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Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change: High Vulnerability and Unique Challenges



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Summary of the Presentation

- Indigenous Peoples are often disproportionately adversely affected by climate change
- Global efforts to combat climate change may further undermine Indigenous Peoples' customary rights to lands and natural resources
- Indigenous Peoples have a critical role in the global efforts for climate change adaptation



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Role of Indigenous Peoples in Climate Change Adaptation



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Critical Role of Indigenous Peoples

- Are custodians of natural resources critical for carbon sequestration
- Are repositories of traditional knowledge on climate change adaptation
- Have a proven capacity to adapt to local climate changes



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Repositories of Knowledge on Climate Change

- Indigenous Peoples, through their culture of inter-generational transmission of knowledge over thousand of years, are unique repositories of learning and knowledge on:
 - Successfully coping with local-level climate change
 - Effectively responding to major environmental changes such as natural disasters
- Indigenous Peoples traditional knowledge on climate change can enrich substantively scientific knowledge



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Indigenous Peoples' Adaptation Capacity

- Have contributed the least to global warming by traditionally leading a "low carbon" way of life
- Historically and currently, play a fundamental role in the protection of forests and conservation of biological diversity
- Have a customary set of institutions, rules and practices for the use of land and natural resources in a sustainable manner
- Have cultural as well as political mechanisms to restore sustainable use of land and natural resources when practices are unsustainable (for example, due to lack of alternative livelihood sources)



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Impacts of Climate Change on Indigenous Peoples



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Often Disproportionally Adversely Affected

- Are amongst the poorest peoples globally
- Are heavily dependent on lands and resources for basic needs and livelihoods: food, fuel, shelter, clothing, medicine, ...
- Live in ecosystems particularly prone to the affects of climate change: polar regions, humid tropics, high mountains, small islands, coastal regions, semi-arid deserts, ...
- Are becoming the first wave of “climate change refugees”



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Potential Risks of Compounding Vulnerability

Programs to mitigate and adapt to climate change, if not properly designed and implemented, will potentially affect adversely Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods as well as undermine their customary rights to lands and natural resources



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World Bank Operations on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples



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Climate Change Projects Involving Indigenous Peoples

Examples:

- Kiribati Adaptation Program
- Central America - Regional Integrated Ecosystem Management of Indigenous Peoples Communities
- Andean Countries - Adaptation to the Impact of Rapid Glacier Retreat in the Tropical Andes
- Colombia - Jepirachi Carbon Upset Project
- Colombia - Caribbean Savannah Carbon Sink Project
- Mexico - Indigenous and Community Biodiversity Conservation Project
- Peru - Indigenous Management of Protected Areas
- Mexico - Adaptation to Climate Change in the Coastal Wetlands in the Gulf of Mexico (under preparation)



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Reengaging in Hydropower Development

- Recognition after 10 year hiatus of hydro's potential benefits
- Hydropower as Renewable Energy
- Attention to environmental and social management



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Development Benefits to Local Communities

World Bank Pilot Initiative on Enhancing Development Benefits to Local Communities in Bank-financed Hydropower projects to develop an operational framework and to establish a knowledge base



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Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

- Bank initiative, supported by G8 and developing countries
- US\$165 million pledged in Bali (December 2007)
- Target = US\$ 300 million
- Goal: Set the stage for a future system of positive incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD)
- 2 Mechanisms:
 - Readiness (capacity building) ~ 20 countries
 - Carbon Finance (pilot transactions) ~ 5 countries
- 35 developing countries have expressed interest



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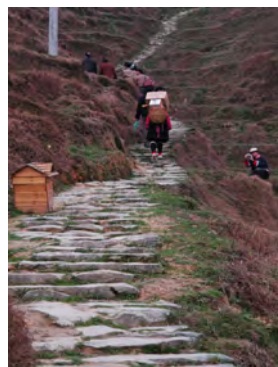
Indigenous Peoples and the Facility

- Consultations on the Facility
- Consultations in the Readiness process and Carbon Finance process
- Special focus of capacity building effort in Readiness Mechanism
- Indigenous Peoples role in benefit sharing depending on country context



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Key Challenges



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Key Challenges

- Recognizing the high vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples to climate change
- Involving Indigenous Peoples as key partners in climate change adaptation mechanisms
 - Integrating Indigenous knowledge on climate change program designs and implementation
 - Designing climate change adaptation programs that do not undermine customary rights to lands and natural resources
- Ensuring that the operations designed to adapt to climate change do not further compound the vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples



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