

WHAT CAN WE DO

**ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
2005-2014**



United Nations

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United Nations
New York, July 2010



CONTENTS

I. Background and objectives of this activity guide.....	1
II. What is the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People?.....	2
III. What are the objectives of the Second Decade?.....	4
IV. How can we fulfill the goal and objectives of the Second Decade?.....	6
A. Culture.....	7
B. Education.....	13
C. Health.....	19
D. Human rights.....	24
E. The environment.....	31
F. Social and Economic Development.....	37
V. Where can we get more information about programmes and resources?.....	44

I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THIS ACTIVITY GUIDE

The vital task of empowering and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples requires not only committed global efforts, but also the direct and active participation of indigenous peoples, community-based organizations and local government officials and agencies. The Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People recognizes the importance of work at the community and grass-roots levels and government efforts at the local level in improving the lives of indigenous peoples.

Based on the goal and objectives of the Second Decade and the recommendations set forth in the Programme of Action, the purpose of this activity guide is to provide ideas for practical activities and concrete ways for indigenous peoples' organizations and communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local governments to improve active collaboration, increase awareness and cultural sensitivity and create or restructure policies to better address the human rights and concerns of indigenous peoples. In particular, it provides recommendations on ways to develop new activities and strengthen existing ones in order to benefit indigenous peoples and their communities more effectively. It also explores methods to better incorporate indigenous peoples' perspectives on issues that affect their lives and to encourage activities that are strong sources of empowerment for indigenous peoples.

Individuals and organizations working with indigenous peoples will find suggestions throughout this activity guide, for specific strategies that are applicable to the unique objectives and challenges of indigenous peoples. These strategies are organized according to the six action areas delineated in the goal of the Second Decade, namely; culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development. The activity guide also includes examples of programmes in which effective means have been developed for addressing indigenous peoples' issues in their own communities or across regions, some have received support from the United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues relating to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.



II. WHAT IS THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE?

In recognizing indigenous peoples' fundamental rights to culturally specific representation, development and protection, the United Nations initiated the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People on 1 January, 2005. The goal of the Decade is to further strengthen international cooperation in solving problems faced by indigenous peoples worldwide in areas such as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development, through action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities.

The Second Decade builds on the initiatives of the first Decade, which began in 1995. The First Decade saw increased awareness of indigenous issues and usage of existing human rights systems, enhanced participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations meetings and activities and the establishment of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Early in the Second Decade, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was established. The focus of the Second Decade is on implementing actions that expand on these previous accomplishments with concrete results on the ground.

Among the crucial objectives of the Second Decade are efforts to protect and promote the human rights of indigenous peoples, including their cultural rights, and to actively develop and enhance their social and economic situations, living conditions and relationships with local and global communities. These objectives require committed and active participation of both indigenous and non-indigenous communities and government structures at the international, national and regional levels. Partnerships between indigenous peoples and governmental entities as well as NGOs and other actors in civil society, can help to shape and improve the policies and initiatives that affect the lives of indigenous peoples and their future.



THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

There are more than 5,000 different groups of indigenous people living in more than 70 countries.

Indigenous peoples constitute about 5 per cent of the world's population yet account for about 15 per cent of the world's poor.

Indigenous peoples make up about one third of the world's 900 million extremely poor rural people.

Indigenous peoples suffer higher rates of poverty, landlessness, malnutrition and internal displacement than other members of society, and they have lower levels of literacy and less access to health services.

Two centuries ago, indigenous people lived in most of the earth's ecosystems. Today, they have the legal right to use only about 6 per cent of the planet's livable land and, in many cases, their rights are partial or qualified.

Within the past two decades, there have been significant developments in standard-setting on indigenous people's rights, as well as the development of policies on the national level that specifically address indigenous issues. The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was one of the more recent landmark changes, setting new international norms.

Source: www.ifad.org/pub/factsheet/ip/e.pdf





III. WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE SECOND DECADE?

The Second Decade has five primary objectives which may be summarized as follows:

1. PROMOTING NON-DISCRIMINATION AND INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PROCESSES

Governmental agencies and indigenous peoples as well as other relevant organizations, should partner effectively to examine laws, policies and programmes regarding indigenous peoples and eliminate any discriminatory elements that may exist in them. Such processes should take fully into account the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2. PROMOTING FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN DECISIONS THAT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AFFECT THEIR LIVES, LAND OR HERITAGE

Indigenous peoples should be involved in the decision-making processes that have an impact on their livelihood, traditional lands and territories, cultural integrity as peoples with collective rights, or any other aspect of their lives. The resulting policies and programmes should always consider the principle of free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, a process involving their own governance structures. Free, prior and informed consent means that activities should not involve coercion, manipulation or intimidation and should be implemented with the knowledge and direct authorization of the indigenous peoples concerned, who may also withhold their consent.

3. REDEFINING DEVELOPMENT FROM A VISION OF EQUITY AND IN A CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE WAY — DEVELOPMENT WITH IDENTITY

All development policies should be culturally appropriate for the specific indigenous peoples and communities they affect, including respecting the rich cultural and linguistic heritage of indigenous peoples, the significance of traditional means of livelihood and the continuation of economic activities linked with traditional lands and territories. As previously mentioned, local, national or interna-



tional development efforts should involve indigenous peoples' own governance structures and avoid any sense of imposition and coercion. The involvement and effective participation of indigenous peoples should take place at all levels of the development process.

4. ADOPTING TARGETED POLICIES, PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND BUDGETS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

It is essential that positive measures be adopted and concrete benchmarks and goals established that are aimed specifically at enhancing the development and livelihood of specific indigenous peoples and communities, always with their effective participation. Particular emphasis in such targeted positive policies, programmes and projects should be placed on indigenous women, children and youth.

5. DEVELOPING STRONG MONITORING MECHANISMS AND ENHANCING ACCOUNTABILITY REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FRAMEWORKS DESIGNED TO PROTECT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Close attention should be paid to ensuring the successful and efficient implementation of legislative, policy, budgetary and other operational public structures created for the protection and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights and the improvement of their lives. This monitoring should take place at the international, national and local levels, with the effective participation of indigenous peoples themselves.



IV. HOW CAN WE FULFILL THE GOAL AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SECOND DECADE?

To promote the implementation of the overall goal and objectives of the Second Decade, the specific recommendations proposed in this activity guide are designed for government officials, indigenous peoples' organizations and all other actors whose work intersects — directly or indirectly — with issues pertaining to indigenous peoples in any part of the world.

The following are some general suggestions:

- ⑥ Develop targeted initiatives to improve the quality of life of indigenous peoples, including recognition and protection of their rights.
- ⑥ Enlist the full participation of indigenous peoples, secure their free, prior and informed consent and integrate their unique perspectives and world views in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of all the programmes and projects that affect their lives.
- ⑥ Conduct community-organizing efforts to empower and develop the capacities of indigenous peoples, to unify their common interests, and to provide them with a central place to address their concerns and grievances.
- ⑥ Conduct awareness-raising campaigns and skills training programmes to empower and to enhance the advocacy capabilities of community leaders and members, with particular focus on women and youth.
- ⑥ Initiate collaboration or strengthen existing partnership with agencies concerned and stakeholders in order to establish mutual support in achieving goals.

In addition to the above-mentioned general recommendations, this activity guide makes some practical suggestions on the six action areas delineated in the broad goal and the Programme of Action of the Second Decade (culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development)¹ and gives examples of



some past and current projects that address indigenous issues at the local and national levels in order to identify frameworks and strategies that have proven effective in achieving change.

A. CULTURE

For indigenous peoples worldwide, the protection and revitalization of their distinctive traditions, customs, ceremonies and art are essential to maintaining and developing their unique cultural integrity. In addition to comprising an important part of any people's identity and social structure, cultural practices are also often intrinsically tied to a peoples' economic livelihood, making local support crucial if these societies and their traditions are to flourish. While the preservation of such practices is vital for indigenous peoples, it also demands attention from the non-indigenous community to ensure continued contributions to a diverse, common heritage of humankind.



ARTICLE 11

Indigenous peoples have the right to practice and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



National and local efforts are extremely important in preserving and enhancing indigenous culture. At the fundamental level, the Programme of Action of the Second Decade calls for the following measures, among others:

- ⑥ Strongly involving indigenous communities in the protection and development of their unique culture and languages

¹ The full text of the Programme of Action of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People is available online (see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second.html>).





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- ⦿ Obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples in decisions that have an impact on their cultural practices or traditions
- ⦿ Making increased use of technology to preserve and promote cultural diversity and traditional knowledge
- ⦿ Improving the role and use of mass media in sharing indigenous traditions and practices with the global population and reducing stereotyped or biased perceptions



Who can participate and how to get involved...

CREATE LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIPS

Indigenous peoples' organizations, local museums, cultural affairs agencies of Governments and NGOs that work in support of the promotion of indigenous cultures should collaborate to create and strengthen existing cultural preservation and revitalization programmes at both the local and national levels.

GAIN THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNITY IN PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Academic or other research institutions, such as anthropologists and conservationists, must consult with communities, through their own governance structures, and seek the consent and participation of those communities prior to observing traditional practices and collecting cultural artifacts for conservation purposes.

INVOLVE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN ALL DECISION-MAKING MATTERS

Cultural organizations, local governments and cultural affairs agencies must seek the full participation of indigenous peoples in all decision-making matters that affect their culture by actively soliciting their participation in forums and meetings or by forming committees that include representatives from indigenous communities.

What strategies to use...

IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

Communities should discuss their specific needs with regard to cultural preservation and development: What cultural practices and traditions are most important and most in need of protection? What efforts have been made in the past? And why did they succeed or fail?

RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Indigenous peoples' organizations and non-indigenous entities concerned with cultural preservation should raise awareness of important cultural practices and knowledge that are in danger of vanishing, with the full involvement and participation of the communities, by conducting community meetings, workshops or seminars in order



to share information about the importance and benefits of conserving traditional knowledge and practices.

WORK DIRECTLY WITH THE COMMUNITY

Cultural preservationists and other outside entities should work in collaboration with the indigenous communities to establish ways to protect their cultural artifacts, heritage and knowledge. For any of the methods that these entities use, account must be taken of traditional or pre-existing preservation practices and those methods protocols, and must be created with sensitivity to the needs and available resources of the community.

ORGANIZE EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS AND CULTURAL FESTIVALS

Cultural organizations should liaise with elders and other members of indigenous communities in order to ensure that those in younger generations continue to learn the communities' traditional practices and stories, and to strengthen cultural ties and identities. Community members should also promote the revitalization of community arts and traditional performances by organizing cultural festivals.

HIRE INDIGENOUS STAFF IN LOCAL MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL CENTRES

Local museums and cultural centres should hire indigenous staff to integrate indigenous world views and perspectives within their exhibits, and indigenous peoples living in areas where cultural artifacts are gathered should be consulted directly so that such museums and centres could learn traditional ways of caring for and managing those objects.

ADVOCATE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE SITES

Indigenous peoples' organizations should continually advocate for the preservation and respect of heritage sites and other places that are sacred to indigenous peoples. Local governments and cultural affairs agencies should recognize the importance of preserving heritage sites and should work with local communities to ensure the proper conservation of such sites.

USE THE MASS MEDIA

All parties concerned should utilize newspapers, the internet, radio and television to gain broader support and possibly elicit additional



collaboration for the promotion of culture and the protection and preservation of heritage sites and objects of cultural value.

Which programme works...



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA²

The National Museum of the American Indian, in Washington, D.C., has placed primary importance on integrating Native American viewpoints into its exhibitions, programmes, acquisitions and repatriation efforts since its opening in 1989 as part of the Smithsonian Institution. Of particular significance are the museum's many practical efforts in using indigenous knowledge and customs in the care, handling, organization and display of its extensive collections.

Activities

At the Cultural Resource Center, the current home of the collections, account is taken of specific recommendations for the placement of sacred objects and for showing respect, which is a result of formal collaboration with Native American staff and consultants. Rather than organizing the collections by object type — a common method in museums — the NMAI classifies its collections by tribal affiliation, which allows for the inclusion of tribe-specific customs and regulations. Furthermore, when ceremonial or sacred objects are to be handled, displayed or loaned, the museum initiates consultations with members of regional tribes to ensure that culturally sensitive objects are treated appropriately by acquiring the free, prior and

² See <http://nmai.si.edu/subpage.cfm?subpage=collections&second=collections&third=history> Nancy B. Rosoff. "Integrating native views into museum procedures: Hope and practice at the NMAI", in Laura Lynn Peers and Alison Kay Brown, eds., *Museums and Source Communities: A Routledge Reader*, London: Routledge, 2003, pp. 72-79.





informed consent of those tribal members. Similarly, NMAI has begun working to include traditional conservation methodologies in its official practices.

Results

Since 1993, more than 2,000 items – including human remains, associated funerary objects and other objects of cultural value – have been returned to descendants of Native Americans and to places of origin, in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Lessons learned

- ⑥ The museum's high level of active involvement in reaching out to the Native American community is a result of its unique policies to integrate and implement Native American philosophies in the curation of its collections.
- ⑥ The museum helps to preserve and transmit indigenous knowledge by actively soliciting indigenous views when establishing museum procedures and by making its collections widely available to Native American researchers and tribal members.
- ⑥ Following the museum's example, other organizations dealing with cultural stewardship and protection should request consultation with indigenous peoples to enable them to make decisions that concern their objects and to represent their own culture.
- ⑥ It is essential to directly integrate collected indigenous knowledge into tangible practices. Doing so enables indigenous peoples to retain ownership of their artifacts even when they are stored elsewhere.





B. EDUCATION

Improving the education of indigenous peoples is crucial to combat poverty and raise living standards. Low literacy impedes the learning of basic human rights and knowledge of the processes of democracy. In addition to the primary goal of increasing the access of indigenous peoples to general, non-discriminatory education. Particular efforts are needed to make education culturally appropriate for indigenous peoples, including measures to preserve their languages and traditional knowledge from generation to generation.



The Programme of Action of the Second Decade encourages efforts at the international, national and local levels aimed at improving the education of indigenous peoples. These efforts include:

- © Raising awareness about the importance of native languages and bilingual education, including the integration of indigenous curricula in schools





- ⦿ Promoting programmes that support bilingual and inter-cultural education, as well as programmes that seek to enhance literacy among indigenous women
- ⦿ Eliminating barriers to the attainment of education by indigenous children
- ⦿ Supporting the education and professional development of indigenous teachers

Who can participate and how to get involved...

CREATE PARTNERSHIPS AND DEVELOP A COMMITTEE OF STAKEHOLDERS

Local indigenous organizations, NGOs, school systems, local museums, libraries and other educational institutions should work together and collaborate on creating programmes that are aimed at improving the quality of education of indigenous peoples, including programmes to increase literacy, enrichment activities to promote retention among at-risk indigenous youth and bridge programmes for out-of-school indigenous youth. A committee of stakeholders, including indigenous women and indigenous youth, should be set up to be responsible for the overall success of these programmes.

INITIATE PROGRAMMES AT THE GOVERNMENT LEVEL

Local officials and government agencies concerned with education should set up education initiatives that target indigenous peoples, particularly programmes that promote increased enrolment and retention of indigenous children in primary and secondary schools.

What strategies to use...

IDENTIFY AREAS OF NEED AND CONDUCT RESEARCH

School administrators, educators, youth organizations, guidance counsellors, social workers and other entities concerned should conduct surveys and fieldwork to identify problems that hinder indigenous youth from attending school.



RAISE AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE WORK

Indigenous peoples' organizations and other entities concerned should advocate increasing the enrolment of indigenous children in primary and secondary schools, for promoting the use of local indigenous languages in schools and for integrating indigenous knowledge in teaching methods by rallying the community to gain support, starting petitions and working with the community, school administrators and teachers, as well as student organizations. Funds to support the work of such organizations should be raised by writing proposals for obtaining grants and soliciting aid from the local government.

WORK WITH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS

Indigenous peoples should work with educators in developing curricula that integrate indigenous world views, languages and human rights issues. If possible, they should participate in the revision of texts and other classroom aides to include indigenous history and knowledge, where appropriate, and to eliminate any discriminatory content.





ESTABLISH LEARNING CENTRES AND SUPPORT ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Community youth organizations should establish learning centres for indigenous children and adults to provide after-school tutoring and mentoring services and other academic enrichment programmes in order to improve their literacy and education outside of schools. They should initiate programmes to help indigenous youth attend university, college or vocational school; such programmes could include; setting up test preparation courses, providing technical skills training and offering scholarships.

SET UP A SPECIAL FUND FOR INDIGENOUS TEACHERS

Schools and government agencies should provide indigenous teachers with the means to improve their education and to attend professional development and other teacher training programmes.

PROMOTE THE EDUCATION OF INDIGENOUS GIRLS / WOMEN

Schools and local indigenous organizations should set up leadership, fellowship or scholarship programmes, as well as special initiatives to increase the enrolment and participation of indigenous girls / women in schools.

CREATE A TRACKING SYSTEM

Teachers and programme administrators should monitor the progress of indigenous students, particularly those with special needs. They should evaluate the effectiveness of such programmes by assessing results, measuring success rates and determining what needs to be improved in order to strengthen the programmes.



Which programme works...



THE GUMALA MIRNUWARNI EDUCATION PROJECT, AUSTRALIA³

Purpose:

The objective of this project is to improve educational outcomes for indigenous youth by allocating resources to help them complete high school, thereby increasing the opportunities open to them for pursuing higher education or gaining employment. This project involves collaboration between members of the Aboriginal communities of Karratha and Roebourne on the north-western coast of Australia, the Graham (Polly) Farmer Foundation, which supports the development of Aboriginal youth, the Western Australia Department of Education, and local employers. It operates within Karratha Senior High School, where a large percentage of the student body comprises indigenous youth.

Methods

- ⑥ Establishment of partnerships and development of a steering committee responsible for the overall outcomes of the project
- ⑥ Employment of staff consisting of family members, teachers and industry representatives who oversee the day-to-day operations of the project
- ⑥ Selection of participants based on their willingness and potential to succeed
- ⑥ Creation of two enrichment centres
- ⑥ Provision of tutors and school-based mentors to aid and monitor the progress of project participants

³ http://www.whatworks.edu.au/4_6_2.htm





- ⑥ Organization of visits to universities, colleges and industry sites
- ⑥ Provision of teacher training in Aboriginal education through professional development seminars

Results

- ⑥ Within four years of the project's initiation in 1997, 17 of its original 20 participants remained in school, showing an 85 per cent retention rate, with some of them being near completion or on-track for graduation. Four went on to university and four received traineeships or apprenticeships with local employers.

Lessons learned

- ⑥ The combined efforts and commitment of the community and organizations involved helped to strengthen the efforts and approaches to improving the outcomes of education.
- ⑥ The project's management structure allowed for adaptability and flexibility in dealing with changes, challenges and various other circumstances.
- ⑥ Enrichment centres created outside of school cultivated a sense of ownership and responsibility among students participating in the project.
- ⑥ The active involvement of teachers was invaluable in making the project a success.
- ⑥ The process of training for non-indigenous teachers in Aboriginal education cultivated understanding and developed relationships.





C. HEALTH

To address the disproportionately poor health situation of indigenous peoples worldwide, it is necessary to develop targeted measures which recognize that indigenous peoples' health and well-being are inextricably linked to their collective rights as well as cultural and traditional knowledge systems.

These measures include the establishment of intercultural health systems, access to affordable quality health-care, dissemination of health related information in indigenous languages and access to clean drinking water.



ARTICLE 24

Indigenous peoples have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health...

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



The Programme of Action of the Second Decade recommends the following measures to improve the health of indigenous peoples:

- ⑥ Ensure access to comprehensive, community-based and culturally sensitive health-care services, nutrition services, health education and adequate housing without discrimination.
- ⑥ Undertake consultations with indigenous communities to appropriately integrate indigenous views on health and traditional methods of healing.
- ⑥ Train and employ qualified indigenous peoples to enable them to develop and manage their own health-care programmes
- ⑥ Guarantee the access of indigenous peoples to information about medical treatments and secure their free, prior and informed consent before administering and treatments.





- ⑥ Collect disaggregated data on the health of indigenous peoples and disseminate information widely in their communities, as well as to local, national and international health and development organizations.
- ⑥ Ensure the inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples, particularly women and youth, in all matters that affect their health and well-being.

Who can participate and how to get involved...

BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Local indigenous organizations, including indigenous women's organizations, NGOs, health-care providers and government agencies concerned with health should work together to improve the health of indigenous peoples by creating programmes and supporting initiatives that address the health concerns of indigenous peoples.

PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING MATTERS

Indigenous peoples should actively participate in political discourse and advocate that they be included in policymaking at the national and local levels on matters affecting their health and well-being.

SOLICIT THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

All parties concerned should involve indigenous peoples, particularly women and youth, in all their activities, awareness-raising campaigns and advocacy efforts aimed at improving their health.

What strategies to use...

IDENTIFY AREAS OF NEED AND RAISE AWARENESS

Indigenous and non-indigenous health organizations should actively conduct research to determine the health situation and living conditions of local indigenous peoples and identify problem areas, particularly those that need immediate attention. Awareness should be raised by holding community forums and alerting local officials of existing or potential health risks, with appropriate consent from community



members, in order to reduce the spread and impact of diseases and other health risks.

INITIATE AND GAIN SUPPORT FOR ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

Indigenous communities should enlist the help of local organizations to advocate that those communities be provided with adequate health-care facilities, safe drinking water and other preventative measures in order to ensure the health of the people in their communities.



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DISSEMINATE INFORMATION WIDELY

Indigenous community organizations, with the help of health officials and local healthcare providers, should utilize proper channels, such as town hall meetings, church/religious services, and local media, to distribute correct information about diseases and conditions, such as HIV/AIDS, in order to reduce discrimination and the further marginalization of victims and their family members.





PUT PRESSURE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Indigenous peoples' organizations and other parties concerned should actively advocate that indigenous communities be provided with affordable health care, including free or low-cost immunization and testing facilities, in order to reduce the spread of diseases. Local and national officials should be urged to adopt targeted policies and programmes that address indigenous health issues and to develop partnerships with indigenous communities.

CONDUCT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Health care providers and other health organizations concerned should actively reach out to at-risk communities to share information about health risks and medical treatments and ensure proper care and monitoring of the more vulnerable members of those communities, such as children, pregnant women and the elderly.

SET UP MONITORING MECHANISMS

Representatives of health organizations, as well as local health-care providers should conduct routine visits to indigenous communities to systematically identify health risks, abuse or neglect, and other barriers to good health. Members of the community should also set up a system for reporting health concerns by appointing a health representative to liaise between the community and health-care establishments.

CONDUCT ROUTINE VISITS TO HEALTH FACILITIES

Representatives of health organizations and local health officials should conduct routine visits to community health facilities to ensure the quality and availability of resources, such as medical equipment and caregivers.



Which programme works...



CONSEJO DE AYLLUS Y MARKAS DE COCHABAMBA SUU SURA ARANSAYA - PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

Purpose

The indigenous community of Kirkiawi Ayllu Khatun in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, was facing serious health risks that were affecting the livelihood of families in that community. It therefore began implementing a project to strengthen its management and protection of local water resources.

The contamination and the deterioration of water resources are among the main causes of health-related problems in the Kirkiawi community. The project is aimed at strengthening community organizations and capacity for implementing sustainable water management practices. Specifically, the community works together to develop a strategy regarding water use that would minimize the risk of contamination and the deterioration of its water sources. On the basis of this strategy the community enters into dialogue with the local government.

Methods

- ⑥ Restoring and strengthening traditional knowledge
- ⑥ Developing community standards and improved practices regarding the use of water resources
- ⑥ Establishing an inter-institutional support group
- ⑥ Organizing community meetings





Results

- ⑥ The community/ayllu organizations have recreated and strengthened their community standards regarding the use and care of water resources, taking into account the practices and the vision of women in water management.
- ⑥ The community/ayllu organizations have developed, documented and systematized the customs and norms regarding water management. Articles concerning the rules for controlling and managing of water resources have been added to the bylaws of the community organizations.
- ⑥ The community/ayllu organizations have elaborated a proposal relating to sustainable community management of water for negotiation with and implementation by the municipal government.



D. HUMAN RIGHTS

The rigorous protection and promotion of human rights is of particular concern for indigenous peoples worldwide, as they are often subjected to human rights violations, including discrimination, forced displacement, deliberate repression of indigenous languages, child labour and violence against women. The frequent disregard for the human rights of indigenous peoples often leads to social inequality, marginalization, economic hardship and physical harm. For this reason, efforts are needed to develop, maintain and monitor collaborative policies and structures that protect the rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women and children who have less autonomy within society.

In addition to international and regional efforts to combat the abuse of indigenous peoples' human rights worldwide, the Programme of Action of the Second Decade encourages targeted efforts at the commu-



nity level aimed at protecting the rights of indigenous peoples. These include the following:

- ⑥ Creating non-discriminatory frameworks and policies that specifically focus on the human rights and specific needs of indigenous peoples
- ⑥ Fostering stronger participation of indigenous peoples in the process of evaluating, monitoring and expanding practices for protecting, promoting and respecting human rights, drawing on traditional methods where applicable
- ⑥ Actively training indigenous communities about existing human rights standards, especially the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and encouraging capacity-building activities that would enable them to better improve their own living situations
- ⑥ Collaborating with indigenous peoples to promote human rights learning, including raising awareness among both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples about ethnic stigmatization and stereotypes

Who can participate and how to get involved...

BUILD COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Indigenous peoples' organizations, human rights organizations, community members, and other entities concerned should work together to create ways to promote indigenous peoples' human rights, address problems in that area and prevent the abuse of human rights. Indigenous peoples and organizations should collaborate on programmes to strengthen each other's efforts in this area.

PARTICIPATE IN FORUMS TO ADDRESS ISSUES

Community representatives and officials, including indigenous women and youth, should actively participate in government-organized forums to address grievances and human rights abuses and hold meetings with government officials, legislators, members of the media and other legal channels to inform them about prevailing issues.



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ENLIST THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTH

Vulnerable social groups within indigenous communities, particularly women and youth should get involved in all aspects of project development, implementation and evaluation, as well as in advocacy work. Local organizations should make additional efforts to reach out to indigenous women in their communities and include them in awareness-raising and advocacy efforts.

ARTICLE 2

Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



What strategies to use...

IDENTIFY HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Indigenous and non-indigenous human rights organizations and other entities concerned should conduct extensive fieldwork in local communities, with the full consent and participation of indigenous peoples, to pinpoint specific human rights issues, abuse, and threats to indigenous peoples' right to self-determination and their right to practise their traditional ways of living.

RAISE AWARENESS OF INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

Representatives of indigenous and non-indigenous organizations should work with local communities to inform them of their rights through awareness-raising campaigns and community-outreach projects. They should inform community members, particularly those who are most vulnerable, of rights abuses, such as those directed against indigenous women, and inform them of the existing structures that are in place to support the recognition and protection of their rights.

CONSULT AND WORK WITH INDIGENOUS LEADERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Human rights organizations should work with leaders and other members of the community in amending or halting local practices that are physically, mentally, or emotionally harmful to the more vulnerable groups in the community, such as women, children and the elderly. They could encourage the community to widely disseminate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and analyse it within their own context.

INCLUDE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

School officials and educators should include human rights education in schools as well as integrate indigenous issues in civics curricula.

DEVELOP POLICIES THAT PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Government officials should adopt policies that recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Government authorities must include indigenous peoples in making any policy decisions that would affect their lives.



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ESTABLISH STRUCTURES FOR MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Indigenous peoples should develop systems for monitoring human rights violations in their own communities or network with other community organizations to improve existing ones. Monitoring systems established from outside the communities should solicit the full involvement and participation of indigenous peoples.

SET BENCHMARKS AND QUANTIFIABLE TARGETS

All parties involved should set goals and quantifiable achievements to measure the progress and success of human rights projects as well as establish monitoring mechanisms to that effect.

PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE COMMUNITY

Representatives of human rights organizations should solicit private interviews or conduct focus group discussions with certain members of the community to provide a means for them to report prevalent yet still unidentified human rights concerns and to give feedback on existing programmes that work in support of indigenous rights.



STRENGTHEN EXISTING STRUCTURES

Indigenous communities should strengthen existing structures for monitoring human rights violations and enlist the help of local human rights organizations as well as indigenous peoples' organizations in all monitoring efforts.

Which programme works...



MADRE: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION WORKING WITH SAMBURU WOMEN OF KENYA⁴

MADRE is a civil society organization which creates partnerships with women throughout the world; it focuses on community-based action to ensure the long-term protection of human rights, specifically as they relate to women. One MADRE project focuses on the Samburu women in northern Kenya, many of whom had been raped by soldiers stationed in their territory. The women were subsequently forced from their communities, which left them with no property rights and extremely vulnerable to poverty and violence.

Activities

MADRE helped to establish and maintain Umoja village, which is run by women. In addition to initiating and supporting a livestock management programme to enable the women to generate their own income, MADRE trained the women in reproductive and health rights, the risks posed by contracting HIV/AIDS, ways to fight violence against women and the importance of early childhood education. MADRE



⁴ <http://www.madre.org/index.php?s=2&b=20&p=58>





provides the initial framework and support, but its most significant accomplishment has been encouraging the women to actively participate in combating violence against themselves and other women.

Lessons learned

- ⑥ Educating women about their rights encourages them to fight for their own freedom and security.
- ⑥ Directly involving indigenous peoples, particularly often-marginalized women, in establishing and monitoring the processes for eliminating human rights abuses is important.
- ⑥ Support the development of tangible, economic projects that is appropriate for indigenous people culture and region can be an important step in eliminating violations of their human rights.
- ⑥ Helping the women to become more economically self-sufficient, empowers them so that they would depend less and less on potentially abusive men, and therefore be more in control of their own rights.
- ⑥ Recognizing indigenous women's equal rights to hold decision-making positions leads to their empowerment and paves the way for crafting innovations that address and adapt to the changing relations in indigenous communities and the general society.





E. THE ENVIRONMENT

Land rights, access to land and the ability to exert control over natural resources are central to the survival of indigenous peoples worldwide. Territories and land have material, cultural and spiritual significance to indigenous peoples, Indigenous peoples through the understanding of their environment have been able to manage the land sustainably for generations. The protection of indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and natural resources is crucial to their survival as distinct peoples and is a key demand of the international indigenous peoples' movement and of community-based indigenous organizations everywhere. This is an important issue that should be given priority when dealing with indigenous peoples.



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The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides several articles that highlight the rights of indigenous peoples to ownership of and access to their traditional lands and resources. The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has fo-



cused on this area and has made comprehensive recommendations in keeping with which, the Programme of Action of the Second Decade calls for the following:

- ⑥ Create and strengthen collaboration between indigenous peoples and States, United Nations agencies and other inter-governmental organizations in the management of natural resources and the implementation of strategies, using traditional knowledge, for environmental sustainability.
- ⑥ Promote strategies to ensure the inclusion of indigenous peoples and their knowledge in scientific studies of environmental stressors, such as climate change, and develop synergies between indigenous knowledge and science.
- ⑥ Solicit the full participation of indigenous peoples in the creation and development of policies and programmes for conserving the environment and managing natural disasters.



ARTICLE 26

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



Who can participate and how to get involved...

CREATE A VAST NETWORK OF PARTNERSHIPS

Indigenous peoples and organizations that support indigenous or environmental initiatives should work collaboratively to create projects for environmental management, conservation and monitoring, as well as work together to strengthen support systems for current and future advocacy work.



PARTICIPATE IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Indigenous peoples should actively participate in all aspects of the planning and development of resource management projects. Non-indigenous organizations and other entities concerned should solicit the participation of indigenous peoples, including women and youth, and engage communities in participating actively in discourse and decision-making processes that affect their land and their resources.

What strategies to use...

CONDUCT COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Indigenous and non-indigenous environmental organizations should reach out to communities to identify environmental issues and violations of land rights, such as land grabbing by local governments or private companies and the displacement of indigenous peoples.

RAISE AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY

Environmental organizations should develop awareness-raising campaigns with the indigenous communities, by holding conferences with community leaders and other members to ensure that they are aware of their rights to their land and the management of their own resources, and to enable open discussion and mutual learning.

SET UP A REPORTING SYSTEM FOR LAND RIGHTS ISSUES

Indigenous peoples should create a system for reporting and monitoring violations of land rights within their own communities and territories and for appointing community representatives to liaise between the community and local environmental organizations. Indigenous peoples' organizations should work with their community members on land rights issues and other legal matters, such as supporting the process of gathering and submitting of evidence to prove the legitimacy of their claims to ancestral land and territories, and publish and disseminate information about such claims in order to raise public awareness.

PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING IN PROPER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Indigenous and non-indigenous organizations should work with indigenous peoples in the management of environmental resources in order to enhance indigenous peoples' resource management abilities,





indigenous governance and capacity and to provide communities with training in resource management that integrates indigenous and traditional ways of caring for the environment.

INTEGRATE PERSPECTIVES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

Local governments must solicit the participation of indigenous peoples in all decision-making and policy making activities that affect their lands and resources. Indigenous peoples should actively advocate for the integration of indigenous perspectives into government policies and programmes for the management of natural resources.

ADVOCATE TO GOVERNMENTS TO RESTORE ANCESTRAL LANDS

Indigenous peoples' organizations and those of others should assist communities in waging campaigns for the restoration of their ancestral territories, seeking reparations or other legal action for confiscated lands and assisting indigenous peoples who have been displaced from their land as a consequence of conservation policies or the granting of land concessions to others.

Which programme works...



NAGKAKAISANG MGA TRIBU NG PALAWAN (NATRIPAL, INC.), THE PHILIPPINES

NATRIPAL, or the United Tribes of Palawan, is a province-wide federation of indigenous peoples' organizations composed mainly of the three main indigenous groups in Palawan Province — the Tagbanua, Batak and Pala'wan. This project was funded during the 2007 cycle of the United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues relating to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. The objectives of the project were:






Purpose

- ⑥ Aiding its members in establishing, maintaining and operating adequate livelihood opportunities and services pursuant to the objectives of the association
- ⑥ Developing awareness and harnessing the participation of its members in activities towards the development of the community
- ⑥ Gaining security of tenure over claims to ancestral domains for entitled communities
- ⑥ Instituting the appropriate approach to resource management within ancestral domain areas and encouraging local communities to utilize natural resources in a balanced manner that affords equitable protection for livelihood activities

Methods

- ⑥ Assist local indigenous communities in securing land tenure, by obtaining the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title, the issuance of that certificate would decrease the likelihood of land-grabbing and the mass buying of beach-front properties by foreign investors.
 - ⑥ Arrange appropriate training, education and information campaigns on the process involved in delineating ancestral domain.
 - ⑥ Work on project sites with claims to ancestral domains where major threats have been identified, such as the potential intrusion of mining operations.
- 



- ⑥ Furnish management plans to guide indigenous communities in the protection and utilization of forest resources
- ⑥ Create a system for monitoring and evaluating existing resource management plans

Other activities

- ⑥ Strengthening the spirit of interdependence, brotherhood and solidarity among the indigenous peoples of Palawan
- ⑥ Securing the freedom of indigenous peoples within their ancestral domains
- ⑥ Promoting the sustainable use of natural resources with a view to raising the quality of life of the indigenous peoples of Palawan
- ⑥ Formulating, implementing and cooperating with other agencies on projects and programmes
- ⑥ Addressing the primary needs of the indigenous peoples of Palawan in the areas of health, education, livelihood and security of land tenure
- ⑥ Generating awareness of the real conditions faced by the indigenous peoples of Palawan
- ⑥ Preserving indigenous Palawan culture and traditions
- ⑥ Promoting care for the environment and the proper and efficient use of natural resources



F. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Large scale development projects and particularly large scale infrastructure projects often severely affect indigenous peoples and their territory adversely if they are not consulted and involved in the planning and implementation. Moreover, even where national policies are targeted for the benefit of indigenous peoples, they often operate in a non-inclusive, top-down manner. This situation creates dependency on government services and does not promote sustainable human development in a manner that would protect and promote the cultural, political, social and economic integrity of indigenous peoples. It is for this reason that the objectives and Programme of Action of the Second Decade, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and other United Nations mechanisms place major emphasis on the participation and full inclusion of indigenous peoples.

The inclusion of indigenous peoples in the development process must not mean that they are simply targeted as the “beneficiaries” of the process. Their inclusion must mean that the indigenous peoples can fully and effectively participate in the development process, through their own governance structures, and that they should be engaged in every step of that process. The Programme of Action of the Second Decade, in the area of social and economic development, encourages efforts that build on the understanding and visions of development of the indigenous peoples themselves. These efforts include the following:

- ⑥ Adopting projects and programmes that integrate a human rights-based approach to development as well as indigenous concepts of development
- ⑥ Setting up funds and supporting capacity-building efforts that focus on improving of the social and economic development of indigenous peoples
- ⑥ Developing strong partnerships among indigenous peoples, Governments, intergovernmental agencies and the private sector with regard to development efforts
- ⑥ Systematizing the collection of disaggregated data on the socio-economic situation of indigenous peoples



ARTICLE 20

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.

ARTICLE 32

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



Who can participate and how to get involved...

DEVELOP STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Indigenous peoples' organizations, as well as NGOs, Governments, United Nations agencies and other key stakeholders, should work together with indigenous peoples to mutually support the achievement of their development goals. Partnerships should be genuine and indigenous peoples' free, prior and informed consent should be sought in all development efforts that affect them. Governments, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and others should ensure that development efforts are based on respect for and inclusion of indigenous peoples' world views, perspectives and concepts of development. Development initiatives which take into ac-



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count the identity and culture of indigenous peoples through amongst others the application of free, prior and informed consent, have a higher probability of sustainability and success.

DEVELOP TARGETED PLANS

Government agencies, NGOs, the United Nations system and indigenous peoples' organizations should work together to develop targeted plans and positive actions that would eradicate extreme poverty and reduce infant and maternal mortality among indigenous peoples. Governments should set up special committees to handle indigenous affairs and to monitor and report on the situation of indigenous peoples.

What strategies to use...

COLLECT DISAGGREGATED DATA

Government, including that at the local level, community-based organizations and other entities concerned, such as the United Nations





system, should actively monitor the socio-economic situation of indigenous peoples through a systematic reporting system or through fieldwork, as well as through the collection of data specific to indigenous peoples. Development agencies should be aware that the real situation of indigenous peoples is often hidden behind national statistical averages.

ESTABLISH COMMUNITY CENTRES FOR ADDRESSING ISSUES

Indigenous peoples' organizations should foster community involvement in discussions on development and provide a forum for members of indigenous communities to address their concerns, build solidarity among their communities and develop ways to support each other in their common goal of improving their social and economic situation.

INITIATE CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECTS

Governmental, international and non-governmental development agencies, especially indigenous peoples' organizations, should work with indigenous peoples in initiating capacity-building projects aimed at fostering security for such communities and the sustainability of their livelihoods. These stakeholders should publish manuals and other materials on culturally appropriate ways to develop, improve and maintain strategies for sustainable living, with the full participation of indigenous peoples, and develop leadership training programmes, focusing particularly on indigenous women and youth.

ADVOCATE THE CREATION OF TARGETED PROJECTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indigenous peoples' organizations and other entities concerned should put pressure on local and national governments to create an enabling environment for targeted programmes for the social and economic development of indigenous peoples, such as through microcredit/microfinancing initiatives, culturally appropriate technical and financial assistance and scholarship and employment opportunities.

INCREASE ADVOCACY EFFORTS FOR THE RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

Indigenous peoples should actively advocate that they be officially recognized in government programmes and be granted protection of



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their rights as distinct peoples. They should advocate that their traditional livelihoods, including hunting and pastoralism, be recognized as legitimate activities. Further, they should advocate that they be included in the process of formulating public policies and designing national development plans, such as those based on achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

SET BENCHMARKS AND MEASURABLE TARGETS

Governments and NGOs should set measurable goals and targets in all development efforts regarding indigenous peoples, and set up monitoring mechanisms to track progress and measure success in this regard.





Which programme works...



SAMAGRA GRAMEENA ASHRAM, INDIA

The Samagra Grameena Ashram has as its broad objective working for rural development and supporting poor and marginalized people. Founded in 1987, the Ashram supports community action groups in education, and natural resource management and sustainable development. The majority of its members are from tribal and rural indigenous community groups. This project was initially funded during the 2007 cycle of the United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues relating to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Purpose and activities

- ⑥ Support numerous tribal and community groups in initiating capacity-building efforts and advocating improved human rights.
- ⑥ Collaborate with community members and outside organizations to help rural indigenous communities create and sustain effective frameworks for socio-economic development.
- ⑥ Conduct surveys of the region and select particular areas and families that need the most assistance in the area of health, education and human rights.
- ⑥ Work directly with indigenous people to empower them to become self-motivated in order to foster change within their communities.
- ⑥ Create a manual for working with local populations and a video that documents people's responses to their current situation in order





to better educate others and enable those populations to be more successful in their human rights endeavours and development efforts.

- ⑥ Help to establish alliances between disparate tribes in order to create a stronger system of support, advocacy and action.
- ⑥ Publish data on the status of the communities, contact public officials about specific issues and participate in public meetings to ensure that the viewpoints of the indigenous people are represented.

Lessons learned

- ⑥ A key first step is to identify specific areas for improvement in order to ensure that any effort made would benefit as much as possible the unique needs of each indigenous community.
- ⑥ It is important to build collaborative networks not only among members of regional communities but also among broader governmental, tribal and national organizations in order to sustain and expand development efforts.
- ⑥ Creating materials, such as documents, videos and training manuals, that local people can use and reference in the long term helps to ensure that their efforts would be publicized and replicable.





V. WHERE CAN WE GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCES?

Listed below are the websites of some United Nations entities that are part of the global network working in support of the goal, objectives and Programme of Action of the Second Decade.

- ⑥ United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii
- ⑥ Second International Decade on the World's Indigenous People
www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second.html
- ⑥ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
www.ohchr.org
- ⑥ United Nations Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues relating to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second_trustfund.html
- ⑥ Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people
www2.ohchr.org/English/issues/indigenous/rapporteur
- ⑥ Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/ExpertMechanism/index.htm
- ⑥ International Labour Organization
www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/index.htm
- ⑥ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
www.portal.unesco.org
www.unesco.org/en/languages-in-education/indigenous-education
- ⑥ International Fund for Agricultural Development
www.ifad.org



Readers wishing to obtain further information on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People may contact the following address:

Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on
Indigenous Issues

Division for Social Policy and Development

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Two UN Plaza

New York, NY 10013

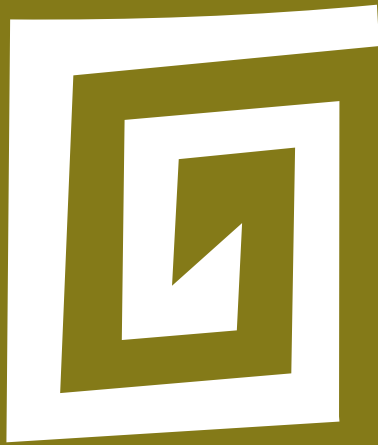
United States

E-mail: indigenous_un@un.org

Telephone: (+1) 917 367 5100

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Website: www.un.org/esa/socdev/inpfii



Printed at the United Nations, New York

10-67141—July 2010—2,000