelihood sources.
- Across Latin America, the Pacific and parts of North America, there is an expressed and urgent need for assistance with the resettlement and relocation of Indigenous populations affected by rising sea levels. In parts of the Pacific, including the Solomon Islands, entire islands are becoming uninhabitable.
- To avoid near to mid-term risk of having to resettle, Indigenous communities across Latin America, Asia and the Pacific need capacity building assistance with coastal zone management. This often takes the form of mangrove planting along coasts, erosion reduction measures and community-based management of coastal resources.
- In the Pacific, North America and Arctic regions, there is technical assistance and financing needed for the repair and construction of coastal infrastructure (e.g. drainage, culverts, channel breakers) to protect against rising sea levels but also to address deteriorating infrastructure affected by the melting of permafrost in the North.
- Parts of Africa are facing severe drought and the loss of pastoral lands. There is technical assistance needed to help pastoral groups within parts of the Sahel and Kalahari adopt improved rangeland management and water catchment practices in order to rehabilitate degraded pastoral lands.

#### **Estimated Costs to Address Indigenous Peoples Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Needs:**

- The minimum total costs required to meet the identified capacity building needs for Indigenous Peoples as part of climate adaptation or mitigation responses is **USD313 516 000**
- The minimum total costs required to meet adaptation needs for Indigenous Peoples is **USD164 246 000**
- The minimum total costs required to meet mitigation needs for Indigenous Peoples is **USD 149 270 000**



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Regionally, the costs break down as follows (ranked highest to lowest):

Region	Minimum estimate cost (USD)
Asia	124,300,000
Latin America and Caribbean	111,493,000
Africa	63,593,000
Pacific	14,129,000



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### Summary of Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Needs by Region

	LAC	Africa	Asia	Pacific	North America	Arctic
<b>Mitigation</b>						
Capacity building and information awareness for REDD+	X	X	X	X		
Training in sustainable forest management	X	X	X			
Training in forest, carbon and biodiversity monitoring & verification		X	X	X		
Support for low-emission technologies					X	
<b>Adaptation</b>						
Relocation and resettlement of communities	X			X	X	
Diversification of livelihoods and nutrition	X	X	X		X	X
Coastal zone management and protection	X		X	X		
Water resource management	X	X	X	X		
Rehabilitation of degraded pastoral lands		X				
Support in infrastructure development				X	X	X
<b>Cross-cutting themes</b>						
Strengthening of land tenure and property rights	X	X	X	X		
Support full and effective IP participation and the application of FPIC	X	X				
Establishment of fair and accessible grievance mechanisms	X					
Promotion of participation of women and youth			X			