SUBMISSION ON THE UNFCCC LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLATFORM

February, 2018

Conservation International (CI) appreciates the opportunity to submit inputs on possible activities for the implementation of all three functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP). COP 24 in Katowice included a significant milestone for the recognition of local communities and indigenous peoples’ (LCIPs) contributions to climate action. The Platform is an important vehicle to facilitate LCIP inputs in the preparation, update and implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Parties established the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) for the LCIPP, which includes a governance structure, as well as a path to develop a work plan.

Our submission covers three key areas of work: 1) FWG preparatory actions, 2) activities for the LCIPP workplan, and 3) issues related to financial and technical support of the LCIPP. Specific recommendations follow under each section.

LCIPP-FWG PREPARATORY ACTIONS

Regarding the establishment of the Facilitative Working Group, CI recommends the following:

- **Disseminate Information to Socialize the LCIPP**
  The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and relevant bodies, including via nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and indigenous peoples’ organizations (IPOs), should widely disseminate the decision from COP 24 regarding the LCIPP to ensure that knowledge holders are informed and that their inputs are received regarding the creation of the FWG and the implementation of the workplan. Ideally, such actions should be initiated prior to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) sessions to ensure that the appropriate stakeholders are informed and able to participate.

- **Achieve Gender Balance**
  Parties and indigenous peoples should achieve gender balance in the appointment of LCIPP/FWG representatives and election of Co-chairs and Vice Chairs\(^1\), as well as achieve gender balance in the activities included in the LCIPP Workplan 2019-2021.

- **Engage with LCIPs at Multiple Levels**
  LCIPP/FWG Party representatives appointed by their respective UN regional groups and constituencies should actively engage with LCIPs at regional, national and local levels and have extensive knowledge and relationships with LCIPs.

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\(^1\) UNFCCC decision -/CP.24 para. 10 and para. 14.
ACTIVITIES TO CONSIDER IN LCIPP WORKPLAN 2019-2021

The LCIPP will provide a unique opportunity for knowledge exchange and collaboration between LCIPs, Parties, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and other relevant actors. The LCIPP can also secure continued respect and promotion of LCIP rights, as recognized by the Paris Agreement.

Included below is a list of select activities from the “Report of the multi-stakeholder workshop: Implementing the functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform” CI recommends the selected activities below be prioritized in the LCIPP workplan 2019-2021. The activities are organized according to the three designated functions of the LCIPP:

Knowledge Exchange

CI recommends prioritizing the following activities related to knowledge exchange:

- Exploring synergies between Local Communities (LCs) and Indigenous Peoples’ (IPs) best climate observation practices and activities undertaken by the Global Climate Observing Systems (GCOS) to better inform global climate mitigation and adaptation efforts;
- Integrating traditional knowledge into early-warning systems; and
- Fostering partnerships across communities, Parties, intergovernmental organizations, and the UNFCCC process (e.g. national adaptation planning processes and NDCs).

Further, CI recommends that the LCIPP promote the participation of local communities’ organizations (LCOs) within the Platform and support the creation of a constituency of LCOs, recognizing the importance of inclusive representation. Targeted support for LCOs’ participation must be undertaken in a way that respects and complements existing constituencies.

Capacity for Engagement

CI recommends prioritizing the following activities related to capacity for engagement:

- Creating dynamic partnerships between the Platform and other UNFCCC processes, constituted bodies and mechanisms to ensure that capacity building is always a two-way process (not only capacity building for IPs, but also that of Parties and UN entities); and
- Ensuring a balanced representation of indigenous and local women, other traditional knowledge holders, and youth within the Platform and during climate negotiations.

CI also recommends to the LCIPP to prioritize the creation of formal opportunities for LCIPs’ full and effective participation in climate-related processes at the national level, such as the update of NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

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**Policies and Actions**

CI recommends prioritizing the following activities related to climate change policies and actions:

- *Encouraging different bodies under the UNFCCC to enhance the engagement of LCs and IPs in their work, and to share the outcomes through the LCIPP; and*

- *Exploring ways to collaborate with the Green Climate Fund, especially on activities pertaining to the implementation of its IP policy and the enhancement of the LCIPP.*

CI also recommends that the LCIPP **prioritize specific activities to collaborate with other bodies under and outside the UNFCCC**, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

**FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

In addition to the activities prioritized for its implementation, the success of the LCIPP will be equally dependent on financial and technical support accompanying the platform. CI suggests the following for financial and technical support of the LCIPP:

- **Mainstreaming the LCIPP at a Regional/Community Level**
  CI recommends the convening of regional meetings to enable knowledge holders to come together and discuss the LCIPP, disseminating information on the platform and its functions and collecting input on its implementation from local level stakeholders.

- **Adequately Funding the LCIPP**
  CI recommends that the LCIPP Workplan 2019-2021 should be accompanied by a fully-funded program. The LCIPP FWG should also serve as a hub to facilitate the coordination and collaboration among relevant organizations (beyond the climate community) who are interested in providing technical and financial support towards the implementation of the functions of the LCIPP, including the capacity building of existing local and indigenous customary institutions. The international community should be called upon to provide financial support to conduct regional meetings and activities related to the full implementation of the LCIPP functions, in close coordination with regional representatives to the FWG.