

Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)

1. When is an Indigenous Peoples Plan needed?

IUCN's Standard on Indigenous Peoples determines that a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is required when the ESMS screening has identified that indigenous peoples are present in the project site and/or might be negatively affected by the project.

For this standard, the term 'indigenous peoples' follows the definition or 'statement of coverage' contained in the International Labour Organisation Convention on *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries*.¹ Therefore, it includes:

- i. peoples who identify themselves as 'indigenous';
- ii. tribal peoples whose social, cultural, and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations;
- iii. traditional peoples not necessarily called indigenous or tribal but who
 - a. share the same characteristics of social, cultural, and economic conditions that distinguish them from other sections of the national community,
 - b. whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions, and
 - c. whose livelihoods are closely connected to ecosystems and their goods and services.

This decision about applicability of the Indigenous Peoples Standard is sometimes challenging as there is no one universally accepted definition of indigenous peoples and the definition or acceptance of the concept of indigenous peoples varies between countries and regions. IUCN's definition follows the statement of coverage of ILO 169, but explicitly uses a broad definition for indigenous peoples in order to cater for the most varying socio-cultural and political conditions across the world. The criteria presented above can be further elaborated by the following:

- community is not only ethnically distinct from the ruling sector of the society but finds itself in a subordinate position to the ruling sector;
- tries to maintain its distinct group identity, languages, beliefs, customs, laws and institutions and
- has strong attachment to their land/territory/resources it has historically used, managed and occupied, with which it has a special connection and upon which its physical and cultural survival as a collective group typically depends.

The SIA examines the applicability of the Standard more in-depth and assesses the specific risks the project might present - in consultation with genuine representatives of the indigenous peoples – and identifies measures to mitigate the impacts. The mitigation measures can be either incorporated into the project's Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or will be articulated in a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP). The latter is usually recommended in case

- the provisions and measures are substantial,
- the project context is characterized by complexity of social structure with indigenous peoples and other communities sharing overlapping territory and evidence/risks of discrimination or
- there is a history of discrimination or conflicts between different social or ethnic groups.

2. What is the purpose of the IPP and how is it developed?

The **purpose** of the IPP is to document the identified and specified actions that have been agreed with the affected indigenous communities as measures for avoiding, minimizing or compensating for negative impacts. The measures are described in form of a management plan with specified responsibilities and timeline; this is to assure that implementation can be monitored throughout project implementation.

The IPP should be developed through a consultative process together with legitimate representatives of all indigenous communities present in the project area. If the ESMS Screening has identified that indigenous peoples could be affected negatively even without being present in the project site, these groups should also be consulted.

The development of the IPP is integral part of the Social Impact Assessment (SIA). The consultation usually starts by verifying the pre-identified impacts and assessing their extent and significance. Aside from identifying measures for avoiding or mitigating the impacts the consultation process could also be used to identify opportunities for providing culturally appropriate and gender inclusive benefits to indigenous peoples.

If it has been determined that a IPP is required but time and resources do not allow its preparation during the project design phase, a process framework needs to be prepared agreed with legitimate representatives of the indigenous groups that summarizes the findings of the SIA and identified impacts, describes the process how the IPP will be developed during project implementation, timeline, participatory involvement strategy and FPIC requirements.

3. What should the IPP entail?

The IPP should include the following components:

a. Description of the project and objectives (brief)

b. Participatory planning process

- Description of the participatory process that has been used for engaging indigenous groups in project design (including names and function of the selected representatives); it is good practice to describe why and how such representatives have been chosen to demonstrate their legitimacy.
- Indicate how consultation and participation of women and/or vulnerable groups have been assured.
- Results of any FPIC process carried out with the indigenous peoples' communities.

c. Analysis of impacts on indigenous communities

- Overview of all impacts and losses that may be experienced by the indigenous communities and assessment of significance;
- Often impacts vary between different groups and require different mitigation measures. Hence, where applicable, differentiate between affected groups including vulnerable segments of the communities and women /men.
- Specify the location of the group affected by the impact (this might involve an area beyond the project site taking into account the project's area of influence).

d. Identification of mitigation measures

- Identification of measures to avoid or minimize identified impacts;
- If residual¹ impacts cannot be avoided determine compensation measures that are culturally appropriate;
- If appropriate, devise special measures for specific social (sub-)groups, in particular for women, in order to assure that the project does not create, perpetuate or aggravate inequalities between men/ women and between groups within the communities;
- Implementation schedule of mitigation measures: be aware that impacts should not occur before mitigation measures are decided and implementation arrangements are made so that mitigation measures are promptly in place and their effectiveness ensured for alleviating the impact for the affected communities.
- Provisions for livelihood protection and enhancement, if applicable.

e. Requirements and implementation arrangements

- Procedures and mechanisms for providing measures;
- Criteria for eligibility/ entitlement to the mitigation measures / receiving benefits; criteria should be transparent and fair in order to avoid any potential perception of discrimination within the community or beyond; specify criteria in case differentiations apply (e.g. gender, vulnerable groups);
- Confirmation of feasibility of mitigation measures, this could include indicating necessary requirements such as
 - institutional arrangements;
 - provisions for technical assistance and transfer of technology;
- Provisions for training, capacity-building and institutional strengthening of the indigenous communities or the agency executing the project;
- Required resources for implementing mitigation measures;
- Mechanism for resolving disputes relating to resource use restrictions and grievances from individuals, groups or communities that may be dissatisfied with the eligibility criteria, the measures selected, or actual implementation;
- Roles and responsibilities and arrangements for coordination of process;
- Schedule of the implementation of measures and how to monitor completion of measures;
- Arrangements for sustainability and implementation beyond project time frame.

¹ Residual impacts are impacts that may remain after all reasonable attempts have been undertaken to avoid negative impacts.