Indigenous peoples and climate action

BMZ activities to strengthen indigenous peoples' rights

BACKGROUND

Indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge are crucial to protecting the global climate and biodiversity. Yet their contribution often remains invisible in government policies.

→ Nobody else protects forests as effectively as indigenous peoples do.

→ Comprising less than 5 per cent of the world’s population, indigenous peoples protect 80 per cent of global biodiversity.

Agro-industry and natural resource extraction, among others, continue to threaten indigenous territories.

→ The persecution and criminalisation of indigenous peoples are a worrying global trend. In 2018, one quarter of the 164 land and environment defenders who were killed were indigenous people (Global Witness).

The potential of indigenous peoples for climate action cannot be viewed in isolation from their rights.

→ Access to land and resources for indigenous peoples is key to ensuring that they can contribute to sustainable land use and management, offering solutions for climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

→ Effective participation in climate policy and action plans needs to be strengthened at the local, national and international levels.

→ Inadequate consultation on mitigation and adaptation measures may have negative impacts on indigenous peoples’ rights, for instance in the context of renewable energies.
**KEY ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES**

The BMZ is committed to strengthen the rights of indigenous peoples. One third of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are linked to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*. With the 2030 Agenda, Germany pledged to empower indigenous peoples and not to leave them behind.

The BMZ gives priority to four areas of intervention:

1. **HUMAN RIGHTS**
   - The BMZ supports the *Global Campaign Against the Criminalization and Impunity of Indigenous Peoples*. It fills an existing gap by focusing on the violation of the collective rights of indigenous peoples and the need for collective prevention and response mechanisms.
   
   - The BMZ supports efforts to implement and apply the principle of *Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)*. This includes FPIC protocols developed by indigenous communities in Brazil, Peru and Colombia; best practices of the Aluminium Stewardship Initiative (ASI); and applied research regarding conflicts between FPIC and mining law.

2. **CLIMATE ACTION**
   - The BMZ supports the *Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)* of the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*, which provides a unique mechanism for indigenous participation.
   
   - About 200 million euros of the bilateral budget for climate financing goes towards measures for the participation of indigenous groups. Germany is a major contributor to multilateral climate funds, such as the *Green Climate Fund (GCF)* and the *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*. With German support, both have established strong standards on indigenous peoples.
   
   - Two thirds of the bilateral development cooperation budget for *biodiversity*, that is more than 1 billion euros, are earmarked for activities linked to indigenous peoples.

3. **FOREST PROTECTION**
   - In all three major rainforest regions – Amazon Basin, Congo Basin, South-East Asia – the BMZ supports its partner countries with regard to the participatory management of forest conservation areas, which contributes to protecting biodiversity but also the rights of local and indigenous communities.
   
   - During the Climate Action Summit in 2019, the BMZ earmarked 20 million euros for *capacity building for indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of REDD*+*. This support strengthens the negotiation capacities of indigenous peoples and their recognition.

4. **LAND RIGHTS**
   - The BMZ supports improved access to land and secure land tenure for indigenous peoples in Peru, Brazil and the Mekong region.