



IPACC Narrative Report 2018

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The Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC) is a network of 135 indigenous people's organisations that operates and works in 21 countries representing each of the 6 regions of Africa. Founded in 1997, IPACC has three core duties: to promote African indigenous peoples' human rights and gender equality, facilitate the participation of African indigenous peoples in environmental conservation and climate justice processes and sustains and support a regional network of African indigenous peoples' organizations that is democratic, transparent and effective.

In 2018, IPACC received a generous contribution of 30,000 USD as an institutional support grant from Conservation International. For many years, IPACC has received core institutional support from donors including Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Misericordia, Brot for de Welt and the Open Society Southern Africa. However, NCA has recently changed its funding focus and closed its indigenous programme in southern Africa. The withdrawal of the NCA funds and the postponement of the GIZ grant by a year caused financial difficulties for IPACC.

CI's support enabled IPACC to successfully pursue the following objectives as set out in the proposal: -

i. Support a network of 135 indigenous people's organizations in 22 countries in Africa through regularly communication, dissemination of information, participation in meetings among others.

Expected output:

- A well-coordinated network that is active, sustainable and growing in its membership
- Improved communication between the secretariat and the membership
- Improve communication between regional representatives and the membership
- Increase participation of indigenous peoples in events at local, national and international levels.

In 2018, IPACC was able to fulfil its commitments to its membership and donors. The executive committee met in Naivasha and contributed in the strategic planning of the organisation. IPACC ExCo members have since been revising the IPACC constitution which dates from 2005. The IPACC secretariat is also trying to instil the culture of Skype conversation for ExCo members as physical meetings are costly. Online conversations can provide regular exchanges.

The transfer of information between the different organs has been consistent. There were regular newsletters to the membership, face-book updates on IPACC's activities. A WhatsApp group of IPACC executive committee members was also established and is operational. After the Naivasha meeting there were also a surge in the membership.

One of IPACC primary responsibilities is to ensure the active participation of African indigenous peoples in decision-making forums both at national and international forums. In 2018 IPACC facilitated the participation of indigenous Africans in forums such as : united Nations Permanent Forum, CDB meetings i.e. Morocco, Egypt , Unesco stakeholders meetings in preparation for Unesco year of indigenous languages, UNFCCC intersessional (Bangkok) and COP 24, Emrip, World Heritage Forums etc. As the African continental network of indigenous peoples, IPACC was also responsible for organising many important side-events, meetings with the Special

Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous for African delegates and for convening African caucus meetings in international forms.

Develop and run an Africa Indigenous Women program on climate change and sustainable development goals. This will commence with a gender strategy meeting in Kenya 19-21, June 2018 in Nairobi. This will involve coordination of Africa Indigenous peoples in national, regional and international processes that address climate change and the sustainable development goals. Expected output:

- Indigenous women are capacitated to effectively participate in climate change meetings at different levels
- Indigenous women will have the necessary skills and resources to be change agents at local, national and international levels
- Indigenous women will be offered a framework to work in synergy on implementing policies such as the Paris agreement on the African continent

Gender has always formed an integral part of IPACC's work. The primary objective of the Naivasha's meeting was to streamline gender in all IPACC's work so that gender representatives could work in synergy in their respective regions. The draft five-year gender strategic plan was developed and is currently being perfected with the support of CI gender specialist. Once finalized, the strategic plan will provide general guidelines and a framework on how to build the capacity of indigenous gender activists so that they actively participate in decision making bodies and become change agents in their communities. IPACC will also make advocacy platforms available for them both at national, regional levels to influence policies, which will include indigenous women land rights to ensure equity and dignity for indigenous women. IPACC work on building knowledge platforms will provide a further platform for indigenous gender activists.

ii. Specifically on Climate Change, IPACC will continue to actively participate in the UNFCCC traditional knowledge platform and in integrating traditional knowledge in national adaptation plans in Burkina Faso, Benin and Senegal.

Expected Output:

- Establishment of National NAP community of practice including indigenous peoples and local communities in three focus countries
- Indigenous peoples effectively participate in the design, formulation and implementation of the NAPs of their respective countries and influence negotiations at the UNFCCC by contributing to the knowledge platform
- Indigenous peoples contribute to transformative adaptation and long-term protection of Eco-systems.
- Broadened partnerships on climate change adaption including exploring possibilities of taking the TKs integration on NAPS to different parts of Africa.

IPACC believes that the knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities can contribute to advancing effective nature-based solutions that both mitigate climate change and address its impacts, thereby enhancing resilience. IPACC also considers that the integration of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities into National Adaptation Plans will facilitate the effective integration of traditional knowledge into global climate action

through the LCIP (Local Communities and Indigenous People's Platform). In recent years, indigenous Peoples traditional Knowledge and practices especially in terms of offering solution to climate change has been recognised and given just value. In the next phase of its work IPACC will concentrate in ensuring that indigenous peoples have the necessary platforms to influence policies at national and international levels in terms of their traditional knowledge and practices IPACC effectively participated at COP 23, and contributed to all activities aimed at influencing Parties to further operationalize the local communities and indigenous people's platform (LCIP). The LCIP offers a space for local communities and indigenous peoples to actively contribute and participate in the UNFCCC process. According to the UNFCCC Paris agreement at national level indigenous peoples will collaborate with all stakeholders including scientists, government officials to integrate their traditional knowledge and practices on climate change (expert knowledge) into National Adaptation plans of countries in an effort to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

In 2018, IPACC in collaboration with GIZ has begun the establishment of first three national platforms and a regional knowledge platform in West Africa; countries include Burkina Faso, Benin and Senegal. In the next three years IPACC intends to incorporate countries like Niger and Chad onto this regional platform. This is a pilot project which will be rolled out in other parts of Africa. The platform creates incredible opportunities for indigenous peoples who will be in par with other experts and governments officials in influencing national policies

The Operationalization of the knowledge platform opens new territories for IPACC, its partners and indigenous peoples

iii. Specifically on the SDGs, IPACC is part of the major group's steering committee and has been invited to speak at the UN General Assembly high level meeting. IPACC will be leading the Rights and Energy partnership under SDG goal 7 and will coordinate Africa indigenous peoples reporting into national SDG reports in Africa.

SDGs are of great importance to indigenous peoples and all IPACC work contributes to SDGs either directly or indirectly. However, in the Naivasha meeting, a particular area of interest for African indigenous peoples is SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. Consequently, IPACC participated in the launch of the Rights and Energy Partnership with Indigenous Peoples in New York in July and is finalizing a study on energy and indigenous peoples in Kenya. This study will inform IPACCs work in the area in 2019.

Coordinate the International Indigenous Forum on World Heritage which will be launched on the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee (24/06 - 4/07 in Manama, Bahrain. This will be followed by global and regional capacity building workshops. IPACC is already undertaking World Heritage activities in Southern Africa.

Expected output:

- IPACC will facilitate the official launch of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage forum (IIPFoWH)
- IPACC will coordinate the network through employment a coordinator for the IIPFoWH
- IPACC will lead Indigenous Peoples participation in world heritage sites Guidelines on inscription

- IPACC will lead fundraising efforts for building capacities of indigenous peoples on World Heritage processes at the Global and regional levels

During the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee ("41 COM") of the World Heritage Convention, held in Krakow, Poland, July 2017, the indigenous delegates attending the WH Committee meeting created a standing global body to represent the voice of indigenous peoples in relation to the Convention and specifically to engage with the Committee during its meetings. IPACC was nominated to be the secretariat of the (IIPFWH).

In July 2018, IPACC participated in the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee in Manama, Bahrain. This meeting was especially important for indigenous peoples as the official launch of International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH). IPACC worked tirelessly with UNESCO, the World Heritage Centre (WHC), advisory bodies such as ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM to make the official launch a huge success. The official website see link was also launched (<https://iipfwh.org/>). The next step for the platform is a meeting of the global steering committee of the 7 regions of UNESCO

In addition, IPACC is working with IUCN to review the current format of nominations of World Heritage Sites and consider some practical options for change to ensure that the guidelines properly consider IP rights, but also ensures that IP can make the best use of the nomination process to protect their lands. This process will involve widespread consultation with indigenous peoples engaged with world heritage in global indigenous movement. The guidelines are up for review in January 2019.

iv. Coordinate Africa Indigenous Peoples participation at the UN Human Rights mechanisms and the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights

Expected Outputs:

- Coordinate IPs participation in the 11th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (9-13 July in Geneva, Switzerland) 31st Session of the OHCHR Universal Periodic Review (5-16, July Geneva, Switzerland).
- IPACC will continue supporting human rights monitoring in the Great Lakes region.
- Human rights bodies, UN special Rapporteur's, government officials will be informed on the documenting and monitoring of human rights abuses in the Great Lakes region.
- IPACC will also coordinate Africa indigenous peoples participation in UNESCO's 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages of which IPACC's chairperson is part of the global steering committee Great Lakes region IPACC's Chair, Dr Handaine Mohamed is member of the steering committee comprising of states representative, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders where all important decisions are made.

As the continental network of indigenous peoples in Africa, IPACC has the responsibility of ensuring that indigenous African delegates have the opportunity to attend important decision making bodies. In 2018 IPACC did not have side-event at Emrip. However, The chairperson of IPACC, Dr Handaine Mohamed took part in a UNESCO side-event on indigenous languages. PIDP is busy preparing a shadow report for the 2019 Emrip session 2 when Congo DR will be under review. Lack of resources also did not permit IPACC to participate in the African commission meetings of 2018.

At national level, quarterly reports documenting human rights abuses against the Bambuti especially women and children are being submitted by PIDP (IPACC member organisation) in DRC, to various human rights bodies including OHCHR, the Special rapporteur on genocide, as an early warning system against genocide. In addition, as PIDP has designed its programme to engage with remote villages in data collection, rural grass root activists are continuously being trained to capture and transmit data to PIDP which is subsequently collated and distributed.

•PIDP in DRC has designed its programme to engage with remote villages in data collection and human rights training. PIDP's advocacy work is designed to build the capacity of all stakeholders engaged in the indigenous movement (i.e. indigenous peoples, government officials, UN agencies and the legal fraternity). In the international sphere they showcase the work of the organisation so that it reaches a wider audience. As a result of careful and strategic planning, PIDP has had outstanding success with its programme work.

v. IPACC will coordinate Indigenous people's participation at the CBD's African Regional Workshop on National Action Plans for Traditional Knowledge from 8-12, October, 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco and in the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in from 10-22, November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

#### Expected Output:

- Active participation of indigenous peoples in all CBD meetings.
- Supporting IPs to follow up on CBD processes at the national level.

IPACC facilitated the participation of African Indigenous peoples in both meetings. In Sharm El-Sheikh IPACC delegates participated in numerous side-events and panel discussions. There was also an information giving session on the World Heritage forum to inform indigenous communities living in the vicinity or within heritage sites of the networking activities of the forum

IPACC intends to establish knowledge platforms at national and regional levels on integrating Traditional Knowledge into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as required under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

IPACC facilitated the participation of a delegation to both meetings. The first pilot project will start in 2019 in southern Africa.

#### Expected Outputs:

- Partnership with Conservation International on Climate Change
- Partnerships on Gender – This has started well with KAME helping to finalize the strategy and support to fundraise for it.
- Partnerships on Conflict management – IPACC has received a grant from PAWANKA fund and will train indigenous leaders on mediation in 2019.
- Partnerships on the Rights and Energy
- Long term institutional strengthening of IPACC. – IPACC submitted a proposal for long term institutional support to CI but we haven't received any feedback.