



Tribal Link Foundation - Project Access Global Capacity Building Training Program

18th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

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This intervention is presented by the participants of Project Access Global Capacity Building Training Programme representing the following six regions of the world: Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America and The Caribbean, Pacific, Transcaucasia*

Agenda Item 9: *Discussion on the theme “Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection”.*

Presented by:

Leonard Kipkemoi Mindore

Thank you, Madam / Mr. Chair

We, the participants of Project Access Global Capacity Building Training acknowledge the Lenape Peoples, the aboriginal custodians of this land.

In the eyes of Indigenous Peoples, traditional knowledge is very broad, it ranges from our culture, Identity, foods, language, lands and environment, to our conservation practices and education systems. While this list is not inclusive; we stress Traditional Knowledge is a link between the physical and the spiritual realm.

However, our traditional knowledge and culture is under threat. For example:

Dominant societies continue their forced assimilation practices by distorting and undermining our ideologies, history, language, cultures, ways of life and spiritual beliefs. For example: a student was told **“you are not who you claim you are”**. We wish we could say this is an isolated incident, but it is not, it happens all over the world. It is a clear violation of the Right to Self Determination, and Articles 8.1, 11, 12,13, among others, in the UN Declaration.

For Indigenous Peoples, the concept of conservation and sustainable use of resources is **not new**. In fact, it has always been an integral part of our existence. We uphold 80% of the planet’s healthiest ecosystems, biodiversity, and systems essential to the security of global food production, freshwater and the Earth’s climate. The current conservation approaches by non-indigenous and scientific views, such as mono-agriculture, deforestation and other practices, distort and oppose our success at conservation, of applying our traditional practices and knowledge, as described in Article 31.

When speaking of extractive industries, many forget about the extraction of traditional knowledge that is taking place without any benefit sharing to the Indigenous Peoples involved. While others place great value on commodities such as diamonds, to us, this is our life. We are connected to Mother Earth which is at the core of all this. We choose to present an example of what happens when Indigenous Peoples have control of their Traditional Knowledge and promote their own Economic Development.

The Yawanawa Peoples of Brazil, have developed: methods for the revitalization of culture, language, education, ecotourism, trade, commerce, technology, agro-forestry management, and continue to excel. We believe these success stories could be replicated and would be beneficial for all Peoples.

Hence, in the spirit of SDGs "*leaving no-one behind*", we want to make the following recommendations:

1. That the Forum urge ECOSOC, States and other UN agencies to provide adequate funding to promote and establish Educational Programs and Technology that would empower Indigenous Peoples to preserve traditional knowledge.
2. That the Forum promote and encourage the protection of Traditional Knowledge, and that Traditional Knowledge holders be equal partners in the conservation practices.

Fulfilled funding needs, respect of Traditional Knowledge, Education and Equal Participation will help us attain most of the SDG's, as well as address the Climate Change challenges facing the world.

Kongoi!