



v1.1 internally approved August 2019

Note: this Standard will be subject to public consultation in Q1 of 2021 and may be revised beforehand

Standard on Indigenous Peoples

Introduction

80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity is found in the lands and territories of indigenous peoples. They are of the most important guardians of nature and therefore a key partner in conservation. WWF has engaged with indigenous peoples all over the world on activities ranging from conservation area management, securing indigenous rights, sustainable natural resource management, and influencing policy.

Recognizing the outstanding contribution of indigenous peoples to the conservation of nature, in 1996 WWF adopted a network policy on **Indigenous Peoples and Conservation: WWF Statement of Principles**. It was subsequently updated in 2008 to reflect the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). WWF's policy fully endorses the UNDRIP as well as other important provisions regarding indigenous peoples in international instruments such as Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and ILO 169 (Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention). This WWF policy aims to: ensure the highest respect for indigenous rights; protect their rights to self determination and decision-making on their lands and territories; and sets moral and legal boundaries for working with indigenous peoples as partners in conservation.

Additionally, WWF adopted **Mainstreaming WWF's Principles on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation in Project and Program Management** (2008), which describes practical ways of mainstreaming WWF's commitments to indigenous peoples.

Requirements

WWF will:

- Understand and uphold the suite of provisions on the rights of indigenous peoples as stipulated in the network policy and international instruments that it endorses;
- Identify indigenous communities and their representative organisations as well as indigenous lands, territories, and resources at the outset of defining a project in any landscape or seascape;
- Identify potential negative impacts of projects and programs on indigenous rights, territories and resources and address them proactively with full participation of indigenous communities;
- Respect the right of indigenous peoples to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes; and
- Ensure that culturally appropriate and equitable benefits arising from activities on indigenous lands and territories (including from Traditional Ecological Knowledge) are negotiated and agreed upon.

Mitigation Measures

If risks of impacts on indigenous people are identified in ongoing or planned activities, WWF is required to further assess them, and develop an action plan (i.e., an Indigenous Peoples Plan, or "IPP") which may include processes to assure the IP communities' free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), to minimize or eliminate these risks. The IPP is part of a broader Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the activities being safeguarded. (See the Standard on Environmental and Social Risk Management.)