Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples: Local-global monitoring of their rights, knowledge and well-being

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Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples

• The UN Statistics Division has noted that the issue of indigenous peoples and data collection is ground-breaking work.

• Indigenous issues are an important emerging theme in social statistics.

• The collection of reliable data would allow judgments to be made about the effectiveness of programmes that have a direct impact on the quality of life of the world’s indigenous peoples eg. CBD Implementation
IIFB WORKING GROUP ON INDICATORS

• Working as a research and information network, collaborators will engage in discrete projects/activities, which will be linked and organized to deliver specific outputs:
  * CBD Indicators
  • MDG Indicators
  • Human Rights Indicators
  * National Indicators
  • Local Indicators

• International Coordinating Committee
• Secretariat - Tebtebba Foundation
• Collaborators - ILO, Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, CBD Secretariat, UN Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues
IIFB Process and Activities

• Regional and Thematic Workshops

• International Seminar
  Executive Summary of the International Expert Seminar on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples, the CBD and the MDGs (UNEP/CBD/WG8j/5/8)
  Full report - UNEP/CBD/WG8j/5/Inf.2

• Resource Book on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples
Global Core Themes/ Issues for Indigenous Peoples’ Well-being

1. Security of rights/ secure tenure to territories, lands and natural resources.
2. Integrity of indigenous cultural heritage
3. Gender dimensions - elders, youth, men, women
4. Respect for identity and non-discrimination
5. Fate Control or Self-Determination
6. Culturally-appropriate education
7. Health
8. Full, informed and effective participation (FPIC)
9. Access to infrastructure and basic services
10. Extent of external threats
11. Material well-being
12. Demographic patterns of indigenous peoples
Indicators on Traditional Knowledge under the Convention on Biological Diversity

Focal Area: Protection of Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices

- Status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages - UNESCO

- Status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations - using ILO International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) and Convention 111 (Elimination of Discrimination in Employment and Occupations)

- Status and trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities - further development by IIFB Working Group on Indicators using participatory community cultural mapping and GIS, and surveys

- Customary sustainable use indicators - further development by WG 8j

- Demographic trends/ Data disaggregation - with governments
Some Challenges

• Data collection and disaggregation concerning indigenous peoples poses unique challenges in terms both of developing data for global / national comparative purposes and of developing data that is useful at a micro-level for indigenous peoples.
  – Human Development Index +++
  – Poverty Index +++
  – Gender Empowerment Index +++

• Quantitative data and qualitative data (eg case studies)
Human Development Index

• Arctic Human Development Report - Arctic Social Indicators Project

• Community Well-being Index (Canada)

• India - Poverty Index, and Human Development Index (disaggregated for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes)
Arctic Social Indicators Project

- Income
- Health
- Education

- + Fate Control- the percentage of surface lands legally controlled by the inhabitants through public governments and Native corporations.

- + Contact with Nature- consumption and harvest of country food

- + Cultural Well-being and Cultural Vitality- cultural vitality index
Challenges

• Coordination among agencies, and between agencies and other actors, needs to be strengthened.

• The challenge of coordination presented itself at three levels:
(a) coordination with indigenous peoples’ organizations;
(b) coordination with and between government institutions;
(c) coordination with development cooperation agencies, which work at different time frames and different approaches.
Next Steps

• Discussion with possible partners - global, national, local

• National Pilot Processes - adoption of relevant indicators in by key government bodies, reporting on experiences

• Indigenous peoples to strengthen our indicators work