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9 June 2026

Summary of advice of the eighth meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group

Summary

The following document contains the outcomes of the eighth formal meeting of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG-8) held 18–22 May 2026, Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea.

Summary of advice of the eighth meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group, 18–22 May 2026, Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea

Agenda

- Item 1. Welcome, opening of the meeting
- Item 2. Election of Chair of the eighth meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group
- Item 3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
- Item 4. Update from the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group on implementation, including from related bodies and processes at international and regional levels
- Item 5. Update and report from the Secretariat on the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Policy
- Item 6. Progress and monitoring of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group rolling workplan
- Item 7. Global Conference with Indigenous Peoples outcomes and development of enhanced access for the Indigenous People’s approach paper for the Board
- Item 8. Session on the third updated Strategic Plan of the GCF
- Item 9. Dates and venues of upcoming meetings of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group
- Item 10. Other matters
- Item 11. Dialogue with Head of Sustainability
- Item 12. Close of meeting

Welcome, opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

The eighth meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG-8) was opened at 9:30 a.m. on 18 May 2026 in Songdo, Incheon, Republic of Korea with Artur Cardoso de Lacerda, Chief Strategy and Impact Officer ad interim, Director of the Office of Governance Affairs and Secretary to the Board, providing welcoming remarks on behalf of the Secretariat.

Election of Chair of the seventh meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (agenda item 2)

Balkisou Bouba was elected Chair of the eighth meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work (agenda item 3)

The agenda for this meeting and the organization of work were adopted.

Update from the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group on implementation, including from related bodies and processes at international and regional levels (agenda item 4)

The IPAG:

1. *Notes* the importance of raising awareness of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy at related bodies and processes at international and regional levels;
2. *Also noting* the usefulness of the Members of the IPAG participating in relevant global processes including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, *encourages* further engagement in related bodies and processes at the international and regional levels and *emphasizes* that these types of engagements should be considered as part of IPAG external engagement;
3. *Agrees* to participate in the following events: forty-fifth meeting of the GCF Board (B.45) and B.46, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 31, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification COP 17, United

Nations General Assembly, the New York and London Climate Weeks, and other key processes, and to coordinate with the Secretariat on participation;

4. Notes emerging direct access examples in related funds and platforms, recalling the 20 per cent target for Indigenous Peoples under the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the 20 per cent target under the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, and the 50 per cent target under the Cali Fund, and emphasizes that the governance arrangements, modalities for access and approaches to measurement of these mechanisms are critical references for GCF; and
5. Requests the Secretariat to revisit the participation of Indigenous Peoples in GCF Board meetings as a distinct category of observers, recalling that the Indigenous Peoples Policy recognizes a role for the IPAG in relation to the Board.

Update and report from the Secretariat on the implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Policy (agenda item 5)

The IPAG:

6. Notes with appreciation the update from the Office of the Chief Investment Officer – Front Office on Operations Safeguards and requests updates on Operations Safeguards continue to be included as a standing item at future meetings;
7. Notes with appreciation the information provided regarding concept notes being led and further developed by Indigenous Peoples;
8. Notes that due diligence for subprojects under small grants and programmatic approaches is conducted on a case-by-case basis with appropriate flexibility, provided that the requirements of the Environmental and Social Safeguards and the Indigenous Peoples Policy are met and that environmental and social safeguards documents, including Indigenous Peoples related documents, where applicable, for Category A and B subprojects are submitted to the Secretariat for review and disclosure prior to the approval of the entity;
9. Notes the update on the accreditation webinars with Indigenous Peoples Organizations and requests the Secretariat to provide further information on the dates of upcoming webinars and arrangements for interpretation to facilitate participation; and
10. Further requests the Secretariat to provide, where available, information on factors that contribute to accreditation applications not advancing beyond the pre-screening stage, in order to inform their future deliberations.

Indigenous Peoples metrics and indicators

11. Notes with appreciation the presentation by Oscar Garcia, Director of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, on Indigenous Peoples indicators in the Harmonized Results Management Framework, welcomes the opportunity to provide written comments, and emphasizes the importance of grounding the indicators in Indigenous ownership, dedicated indicators on cultural heritage, measures of Indigenous Peoples' agency, including number of projects led by Indigenous Peoples and projects having partnerships with Indigenous Peoples organizations, and indicators related to land tenure systems; and
12. Underscores that free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is a measurable element that GCF can and should measure and requests the Secretariat to develop further the approach for defining and verifying FPIC in the metrics framework.

Progress and monitoring of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group rolling workplan (agenda item 6)

The IPAG:

IPAG nomination and onboarding process (2027–2030)

13. Agrees with the timetable for the nomination and onboarding process for IPAG members for the period 2027–2030 as presented by the Secretariat, including a handover session at the first IPAG meeting in 2027 between outgoing and incoming members;
14. Agrees to maintain the size of the IPAG at eight members with attention to gender balance and inclusion of youth, to retain the existing regional structure, and to introduce a staggered transition approach so that institutional memory is preserved;
15. Agrees that the call for nominations should also include the criteria for IPAG membership and an explanation of how the regions undertook the self-selection process, and clarify that IPAG members serve in their personal capacity while drawing on their organizational and community experience;
16. Commits to dissemination of information on the nomination process to Indigenous Peoples at the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice 64;
17. Notes that the following members have agreed to undertake a second term: Balkisou Bouba, Tunga Bhadra Rai, Juan Carlos Jintiach and Helen Biangalen-Magata;
18. Notes with appreciation the support that the following members have provided to the IPAG: Viviana Figueroa and Kimaren Ole Riamit;
19. Agrees that new members for the next term of the IPAG be welcomed from the following regions: (1) Pacific/small island developing States; (2) Eastern Europe and Central Asia; (3) Africa; and (4) Latin America and the Caribbean; and
20. Recognizes that, where nominations from a particular region are insufficient or do not adequately meet the agreed membership criteria, the Secretariat, in close consultation with the IPAG, may require some flexibility in determining the overall composition of incoming members in order to ensure that an appropriate balance within the IPAG, including on youth and gender balance, can be met.

IPAG budget and resourcing

21. Welcomes the presentation on the IPAG budget and resourcing and the forward outlook for 2026, takes note of the budget as presented, and notes that the budget is fungible across IPAG members to support participation in priority events; and
22. Requests the Secretariat to ensure that the IPAG continues to be adequately resourced to deliver on its mandate, including in the context of the next replenishment.

Ethics and conflict of interest

23. Notes the discussion paper on ethics and conflict of interest considerations presented to the meeting, agrees to respond to the discussion paper, and requests the Secretariat to review existing GCF policies and develop guiding principles for the IPAG that align with the GCF framework while reflecting the specific role and function of the IPAG.

Global Conference with Indigenous Peoples outcomes (agenda item 7a)

The IPAG:

24. Notes with appreciation the holding of the GCF Global Conference with Indigenous Peoples and the reflections and feedback shared by IPAG Members and the Secretariat;
25. Adopts the IPAG advice based on the outcomes of the Global Conference with Indigenous Peoples, as set out in annex I to this report, and requests it be included in the report of the Conference;
26. Thanks with appreciation the Secretariat for organizing the lunchtime event to promote awareness of the experience and outcomes of the Global Conference with Indigenous Peoples within the Secretariat; and
27. Welcomes proposals to ensure broad dissemination of the report of the Global Conference with Indigenous Peoples and its key messages, including through social media.

Development of the approach paper for enhanced access for Indigenous Peoples (agenda item 7b)

The IPAG:

28. Having considered the paper developed by the Secretariat on enhancing access of Indigenous Peoples' organizations to the Green Climate Fund, including the proposed Indigenous Peoples' Climate Facility (IPCF);
29. Noting the findings of the Independent Evaluation Unit's 2025 evaluation confirming that the Indigenous Peoples Policy (B.19/11), while normatively strong, has not yet resulted in direct access to GCF finance by Indigenous Peoples' organizations,
30. Welcomes the paper and expresses strong support for the proposed IPCF as a dedicated, multichannel facility within GCF, as articulated under Option A;
31. Considers that the proposed architecture, combining four complementary and dynamic modalities, would help address the scale mismatch that has been an important barrier for Indigenous Peoples' organizations to accessing the GCF portfolio and create viable pathways for those of different sizes and institutional capacities towards direct access;
32. Emphasizes that the governance and ownership provisions within the proposed architecture are not ancillary design features but fundamental to the legitimacy and effectiveness of the facility;
33. Requests the Secretariat to consider how reporting, administrative and fiduciary requirements under the facility can be designed proportionately, so as not to create unnecessary barriers or burden for Indigenous Peoples-led funds and their sub-grantees;
34. Recommends that the Secretariat finalize the paper for submission to the Board at B.46, further articulating Option A as the recommended pathway for establishment of the IPCF, and coordinate its development with the teams working on ongoing policy processes such as country ownership and the results management framework to ensure that Indigenous-specific provisions are coherently reflected across these instruments; and
35. Recommends that the Board, at B.46, adopt the IPCF under Option A, establishing a dedicated facility with a multi-year allocation and the operational modalities as set out in the paper.

Session on the third updated Strategic Plan of the GCF (agenda item 8)

The IPAG:

36. *Notes with appreciation* the discussion with the Division of Strategy, Policy and Innovation on the third updated Strategic Plan and the related processes on country ownership and country platforms;
37. *Adopts* the IPAG submission to the call for inputs on the third updated Strategic Plan of the GCF for 2028–2031, as set out in annex II to this report, and requests the submission be conveyed to the Division of Strategy, Policy and Innovation;
38. *Encourages* the Secretariat to continue to engage IPAG members, and Indigenous Peoples, in future rounds of consultations on the zero and subsequent drafts, including webinars;
39. *Urges* the importance of integrating Indigenous Peoples meaningfully in country platforms and *requests* the Secretariat to provide opportunities for the IPAG and Indigenous Peoples to engage in the design and implementation of country platforms, including through the Country Platform Knowledge Hub; and
40. *Affirms* support for a successful replenishment and updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2028–2031 and *encourages* GCF to further engage Indigenous Peoples and the IPAG in the relevant processes.

Dates and venues of upcoming meetings of the Independent Peoples Advisory Group (agenda item 9)

The IPAG:

41. *Agrees* that the ninth meeting of the IPAG shall take place from 1 to 4 September 2026, at GCF headquarters in Songdo, Republic of Korea, and requests the Secretariat to make the arrangements necessary towards the organization of IPAG-9.

Other matters (agenda item 10)

Independent Redress Mechanism

The IPAG:

42. *Appreciates* the engagement with the Independent Redress Mechanism and requests continual updating of the IPAG on all matters, including cases and pre-cases, involving Indigenous Peoples.

REDD+ results-based payment and non-carbon benefit

The IPAG:

43. *Urges* GCF to prioritize life plans of Indigenous Peoples in the assessment of non-carbon benefits under REDD+ results-based payments, and recommends that the guidance note on assessing non-carbon benefits beyond the Cancun Safeguards for the 3.5 per cent incentive payment, ensures that eligibility for the 3.5 per cent allocation is not based solely on governance or environmental dimensions, but requires demonstrated strengthened outcomes in at least one social dimension.

Dialogue with Office of Governance Affairs Multilateral Governance Team

The IPAG:

44. *Notes with appreciation* the dialogue with the Office of Governance Affairs Multilateral Governance Team on UNFCCC priorities relevant to the work of the IPAG, update of the review of the Observer Guidelines and collaboration with other multilateral climate funds on complementarity and coherence;
45. *Decides* to submit to the upcoming consultations on the Observer Guidelines, the view of the IPAG on the need to establish a distinct category of observers for Indigenous Peoples; and the inclusion of the IPAG in the Board engagement framework, recalling the role recognized for the IPAG in the Indigenous Peoples Policy; and
46. *Encourages* the Secretariat, within the MCF process, to pursue joint learning with the Indigenous Peoples advisory bodies of other multilateral climate funds, and to deepen collaboration with the GEF and the Climate Investment Funds on matters relevant to Indigenous Peoples, including specific targets, indicators and tags.

Dialogue with Head of Sustainability and Inclusion (agenda item 11)

The IPAG:

47. Being deeply appreciative of the special courtesy and warm hospitality extended by GCF, *expresses* its sincere gratitude to the Secretariat for their strong commitment to the work of the IPAG and for facilitating and promoting intentional access modalities and the participation of Indigenous Peoples in GCF; and
48. *Welcomes* the more focused format of IPAG-8, which provided additional time for internal discussion and strategic reflection.

Close of meeting (agenda item 12)

49. IPAG-8 was closed at 18:00 on 21 May 2026 by the Chair of IPAG-8.

Annex I

Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group advice based on the Global Conference with Indigenous Peoples

The Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG):

Noting that the Global Conference with Indigenous Peoples (the Conference), held from 8 to 10 April 2026 in Songdo, Republic of Korea, brought together over 150 participants from more than 40 countries, including Indigenous Peoples' leaders and representatives from all regions, members of the IPAG, representatives of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Secretariat, accredited entities, national designated authorities (NDAs), international organizations, civil society, and development partners engaged in climate finance and Indigenous Peoples' issues,

Concludes that the strong representation of Indigenous Peoples, alongside key actors within the GCF architecture and the wider climate finance community, created a secure space for open dialogue, shared learning and the identification of practical solutions to enhance access to climate finance; and

Notes that the following were identified by participants at the Conference as key issues, and on that basis conveys them, with its advice, to the Secretariat and the Board:

1. *Reaffirms* the central role of Indigenous Peoples in climate action, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
2. *Emphasizes* that the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples is a unique knowledge system and not only complementary to scientific approaches, but essential to achieving climate goals, particularly in strengthening adaptation;
3. *Concludes* that the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy remains the strongest and most comprehensive in the multilateral climate finance architecture and should be preserved as a benchmark, and that the challenge lies in its implementation, with access by Indigenous Peoples to GCF resources and Indigenous Peoples' agency in GCF projects being inadequate;
4. *Recognizes* that persistent barriers within existing systems remain, including the requirement for no-objection letters, fiduciary thresholds designed for large-scale institutional actors, and a structural scale mismatch between the GCF minimum project sizes and the community-level initiatives Indigenous Peoples typically lead, and *emphasizes* that direct and devolved financing approaches and dedicated support mechanisms are critical to enabling enhanced access for Indigenous Peoples, including for underrepresented groups within communities such as women and youth;
5. *Recommends* that priority actions for strengthening Indigenous Peoples' participation in GCF involve increased capacity-building for Indigenous Peoples, including providing a stronger understanding of GCF processes such as readiness, country programming, accreditation and project and programme design;
6. *Also recommends* that capacity-building on Indigenous Peoples' issues is needed for GCF generally, particularly the Secretariat, accredited entities and NDAs;
7. *Calls* on GCF to include Indigenous Peoples' indicators and tags in the Harmonized Results Management Framework;

8. *Further calls* on GCF to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are properly recognized and included in the Country Ownership Guidelines and Country Platforms;
9. *Urges* GCF, NDAs and accredited entities to intentionally co-develop more proposals with Indigenous Peoples with greater Indigenous Peoples' agency;
10. *Calls* for the waiving of no-objection letters for Indigenous Peoples-led projects;
11. *Underscores* that conventional climate finance modalities, including GCF, have not been designed to effectively reach Indigenous Peoples, often limiting access due to scale, complexity and institutional requirements;
12. *Advises* that several multilateral institutions, including the GEF, World Bank Group, and International Fund for Agricultural Development, have established dedicated mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples, reflecting a broader shift in the climate finance landscape;
13. *Notes* that GCF does not yet have comparable mechanisms and *calls* on the Board to align GCF with these approaches to make climate finance more accessible for Indigenous Peoples;
14. *Emphasizes* the need to (i) strengthen readiness and capacity-building support; (ii) simplify accreditation processes; (iii) support Indigenous Peoples' organizations and Indigenous Peoples-chosen intermediaries and mechanisms that can deliver effectively at the community level; and (iv) explore options to better support Indigenous-led initiatives, including through more flexible and context-appropriate approaches;
15. *Endorses* the four financing modalities presented at the Conference as viable and complementary approaches for enhancing Indigenous Peoples' access to GCF: (i) dedicated readiness and project preparation resources for Indigenous Peoples' organizations; (ii) a dedicated request for proposals using an aggregator model with subgranting at scales accessible to small and medium Indigenous Peoples' organizations; (iii) extension of the project-specific assessment approach to enable direct access by Indigenous Peoples' organization networks, with recognition of alternative forms of documentation; (iv) and anchor investments in Indigenous-led funds to leverage co-financing from bilateral, philanthropic and impact-investment sources;
16. *Considers* that these four modalities would be most effective if deployed as an integrated and mutually reinforcing architecture rather than as stand-alone instruments, and that together they would resolve the structural scale mismatch that has excluded Indigenous Peoples' organizations from the GCF portfolio, create multiple pathways for direct access by Indigenous Peoples' organizations of different sizes and institutional capacities, and bring GCF into alignment with peer funds that have already established dedicated mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples;
17. *Recommends*, while recognizing that these modalities build on existing multilateral approaches and should not be considered exhaustive, that GCF establish a dedicated facility for Indigenous Peoples that brings these modalities together under a coherent framework with dedicated resources, and *calls* on the Secretariat to continue exploring more transformative approaches as the facility evolves;
18. *Welcomes* the support GCF has provided to the IPAG and the important role the IPAG has played in GCF;
19. *Recommends* strengthening the IPAG, including through more sustained institutional support with adequate resourcing for members of the IPAG and the Secretariat;
20. *Encourages* the Board to broaden engagement with the IPAG on relevant matters;

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21. Stresses the value of continued engagement through follow-up GCF global and regional dialogues with Indigenous Peoples and other key dialogues;
 22. Emphasizes that, while a wide range of ideas and practical solutions were considered, the immediate priority is to translate these into actions and outcomes, and looks forward to the outcomes of the Board's consideration of a dedicated framework or resources that improve access for Indigenous Peoples at its forty-sixth meeting;
 23. Affirms support for a successful replenishment and updated strategic plan and encourages GCF to further engage Indigenous Peoples and the IPAG in the relevant processes; and
 24. Resolves that the Conference was an outstanding success and thanks GCF and Malaysia, with appreciation, for convening and supporting the Conference.

Annex II

Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group submission to the call for inputs on the updated Strategic Plan of the GCF for 2028–2031

Submission to the call for inputs on the updated Strategic Plan for the GCF 2028–2031 (USP-3)

Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG) of the GCF22 May 2026

Introduction

The IPAG welcomes the opportunity to inform USP-3. This submission distils the key messages from the April 2026 GCF Global Conference with Indigenous Peoples (Songdo, 8–10 April 2026), which convened over 150 participants from more than 40 countries, and the resulting advice of the IPAG to the Secretariat and Board. It addresses the guiding questions most relevant to enabling Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) access to, and agency within, GCF.

Each section is structured in the same way: it first sets out what the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy (the Policy) (annex XI to decision B.19/11) already commits GCF to and then sets out what USP-3 should now do to deliver on that commitment. The Policy is a strong framework that, after nearly a decade, remains under-implemented – the proposals below are largely about operationalizing commitments GCF has already made.

Q1. Experience with the updated Strategic Policy for 2024–2027 (USP-2)

What the Policy says – paragraphs 98–100: GCF will give consideration to activities tailored to IP needs and priorities, may target funds where IPs are not benefiting adequately, and the Board may give additional weight to proposals with well-designed IP engagement components.
What USP-3 should do: Preserve the Indigenous Peoples Policy as the benchmark in the multilateral climate finance architecture and use USP-3 to close the implementation gap: under USP-2, IP access to GCF resources and IP agency in GCF projects remained inadequate, and conventional GCF modalities continued to limit access due to scale, complexity and institutional requirements.

What the Policy says – paragraphs 78, 106: The Board is to oversee implementation of the Policy, monitor it through periodic reports, and review the Policy every five years.

What USP-3 should do: Use the USP-3 design process to translate the findings of relevant reviews, including from the Independent Evaluation Unit into the structural changes needed for delivery, rather than recording the same gaps in successive reports.

Q2. Trends and evolving country needs

What the Policy says – paragraphs 89–90: National consultative processes defining climate priorities must consider applicable IP laws, and country coordination through consultative processes should include IPs in an appropriate manner.

What USP-3 should do: Match country ownership and country platforms with direct and devolved access for IPs and IP-led organizations within those countries, including women, youth and other underrepresented groups and reflect this in framing of country needs in USP-3.

What the Policy says – paragraphs 22(e), 101: GCF recognizes, respects and values IP cultural heritage and traditional knowledge, promotes the leadership of knowledge holders, and

commits to generating and sharing knowledge from IP experience, complementary to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) IP and local communities platform.

What USP-3 should do: Reflect IP knowledge systems explicitly in the USP-3 framing of country needs and adaptation priorities, consistent with the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, the CBD, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and IPBES, and align with peer institutions (Global Environment Facility, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development) that have already established dedicated IP mechanisms.

Q3. Primary programming priorities for the next period

What the Policy says – paragraph 22(g): GCF will encourage national designated authorities (NDAs) and accredited entities (AEs) to engage with and be inclusive of IPs and may take actions to better meet their needs and priorities.

What USP-3 should do: Make intentional co-development of proposals with IPs a USP-3 programming priority, with meaningful IP agency in design and decision-making across GCF, NDAs and AEs.

What the Policy says – paragraph 22(e): GCF will respect and recognize traditional knowledge and livelihood systems and promote the leadership of traditional knowledge holders in GCF-financed activities.¹

What USP-3 should do: Strengthen adaptation programming so that IP knowledge is treated as essential – not supplementary – content.

What the Policy says – paragraph 79(e): The Secretariat is to design and select specific output, outcome and impact indicators for IPs as part of periodic Policy implementation assessments.

What USP-3 should do: Include IP indicators and IP tags in the Harmonised Results Management Framework so that performance against the Policy can be measured.

What the Policy says – paragraph 90: Criteria and options for country coordination through consultative processes should include IPs in an appropriate manner.

What USP-3 should do: Explicitly recognize and include IPs in the Country Ownership Guidelines and Country Platforms.

Q4. Evolving operational processes and institutional capacities

What the Policy says – paragraph 22(g): GCF will encourage NDAs and AEs to engage with and be inclusive of IPs and may take actions to better meet their needs and priorities.

What USP-3 should do: Address persistent structural barriers – the no-objection letter (NOL) requirement, fiduciary thresholds designed for large institutional actors, and the scale mismatch between minimum GCF project sizes and community-level IP initiatives – and waive NOL requirements for IP-led projects.

What the Policy says – paragraphs 22(f), 93–96: GCF will develop its advisory and decision-making capacities on IP issues, including the capacity of Board members and Secretariat; provide IP training for the Secretariat; and support specific capacity-building programmes for IPs through readiness and funding proposals.

What USP-3 should do: Build capacity on two sides: (i) IP capacity to engage with GCF processes – readiness, country programming, accreditation, project/programme design; and (ii) Secretariat and NDA capacity on IP issues. Simplify accreditation processes and recognize alternative forms of documentation suited to IP organizations and their networks.

¹ Noting that the Paris Agreement and Nairobi Work Programme also provide for this.

What the Policy says – paragraphs 29, 81–82: GCF will support the work of the IPAG and ensure its recommendations are effectively conveyed to the Board, AEs and states; the IPAG is mandated to advise the focal point, NDAs and AEs on activities affecting IPs and to provide guidance to the Board.

What USP-3 should do: Strengthen the IPAG with sustained institutional support and adequate resourcing for both members and Secretariat support and broaden Board engagement with the IPAG on relevant matters.

Q5. Operational modalities, financial instruments and innovative approaches

What the Policy says – paragraphs 98–100: GCF will give consideration to activities tailored to IP needs; may target funds to correct for IPs not benefiting adequately; and the Board may give additional weight to proposals with well-designed components to promote IP engagement and benefits; the legal basis for a dedicated facility already exists.

What the Policy says – paragraphs 73, 96–97: NDAs and AEs may seek readiness and preparatory support for IP development priorities and participatory IP profiles; GCF will support capacity-building for IPs as part of readiness or funding proposals; and direct access entities may request readiness support to implement the Policy.

The IPAG endorses four financing modalities, which were presented and validated at the Global Conference, as viable and complementary approaches for enhancing IP access. They are most effective when deployed as an integrated, mutually reinforcing architecture rather than as stand-alone instruments:

1. Dedicated readiness and project preparation resources for IPOs;
2. A dedicated request for proposals facility using an aggregator model, with subgranting at scales accessible to small and medium IP organizations;
3. Extension of the project-specific assessment approach to enable direct access by IP organization networks, with recognition of alternative forms of documentation; and
4. Anchor investments in Indigenous-led funds to leverage co-financing from bilateral, philanthropic and impact-investment sources.

What USP-3 should do: Establish a dedicated facility for Indigenous Peoples that brings these four modalities together under a coherent framework with dedicated resources. Together they resolve the structural scale mismatch that has excluded IP organizations from the GCF portfolio, create multiple pathways for direct access by IP organization of different sizes and capacities, and bring GCF into alignment with peer funds.

Q6. Strengthening the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme

What the Policy says – paragraph 73: NDAs and AEs may seek readiness support for IP development priorities, participatory IP profiles, and partnerships among governments, IP organizations, civil society and the private sector to promote climate resilience of IP communities.

What USP-3 should do: Provide dedicated readiness resources for IP organizations and IP-chosen intermediaries, designed at scales and on timelines that match community-level realities.

What the Policy says – paragraph 96: GCF will support specific capacity-building programmes for IPs through readiness or funding proposals, covering consultation, advocacy, institutional building and engagement in proposal formulation, monitoring and evaluation.

What USP-3 should do: Prioritise understanding of GCF processes – readiness, country programming, accreditation, project/programme design – as a foundation for direct access.

What the Policy says – paragraph 97: States and AEs, particularly direct access entities, may request readiness and preparatory support from GCF to enhance their capacity to implement the Indigenous Peoples Policy.

What USP-3 should do: Equip NDAs and direct access entities to convene and include IPs meaningfully in readiness planning.

Q9. Supporting the most climate-vulnerable countries and communities

What the Policy says – paragraphs 1, 3: The Policy recognizes IPs as a unique and distinct stakeholder of GCF, making invaluable contributions to mitigation and adaptation while facing serious threats from climate action; they are often among the most economically marginalized and vulnerable, with limited capacity to defend rights and benefit from climate action.

What USP-3 should do: Treat IP access as a vulnerability-and-impact priority in USP-3, reflecting that IPs are among the most climate-vulnerable communities and steward a disproportionate share of the world’s remaining biodiversity.

What the Policy says – paragraph 11(e): GCF will pay particular attention to the different challenges faced by women, girls and other groups within IP communities, and promote the participation and leadership of women in GCF activities.

What USP-3 should do: Adopt direct and devolved financing approaches and dedicated support mechanisms to enable enhanced access, including for underrepresented groups within IP communities such as women and youth.

What the Policy says – paragraph 22(h): GCF should promote respect for the right of IP communities to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, and ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

What USP-3 should do: Support IP organizations and IP-chosen intermediaries and mechanisms that can deliver effectively at the community level, through flexible and context-appropriate approaches.

Q10. Greatest impact in the 2028–2031 landscape

What the Policy says – paragraphs 101–103: GCF commits to generating and sharing knowledge from IP experience and Policy implementation, capitalizing on knowledge from other organizations, and making this an integral part of GCF communications, with AEs assisting.

What USP-3 should do: Make alignment with peer funds that have established dedicated IP mechanisms the single highest-leverage move in USP-3. This will close a visible gap, mobilize co-financing, and unlock the climate and biodiversity impact concentrated in IP-stewarded territories. USP3 could systematically resource knowledge generation from IP experience, including documentation of good practice from AEs and states.

The immediate priority is to translate the wide range of ideas and practical solutions already on the table into concrete action, in particular the outcomes of consideration by the Board of a dedicated framework or resources for IPs at its forty-sixth meeting.

Q11. Other considerations

What the Policy says – paragraphs 29, 81: GCF will support the work of the IPAG and ensure its recommendations are effectively conveyed to the Board, AEs and states; the IPAG mandate includes advising on the implementation and monitoring of the Policy.

What USP-3 should do: Sustain continued engagement through follow-up GCF global and regional dialogues with IPs to maintain trust and translate commitments into outcomes; engage Indigenous Peoples and the IPAG throughout USP-3 design and replenishment processes. The IPAG affirms its support for a successful GCF replenishment and updated strategic plan.

Closing

The IPAG stands ready to engage substantively with the Secretariat and Board through the USP-3 design process, and to support the operationalization of any of the recommendations above. The recommendations are supported by available evidence and help fulfil guidance on Indigenous Peoples from the Conference of the Parties to GCF. The structure of this submission, consisting of Policy commitment first, followed by the call for delivery under USP-3, is intended to underscore that most of what is proposed builds on existing GCF commitments rather than new ones. What is needed in USP-3 are the architecture, resources and accountability to deliver these commitments.
