

23rd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)
Side-event

Culture-Nature: Joint Programme of Work on Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity

15 April 2024, 1:15-2:30 pm, Conference Room IV, UN HQ, New York, USA

Time	Subject	Speaker
1:15 - 1:35	Part 1: Welcome Segment (20 min)	
	Moderator: Q'Apaj Conde Choque , Aymara from Bolivia, Associate Programme Management Officer in the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit, SCBD	
	Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Guyana	Honorable Pauline Sukhai
	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (5 min)	Eliot Minchenberg , Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York and UNESCO Representative to the United Nations
	Permanent mission of Colombia to the United Nations (5 min)	H.E. Leonor Zalabata Torres , Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations
	Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations (5 min)	H.E. Lok Bahadur Thapa , Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations
1:35 - 2:07	Part 2: Perspectives from Indigenous Peoples (32 min)	
	Moderator: Dr. Lorna Williams , Professor Emerita of Indigenous Education, Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Victoria	
	Africa (8 min)	Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim , Association des femmes Peules et Peuples autochtones du Chad, and Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee
	Asia-Pacific (8 min)	Joji Carino , Senior Policy Advisor, Forest Peoples Programme
	Latin America and the Caribbean (8 min)	Myrna Cunningham Kain , Chair of the Guiding Committee, Pawanka Fund
	North America and Europe (8 min)	Aiyana Twigg , Working Group for the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages and Youth Advisory Group, Canadian Commission for UNESCO and Language Consultant and Researcher
2:07 - 2:25	Q & A / interactive discussion (18 min)	
2:25 - 2:30	Closing remarks + summary (5 min)	
	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Vatosoa Rakotondrazafy , Regional Coastal and Ocean Governance Manager, IUCN's IPLC Champion

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INTRODUCTION

At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Joint Programme of Work on the Links Between Biological and Cultural Diversity (JPoW). The JPoW, first established at COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan, serves as a crucial coordination mechanism endorsed to enhance the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) implementation and global awareness of the interplay between cultural and biological diversity. This program will be overseen jointly by UNESCO, CBD, and IUCN. Its objectives encompass devising a unified strategy to combat the decline of both biological and cultural diversity, operationalizing relevant indicators within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and crafting communication and education materials for broad societal awareness of the connections between biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity.

This new program of work and institutional arrangements pertaining to Article 8(j) and related provisions focuses on Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This decision aims to create a more comprehensive and forward-looking program, aligning with global sustainability goals and agreements. It emphasizes the importance of Indigenous participation, recognition of their customary laws, and their role in conservation efforts. The decision outlines, among others, activities related to sustainable use/practices, conservation, equitable benefit-sharing, preservation of traditional knowledge and culture, and the protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

- Highlight innovative strategies and successful practices at the intersection of biological and cultural diversity.
- Advocate for a rights-based, inclusive, and transdisciplinary conservation approach to achieve the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Facilitate the exchange of experiences and insights across various knowledge systems, focusing on Indigenous and local knowledge.

INCLUSION IN THE OVERALL STRATEGY OF THE UNPFII

The event underlines the essential role of Indigenous Peoples in biodiversity conservation and the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework, focusing on the interconnections between cultural and biological diversity. The synthesis of panel discussions, insights, and recommendations can inform the UNPFII's advocacy and policy-making processes, reinforcing the need for a rights-based, inclusive, and transdisciplinary approach in global conservation efforts. This, in turn, aligns with the UNPFII's mission to address issues related to Indigenous peoples' economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights.

CONTACTS

- Khalissa IKHLEF, Programme Specialist, UNESCO (k.ikhlef@unesco.org), and
- Q"Apaj Conde, Associate Programme Management Officer, SCBD (qapaj.conde@un.org)