



CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN EAST AFRICA



Photo 1: Project partners pose for a group photo during a regional meeting in Nairobi. (Elie Chansa/PINGO's Forum)

Programme partners

The main partners of this East Africa Indigenous Peoples' Climate Change programme are IWGIA, MPIDO and PINGO's Forum as project holders, along with two national indigenous networks, the Tanzania Indigenous Peoples Taskforce on Climate Change (TIPTCC) in Tanzania and the Indigenous Peoples National Steering Committee on Climate Change (IPNSCCC) in Kenya.

Other stakeholders include indigenous community organizations and communities, indigenous representatives/observers, journalists and the media, government officials, parliamentarians and negotiators in Tanzania and Kenya, UNFCCC parties and CSOs at international level. At the international level, IWGIA, TIPTCC and IPNSCCC are working closely together to prepare for, participate in and follow up on UNFCCC meetings and regional meetings.

SITUATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indigenous peoples in Tanzania and Kenya have developed unique livelihood strategies, tailored to the specific ecosystems in which they live. Their knowledge and practices are key to the sustainable management and use of renewable natural resources. While many indigenous peoples live a "low-carbon" lifestyle, they are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change since they depend directly on natural resources and thus their ecosystems for their livelihoods. The adverse impacts of climate change disrupt their productive cycles, affect food and water security, lead to deteriorating health, and undermine cultural practices, institutions and social cohesion.

At the same time, indigenous peoples in the two target countries, like elsewhere in the world, are disproportionately affected by poverty, are the least educated, are marginalized in terms of political participation and decision-making, their traditional livelihood practices are met with restrictions, their rights to lands and resources are not recognized and they face severe human rights violations, especially when trying to mobilize to address all these issues. In Tanzania and Kenya, indigenous peoples are not even recognized as such, which adds to their vulnerability and to the failure to recognize their rights.

Climate change, when not properly addressed, results in a disruption of traditional livelihoods and an irreversible loss of the traditional and cultural resources that constitute an invaluable contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. There are already numerous examples from Tanzania and Kenya that demonstrate the negative effects of climate change and of the mainstream actions taken to mitigate it.

The overall problem

Indigenous peoples' rights need to be reflected in decisions, policies and methodologies related to land use in the future climate change agreements, and they need to be implemented at the national level.

WHY THIS CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN EAST AFRICA?

There are existing challenges facing indigenous civil society in Tanzania and Kenya related to:

- Their lack of necessary resources and their limited capacity to work consistently on climate change issues for their constituencies.
- The limited impact, in Tanzania, of the indigenous peoples' network on national climate change.
- The limited advocacy work on indigenous peoples' rights and climate change at national and international levels (UNFCCC).
- The limited documentation of the impact of climate change on indigenous communities.
- The limited dissemination of existing information and climate change developments among stakeholders.

THE OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAMME

To ensure that indigenous peoples' rights are reflected in decisions, policies and methodologies related to land use in the future climate change agreements and that these are implemented at the national level.

Other objectives:

The project has three specific objectives each with outputs and activities:

1. Two national networks on indigenous peoples and climate change in Kenya and Tanzania are strengthened and empowered with resources to work for their constituencies on climate change issues.
2. Indigenous representatives have enhanced knowledge of and focused advocacy on indigenous peoples' rights and climate change at national and international levels (UNFCCC).
3. There is enhanced documentation on the effects of climate change on the indigenous communities and dissemination of information and climate change developments between all actors at all levels of intervention.

Outputs under objective 1

- 1.1 The network members in Tanzania and Kenya have developed/revised two strategies on their role in national climate change processes, two position papers on indigenous peoples' rights in climate change issues, and two national activities.
- 1.2 Indigenous networks have developed solid dialogue on climate change issues, linking the local, national and international levels.

Outputs under objective 2

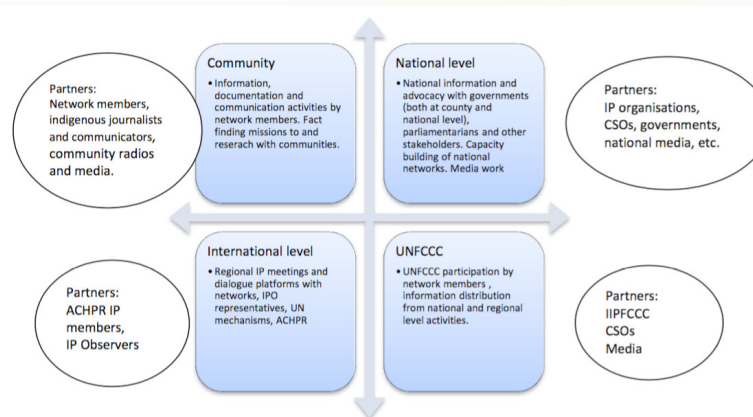
- 2.1. Duty bearers have been informed of indigenous peoples' rights and issues related to climate change.
- 2.2 Indigenous peoples' representatives are participating actively and effectively in climate change negotiations and processes at national and international levels.

Outputs under objective 3

- 3.1 Increased awareness and information sharing among indigenous peoples and stakeholders on climate change and indigenous peoples' rights.
- 3.2 The network's research and documentation centre is being used and providing channels of dissemination.

MODUS OPERANDI

The intervention will cover three levels of engagement: international, national and community. The purpose is to facilitate bottom-up engagement in order to inform policy-making and advocacy and to provide capacity building for different actors at all levels. This structure takes into consideration the inter-linkages between the problem areas.



The main activities to be implemented are as follows:

1. Strengthen and empower indigenous peoples' national networks with resources so that they are able to work for their constituencies on climate change issues
 - Hold regional meetings for networking, feedback and information sharing.
 - Hold national meetings for network members.
 - Arrange exchange visits between countries of network member representatives.
 - Organize training on climate change-related issues (REDD+, agriculture, land use, adaptation mechanisms, etc.).
 - Hold community meetings for networking, information and training.
2. Enhanced knowledge of and focused advocacy on indigenous peoples' rights and climate change at national and international levels (UNFCCC).
 - Identify friendly State parties and negotiators (UNFCCC), government bodies, parliamentary members and other stakeholders.
 - Hold training for duty bearers and other stakeholders.
 - Organize meetings and field visits with duty bearers at national level.
 - Conduct daily lobbying of above duty bearers at national level.
 - Develop position papers on issues relevant to the negotiations under the UNFCCC.

- Support indigenous representatives to attend UNFCCC meetings.
- Arrange side-events at UNFCCC.
- Support indigenous representatives to participate in national level dialogues/initiatives, etc.

3. Enhanced documentation on the effects of climate change for the indigenous communities and dissemination of information and climate change developments between all actors at all levels of intervention.

- Establish and implement a communications strategy and share and disseminate information (documentaries, brochures, newsletters, network website etc.) on indigenous peoples' rights and climate change-related issues.
- Localize and disseminate materials from Asia.
- Train journalists.
- Produce and broadcast radio programmes for each country.
- Strengthen the climate change database and link it with other networks.
- Conduct fact-finding missions for IP observers, the media and university academics so that they can produce reports and documentaries on community impacts.

Status of implementation:

The project completed a six-month inception phase from March – August 2015 with implementation of the following activities and outcomes:

1. Engagement on climate change strategies and programmes:

- Two national strategies have been formulated for indigenous peoples in Kenya and Tanzania.
- The implementation of the two national strategies has resulted in the governments' engagement in the process of formulating Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).
- Through their national climate change networks, indigenous peoples in each country organized a national dialogue as part of the preparations for their engagement in COP 21.
- Indigenous peoples in both countries have developed and submitted their concerns to their respective governments through workshops, the aim being to incorporate them into the countries' INDCs.

2. Position Paper development:

- Position papers (as a tool for advocacy) have been constructively developed and submitted to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania with to the aim of influencing the possible outcomes of COP21 decisions.

- The position papers, among other things, provide indigenous peoples' recommendations and argue that governments, and particularly the Government of Tanzania, should:

- Support a human rights-based approach that respects indigenous peoples' rights in climate change agreements and related actions.
- Support the inclusion of indigenous traditional knowledge and the role of indigenous peoples in adaptation and mitigation within the Paris Agreement and other future actions.
- Recognize and support indigenous peoples' community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) and the availability of financial support to civil society organizations, both indigenous and local community.
- Support direct access to finance and capacity building through an appropriate method that allows civil society and indigenous peoples to access funding from various sources of climate finance.
- Support indigenous peoples to adapt to and address the visible impacts of climate change, including the emergence of invasive species, increased emergence of new animal diseases, conflicts with other land users, lack of water for livestock and human beings, etc.
- Facilitate community forest management by indigenous peoples who have, since time immemorial, been the custodians of the forests. The government should ensure the co-existence of indigenous peoples with their natural resources, including the wildlife.
- Support traditional and communal land ownership and mobility, taking account of proper land-use plans that support indigenous peoples.

3. Regional meetings for networks and project partners:

The project has held two regional meetings. The first, in Arusha, Tanzania, focused on understanding the project and establishing an institutional arrangement for programme implementation. This was held in March 2015. The second took place in Nairobi Kenya with the aim of assessing the inception phase and looking at the status of implementation as well as planning for the next phase.

These two regional meetings had the following outcomes:

- Created an understanding between all project stakeholders.
- Established different mechanisms to ensure project holder accountability to the national networks (national project steering committee, regional project steering committee, signing of MoU between the networks and other partners etc.).
- Resulted in a sharing of experiences on climate change.

- Created an understanding of global climate change issues at the local level.
- Resulted in a sharing of programme responsibilities among the partners.
- Enabled a sharing of reports and feedback on different areas of progress at the global, national and local level.

4. National meetings for network members:



Photo 2: Members and partners of TIPTCC pose for a group photo during a national meeting in Lush Garden Hotel, Arusha. (Elie Chansa/PINGO's Forum)

One national meeting was held in each country, bringing all the network members together to plan the project and set the country's key priority issues for indigenous peoples and climate change. The meeting enhanced the network members' ownership of the activities and the project and had the following outcomes:

- Resulted in a sharing of national climate change issues relevant to the country.
- Involved talks and decisions on the roles and responsibilities of network members in terms of the different activities to be implemented at the national level.
- Prepared a national action plan for project implementation.

- Offered shared experiences of climate change.
- Considered the project monitoring and progress report.



Photo 3: Members of the IP-NCCC during back to back meetings; National Consultation and National Meeting held in Nairobi, October 2015. (Elie Chansa/PINGO's Forum)

5. Community meetings



Photo 4: A facilitator addressing Hunter Gatherers men (not pictured) and women in Domanga Village. (Elie Chansa/PINGO's Forum)

Two community meetings were organized in each country with the facilitation of network members. The main focus was on enhancing the communities' capacity to manage their own resources and document IPs' traditional knowledge and best practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation for advocacy at national and global level.

The community meetings had the following outcomes:

- 120 members of the indigenous community from Tanzania and 110 from Kenya have been trained on climate change-related issues and been able to share their experiences of indigenous knowledge and climate change.
- Indigenous peoples have been able to share their climate change challenges and prepare advocacy strategies to address them.
- The meetings provided material for radio programmes to be broadcast during the project implementation phase.

Documentary



Photo 5: Cast and crew filming in Terrat. (Elie Chansa/PINGO's Forum)

A documentary on climate change is envisaged as an important component of this project. This

is intended to increase the policy makers' and general public's awareness of indigenous peoples' climate change issues and to act as a tool for advocacy. As far as the documentary is concerned:

- Information has been collected that will help when making the different documentaries on indigenous peoples' adaptation, mitigation, challenges and learning.
- Two main documentaries (one in Kenya and one in Tanzania) on climate change are ready and will be shown during COP21.
- The information collected has also been used to make an animated video, as anticipated by the project.
- During the process of making the documentary, a great deal has been learned on the different mechanisms used by indigenous peoples to address climate change.

6. Community radio programmes



Photo 6: Live session at Orkonerei Community Radio station in Terrat, July 2015. (Elie Chansa/PINGO's Forum)

The project's aim is to use community radio programmes to disseminate information on climate change to the community and the public in general:

- Radio programmes, both live and recorded, have been broadcast on different community radio stations in Tanzania and Kenya. The live programmes involved interaction between network members and community members.

- There has been a positive response from community members via phone-ins on the programmes.

7. Study tour:

Two network IPs' representatives visited the like-minded Climate Action Network to learn and gain experience from the network with regard to how they are organized, coordinated and how they network with other stakeholders in Tanzania and Kenya. The outcomes of these study tours included:

- The building of powerful alliances and networks for lobbying and addressing significant issues of climate change and the rights of IPs with other networks.
- Shared experiences, challenges and opportunities related to climate change and indigenous peoples.
- They learned that the media is a powerful lobbying and advocacy tool with regard to IP rights issues.

8. Engaging with duty bearers and chief negotiators:



Photo 7: Director of environments at the Vice President's Office addressing indigenous peoples' representatives during a pre COP 21 dialogue on climate change in October 2015 in Arusha. (Elie Chansa/PINGO's Forum)

Network members have engaged with duty bearers and recently held a meeting with some of the negotiators from Tanzania during the UNFCCC sessions held in Bonn. There is a plan for future collaboration and engagement in climate change processes with different government departments in both Kenya and Tanzania. The results of such meetings have created room for IPs' discussion of and engagement in these processes.

- Discussions on climate change were held between indigenous peoples and the government in Arusha, Tanzania in October 2015 and again in Nairobi between the Kenyan indigenous peoples and the government.
- Indigenous peoples' position papers were discussed during the dialogue as well as issues related to COP21, with the aim of lobbying the government to support and incorporate indigenous peoples' issues into their submissions.

PINGO's Forum

P.O.Box 14437, Arusha, Tanzania.

+255-786-542525

www.pingosforum.or.tz

info@pingosforum.or.tz

