



World Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nature

IUCN World Conservation Congress Marseille, France 2021

Introduction

The indigenous peoples of the world continue to seek recognition and respect for their ways of life, their rights to lands, territories and natural resources and their traditional knowledge, all of which underpin their substantial contributions to the conservation of nature. Although indigenous peoples are culturally diverse, they are united by their intrinsic relationship with Mother Earth and by the common challenges they face.

The World Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nature (IP Summit) aims to unite the voices of indigenous peoples from around the world to raise awareness that enhanced measures are required to protect the rights of indigenous peoples and their roles as stewards of nature. The Summit is one of several summits being organized in connection with the IUCN World Conservation Congress (Marseille, 2021). The IUCN Congress was originally scheduled for June 2020; due to the sanitary situation associated with the COVID19 pandemic, the government of France and IUCN decided to postpone the Congress, and it is now rescheduled for September 3-11, 2021. IUCN IPO Members are leading the organization of the IP Summit, with support from the IUCN Secretariat and Commissions.

Objectives and Outcomes

The overall **objective** of the ***The World Summit of Indigenous Peoples and Nature*** is to increase the visibility of and concrete support for the significant roles and contributions of indigenous peoples to conserving nature.

This objective will be achieved by focusing on:

- ***Indigenous Solutions:*** The forum will provide an opportunity for indigenous peoples to share their experiences, innovations and contributions to addressing climate change and stemming the loss of biological and cultural diversity.
- ***Indigenous Needs:*** The forum will provide an opportunity for indigenous peoples to highlight the enabling conditions and forms of support they require to achieve viable solutions, such as enabling policies, alliances and funding, as well as protections that are necessary so that fundamental rights are respected in practice.
- ***Indigenous Proposals and Global Policy:*** Indigenous peoples have created their own platforms for participation and representation in global environmental policy spaces, such as through the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change and the LCIP Platform



at the UNFCCC, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity at the CBD, and the group of IUCN Indigenous Peoples Organization Members. The Summit will provide an opportunity for indigenous peoples to strengthen their dialogue, cooperation and coordination as they engage in these (UNFCCC, CBD, IUCN) and other international platforms.

A key output of the Forum will be an outcomes document articulating a defined set of high-level results for indigenous-led conservation in the post-2020 era. The outcomes document is anticipated to include proposals related to climate change, biodiversity and areas protected by indigenous peoples; and will provide the basis for creating a working plan for implementation. The outcomes document will be developed by indigenous peoples and open to statements of commitment and support from States, international organizations and civil society.

Organization

The IP Summit will be a 4-hour event on September 3, 2021, the opening day of the IUCN Congress. Organizers are carefully monitoring the status of the global pandemic and assessing whether the Summit can be held in-person or will be a virtual event. Participation will be open to all indigenous participants registered for the IUCN Congress. Organization of the Summit is being led by a working group of IUCN IPO Members, who welcome the wide engagement of indigenous peoples and interested partners in this effort. A virtual planning process from January to June 2021 will develop the contents and build momentum for the September 2021 IP Summit.

The *indicative program* for the IP Summit includes:

- Traditional ceremony and welcome
- A panel of indigenous leaders presenting indigenous solutions, contributions and needs in relation to bio-cultural diversity, protected areas and climate change
- A panel of speakers presenting indigenous proposals, including the Outcomes Document, for advancing the rights and roles of indigenous peoples in conservation and climate solutions
- A panel of high-level statements of support and commitment to indigenous proposals
- A concluding segment looking ahead at opportunities to take the results of the IP Summit beyond Marseilles.

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