



An indigenous-led strategy for conservation in IUCN

**Seventeenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)
New York City, 16th April to 27th April 2018**

Item x:

**Delivered by:
Yeshing Juliana UPUN YOS
IUCN Delegation**

Mister/Madam Chair, distinguished members of the UNPFII and distinguished participants

Allow me first, Madam/Mister Chair, to congratulate you on your appointment to chair the Permanent Forum at its seventeenth session and to wish you success in your functions.

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and thereby join these important discussions, with fellow indigenous peoples from around the globe.

In making this statement, IUCN would like to highlight recent notable advances for indigenous peoples issues in conservation.

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of government and civil society organisations, as well as indigenous peoples' organisations. IUCN Members take part in a democratic process, voting on Resolutions which drive the global conservation agenda. Through its Members, IUCN has the mandate for advancing indigenous issues within conservation and over past years has been updating the UNPFII on these efforts.

As reported to the UNPFII at its sixteenth session, during IUCN's Sixth World Conservation Congress in 2016, Members adopted a decision to create a new separate category of membership for Indigenous Peoples' Organisations. We at IUCN are extremely proud of having reached this monumental decision and we encourage other organizations to explore how the voice of Indigenous Peoples can be reflected in the governance of these organizations. For us at IUCN, this was the first time in our 70-year history during which IUCN reformed its membership categories. And this reform was instituted specifically to meet the demands of indigenous peoples' organisations. The landmark decision opened the opportunity to strengthen the presence, voice and role of indigenous organisations in IUCN.

IUCN's Member Indigenous Peoples Organisations, which currently include seventeen organisations from six continents, convened as a group for the first time in March of this year to determine joint priorities and how to engage with each other and within IUCN moving forward. They drafted a comprehensive and ambitious self-determined strategy for advancing indigenous issues within IUCN and more broadly in conservation.

They are also working in collaboration with IUCN's expert Commissions and

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Secretariat to ensure an effective participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation and future directions of IUCN's Programme.

It is important to note, however, that the broader IUCN program has a long history of working closely with indigenous peoples through IUCN's programmatic on-the-ground engagement. From Asia, to Africa, the Pacific and the Americas, the voice and engagement of indigenous peoples in the IUCN programme of activities have been a constant. Much has been learned by IUCN from the indigenous voices during the years. Indeed, IUCN is acutely aware that indigenous peoples are often the best stewards of the land and the best managers of sustainable ecosystems.

In this context, IUCN's Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members will also engage proactively with IUCN's statutory work advising the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, including on the evaluation of new nominations of World Heritage Sites, and monitoring of listed sites, as well as in the development of policies, guidance and standards to ensure that indigenous issues are properly considered in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. We will also engage with IUCN's World Heritage Programme to support the newly formed International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage, announced at the World Heritage Committee last year.

IUCN Indigenous Peoples' Organisation Members also aim to support the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights and indigenous lands, territories and protected areas by National Governments through dialogues, strategic engagement and case studies.

The complexities of issues to be addressed and ambitious nature of the strategy will be complex but offers massive opportunities, and IUCN stands ready to support the implementation of this indigenous-led strategy and its Indigenous Peoples Organisation Members.

IUCN looks forward to advancing its work with indigenous peoples and in continued engagement with the UNPFII.

Thank you Mister/Madam Chair



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Una Estrategia Liderada por los Pueblos Indígenas para la Conservación en la UICN

Decimoséptima Sesión del Foro Permanente para las Cuestiones Indígenas de las Naciones Unidas (UNPFII)
Nueva York, 16 abril al 27 abril 2018

Item x:

Delivered by:
Yeshing Juliana UPUN YOS
Delegación de la UICN

Señor / Señora Presidenta, distinguidos miembros del Foro Permanente y distinguidos participantes,

Antes que nada Señor Presidente, permitame felicitarlo por su nombramiento para presidir el Foro Permanente en su decimoséptima sesión y desearte éxito en sus funciones.

Estoy muy honrada de hacer esta declaración en nombre la Union Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (UICN) y, de este modo, unirme a estas importantes discusiones con otros pueblos indígenas de todo el mundo.

Al hacer esta declaración, la UICN desea destacar los recientes avances notables para los asuntos de los pueblos indígenas en la conservación.

La UICN es una Union de miembros integrada exclusivamente por organizaciones gubernamentales y de la sociedad civil, así como por organizaciones de pueblos indígenas. Los miembros de la UICN participan en un proceso democrático, votando sobre Resoluciones que impulsan la agenda de conservación global. A través de sus miembros, la UICN tiene como mandato avanzar en temas de interés indígena dentro de la conservación y en los últimos años ha mantenido informado al Foro Permanente en estos esfuerzos.

Como se le informó al Foro Permanente en su decimosexta sesión, durante el Sexto Congreso Mundial de la Naturaleza de la UICN en 2016, los Miembros adoptaron la decisión de crear una nueva categoría de membresía para las Organizaciones de Pueblos Indígenas. Nosotros en la UICN estamos muy orgullosos de haber logrado esta monumental decisión y alentamos a otras organizaciones a explorar formas en la que voces de Pueblos Indígenas pueden verse reflejadas en la gobernanza de estas organizaciones. Para nosotros en la UICN, esta fue la primera vez en su historia de 70 años en la que la UICN reformó sus categorías de membresía. Esta reforma se dió específicamente para satisfacer las demandas de las organizaciones de los pueblos indígenas. La decisión histórica abrió la oportunidad de fortalecer la presencia, la voz y el papel de las organizaciones indígenas en la UICN.

Las Organizaciones Miembro de Pueblos Indígenas de la UICN, que actualmente incluyen diecisiete organizaciones de seis continentes, se reunieron por primera vez en marzo de este año para determinar prioridades conjuntas y maneras de interactuar entre sí y dentro de la UICN. Elaboraron una estrategia auto

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determinada amplia y ambiciosa para avanzar en los asuntos indígenas dentro de la UICN y la mas ampliamente en la conservación.

También están trabajando en colaboración con las Comisiones de Expertos y el Secretariado de la UICN para asegurar una participación efectiva de los pueblos indígenas en la implementación y las direcciones futuras del Programa de la UICN.

Sin embargo, es importante señalar que el programa mas amplio de la UICN tiene una larga historia de trabajo en estrecha colaboración con los pueblos indígenas a través del compromiso programático de la Unión a nivel de comunidad. Desde Asia hasta Africa, el Pacifico y las Américas, la voz y el compromiso de los pueblos indígenas en el programa de actividades de la UICN ha sido una constante. La UICN ha aprendido mucho de las voces indígenas durante los años. De hecho, la UICN está muy consciente de que los pueblos indígenas a menudo son los mejores administradores de la tierras y los mejores administradores de ecosistemas sostenibles.

En este contexto, los Miembros de las Organizaciones de Pueblos Indígenas de la UICN también participaran de forma proactiva con el trabajo estatutario de la UICN asesorando al Comité del Patrimonio Mundial de la UNESCO, incluyendo en la evaluación de nuevas nominaciones de sitios del Patrimonio Mundial y el seguimiento de los Sitios ya nombrados así como en el desarrollo de políticas y estándares para asegurar que los temas indígenas sean considerados adecuadamente en la implementación de la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial. También participaremos con el Programa de Patrimonio Mundial de la UICN para apoyar el Foro Internacional de Pueblos Indígenas sobre el Patrimonio Mundial, un grupo de reciente creación anunciado en el Comité del Patrimonio Mundial del Año Pasado.

Los Miembros de las Organizaciones de Pueblos Indígenas de la UICN también pretenden apoyar el reconocimiento de los derechos de los pueblos indígenas y las tierras, territorios y áreas protegidas indígenas por parte de los gobiernos nacionales a través del dialogo, el compromiso estratégico y los estudios de casos.

Las complejidades de los temas que se abordaran y el carácter ambicioso de la estrategia serán complejos pero ofrecen oportunidades importantes, y la UICN esta dispuesta a apoyar la implementación de esta estrategia dirigida por representantes indígenas y Miembros de las Organizaciones de los Pueblos Indígenas.

La UICN espera avanzar en su trabajo con los pueblos indígenas y en su compromiso continuo con el Foro Permanente.

Gracias Señor/Señora Presidente.