EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Indigenous Peoples' Resilience Framework

ENABLERS OF INDIGENOUS RESILIENCE

DRIVERS

Land Territories & Natural Resources

Indigenous Governance Systems & Institutions

Indigenous Knowledge Systems Spiritual Values & Cultural Practices

Indigenous Food Systems, Livelihoods & Economies

RIGHTS

Legal & Institutional Frameworks

VOICE

Strategic Engagement & Partnerships with External Actors

INCLUSION

Access to Services, Infrastructure, Markets & Technologies

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR UNDERSTANDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RESILIENCE

Indigenous Peoples are Historically Resilient

Indigenous Peoples are Rights Holders

Indigenous Peoples hold Unique World Views & Values

Process Legitimacy & Dialogue are Critical

Indigenous Peoples demonstrate high capacity for Adaptation & Hybridity

Recognition and support for the unique roles of Indigenous Women & Youth

Background

Indigenous Peoples are resilient. Despite multiple and persistent threats over centuries, Indigenous Peoples are sustaining their cultures and ways of life while making significant contributions to the sustainability of the planet. They have faced shocksranging from the forced dispossession of, and displacement from, their ancestral lands tothe undermining of their cultures and knowledge through the imposition of foreign systemsand values.

At the same time, Indigenous Peoples remain rich in their knowledge, spiritual connection, and conservation of the natural resources upon which we all depend. According to Garnett et al. (2018), Indigenous Peoples manage or hold tenure rights to 28 percent of the world's surface accounting for about 40 percent of Earth's terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact landscapes[1]. At the same time, WWF et al (2021) found that when combining Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' lands, 65 percent remain untouched, and 90 percent are in good or moderate ecological condition[2]. Their contributions to conservation are significant, with 80 percent of the world's biodiversity[3] and 25 percent of all tropical forest above-ground carbon, found within Indigenous lands (RRI, 2018)[4].

Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately impacted by a changing climate, even though they have contributed little to cause this crisis. Climate change's impacts on Indigenous Peoples are more acute due to their close interdependence with nature, the geographical spaces where they live, and their often limited access to services and infrastructure. The increasing frequency and severity of climate impacts on Indigenous Peoples heightens the urgency to bolster their resilience. Whereas significant evidence exists around Indigenous Peoples' contributions to climate mitigation, much less is understood around Indigenous Peoples' resilience and climate adaptation.

This Framework seeks to address this knowledge gap and inform sectoral policies and programs that could directly or indirectly bolster or undermine the *drivers* and *enablers* of Indigenous Peoples' resilience. It builds on Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, experiences, and evidence from across the world. The Framework is timely as it serves as a practical guide on how to advance, in the case of Indigenous Peoples, the World Bank's newly adopted commitment to support "Resilient Populations", as described in Outcome Area Five of the World Bank Corporate Scorecard. At the same time, the World Bank has recently heightened its commitment to sustainability goals through adding "on a livable planet" to its mission statement, which historically focused only on poverty and inequality. This shift more closely aligns the World Bank with Indigenous Peoples' world views and values. Finally, the Framework contributes a unique global public good to a development community that is increasingly recognizing Indigenous Peoples as critical partners in conserving the world's ecosystems and addressing climate challenges.

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[1]Garnett, S. T., Burgess, N. D., Fa, J. E., Fernández-Llamazares, Á., Molnár, Z., Robinson, C. J., Watson, J. E. M., Zander, K. K., Austin, B., Brondizio, E. S., Collier, N. F., Duncan, T., Ellis, E., Geyle, H., Jackson, M. V., Jonas, H., Malmer, P., McGowan, B., Sivongxay, A., & Leiper, I. (2018). A spatial overview of the global importance of Indigenous lands for conservation. *Nature Sustainability, 1*(7), 369–374. https://www.sprep.org/attachments/VirLib/Regional/indigenous-protected-areas-spatial.pdf

[2] [3]World Wide Fund for Nature, UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, GEF Small Grants Programme, ICCA-Global Support Initiative, LandMark Global Platform of Indigenous and Community Lands, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, UNDP Equator Prize, International Land Coalition Secretariat, Conservation Matters LLC, & International Union for Conservation of Nature. (2021). *The State of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Lands and Territories:A technical review of the state of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' lands, their contributions to global biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, the pressures they face, and recommendations for actions.* Gland, Switzerland.

[3] World Bank. (2008). *Protected areas: An effective tool to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing   countries.* https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/995271468177530126/pdf/443000WP0BOX321onservation01PUBLIC1.pdf

[4] Rights and Resources Initiative. (2018). *A global baseline of carbon storage in collective lands: Indigenous and local community contributions to climate change mitigation.* https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/A-Global-Baseline_RRI_Sept-2018.pdf

Objective

The primary objective of this Framework is to identify defining *principles*, internal *drivers* and external *enablers* that support Indigenous Peoples' resilience to climate change and other external shocks. The Framework aims to promote Indigenous Peoples' resilience by informing cross-sectoral policies and programs that could directly or indirectly bolster or undermine the *drivers* and *enablers* of Indigenous Peoples' resilience.

Methodology

The Framework was developed through a participatory and deliberative process that triangulated a range of data and analyses.

A Literature Review that surveyed academic research and literature from development institutions and other key stakeholders on Indigenous Peoples' resilience.

A Review of Legal and Institutional Frameworks to examine of legal and institutional frameworks that have served to enable Indigenous Peoples' resilience and their role in implementing Indigenous Peoples' rights and standards.

A Review of Relevant Human Rights Standards that are key to enabling Indigenous Peoples' resilience through establishing standards and rights for Indigenous Peoples' well-being.

Key Informant Interviews with national, regional, and global Indigenous authorities and thought leaders, as well as lawyers working on Indigenous Peoples' rights issues.

Case Studies of Resilient Indigenous Peoples from diverse ecological and cultural contexts that have both demonstrated emblematic resilience and are being affected by climate change. These case studies are drawn from 16 countries across three regions (South Asia, Latin America, and Africa). [5]

Regional Roundtables with approximately 100 Indigenous thought leaders and government representatives were carried out in three regions to review the Framework's case studies and initial findings and provide a space for rigorous discussion, prioritization, and knowledge-sharing. Initially findings were also shared at a global dialogue with Indigenous leaders in preparation for COP26.

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5 Africa: Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Kenya
Latin America & the Caribbean: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, and Peru
South Asia: Nepal, India, and Pakistan

Defining Principles of Indigenous Resilience

Six Principles

01. Indigenous Peoples are Historically Resilient

Indigenous Peoples have always been resilient, adapting and surviving in the face of threats, violence, and shocks. Resilience is not just about recovery but also about ongoing processes that reinforce collective cooperation and support the preservation of ancestral knowledge, systems, practices and traditions.

02. Indigenous Peoples are Rights Holders

Indigenous Peoples are rights holders and partners in their own development, not beneficiaries or recipients of aid. Their rights, including their collective rights, are articulated in numerous international treaties, national constitutions, and domestic laws.

03. Indigenous Peoples hold Unique World Views and Values

Indigenous Peoples' cultural values and spiritual belief systems strongly regulate their relationships with the spirit world, land, and natural resources. These often drive behaviors and choices aligned with protecting and managing local ecosystems, which they see as equal and integrally connected to human life and well-being.

04. Process Legitimacy and Dialogue are Critical

Indigenous Peoples place great importance on process, emphasizing dialogue, mutual understanding, trust, and consensus-building. This often contrasts with the pace and focus of states and development institutions that are seeking to quickly implement development investments and achieve tangible and quantifiable results.

05. Indigenous Peoples demonstrate high capacity for Adaptation and Hybridity

Indigenous Peoples are inherently resilient, constantly adapting to live between worlds and bringing worlds together. Many of their systems are adaptations of previous systems informed or influenced by external systems or experiences.

06. Recognition and support for the unique roles of Indigenous Women and Youth

Indigenous women possess unique knowledge, skills, and perspectives that enhance their peoples' resilience. They are often keepers of cultural knowledge and values, primary transmitters of intergenerational knowledge, and active participants in community governance and decision-making. Indigenous youth must be deliberately engaged across all *drivers* and *enablers* in order to ensure the intergenerational transference of Indigenous knowledge. This is essential to ensure the future survival of Indigenous peoples and their unique world visions and contributions to a livable planet.

Drivers of Indigenous Resilience

Four Internal Drivers

01. Land, Territories, and Natural Resources

Secure access to customary territories and lands and the rights to use and manage the natural resources within these spaces is the most foundational *driver* of Indigenous Peoples' resilience. Indigenous Peoples' spiritual and cultural relationship to lands and natural resources drives their cultural identities, ways of life and stewardship practices that are fundamental for ecosystem sustainability. This access underpins self-determination, self-governance, traditional knowledge, cultural practices, food security, medicinal needs, and livelihoods.

02. Indigenous Governance Systems and Institutions

Across the world, territorial Indigenous authorities and governance systems persist and are fundamental in promoting Indigenous Peoples' resilience. They do this by enabling self-determination, local decision-making, self-reliance, and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances. These systems facilitate community organization, safety nets, and conflict resolution. In some cases, Indigenous governance systems are officially recognized within their state's institutional and administrative systems and supported through pluralistic legal systems and resources.

At the same time, regional governance platforms and thematic or national-level Indigenous organizations have been fundamental to bolster resilience. They serve to: (i) advance broader strategic priorities, (ii) support engagement and mobilization of resources with external partners, and (iii) promote policies that create an enabling environment for Indigenous Authorities to effectively represent and serve their peoples.

03. Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Spiritual Values, and Cultural Practices

Indigenous knowledge systems, cultural practices, and spiritual values serve as the unifying force behind Indigenous resilience. All three are intrinsically linked to ancestral lands and ecosystems, and build upon multiple generations of wisdom, experience and information gained over centuries. Indigenous knowledge drive resilience by informing communities of weather patterns and emergencies, guiding response protocols, informing adequate infrastructure designs, and guiding the sustainable use of natural resources for food, medicine, healing practices, livelihoods, and collective well- being. They also guide governance systems and bolster individual, family, and community psychological and physical well-being. They empower individuals for their basic survival and provide a shared collective identity of Indigenous worldviews that promote environmental integrity and inform household adaptation strategies. All are expressed and passed down over generations through tangible and intangible cultural heritage and practices.

04. Indigenous Food Systems, Livelihoods, and Economies
Indigenous food systems, livelihoods, and economies are often inherently adaptive and based on core principles of sustainability and collective well-being. They leverage traditional modes of production, customary laws, and non-monetary exchange systems to ensure food security, promote social cohesion, and provide community safety nets. While climate change can, and is, severely disrupting these systems, adaptation and resilience efforts could be greatly strengthened by adopting and uniting these approaches with innovations and technology.

Enablers of Indigenous Resilience

Three External Enablers

01. Rights: Legal and Institutional Frameworks
The adoption and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks that recognize Indigenous Peoples' rights are essential to enable their resilience. These frameworks should operate at global, regional, national, and local levels, ensuring robust implementation mechanisms and adequate resource allocation. The Framework specifically identifies the following rights:
(a) Recognition of Indigenous Peoples as I with distinct cultures and worldviews;
(b) Secure tenure, access and use over customary lands and natural resources;
(c) Self-determination and state recognition of Indigenous governance systems; and
(d) Traditional knowledge and intellectual property.

02. Inclusion: Access to Services, Infrastructure, Markets, and Technologies
Indigenous Peoples often face significant barriers to essential services due to historical marginalization, discrimination, geographic isolation, cultural and linguistic barriers, and economic exclusion. Existing comparative studies of public expenditures in Indigenousvs. non- indigenous areas demonstrate significantly lower levels of per capita public expenditures in Indigenous areas, despite Indigenous Peoples' higher levels of marginalization. To build resilience, it is essential to address these barriers, close investment gaps, and do so in ways that respect Indigenous knowledge, languages, and cultures. The latter is critical to ensure effective uptake, support the *Resilience Drivers*, and promote sustainability. Priority areas identified under this *Enabler* were: (a) inclusion in national alert and emergency response systems; (b) access to quality intercultural social services; (c) investments in basic infrastructure: roads, water and sanitation, schools, health centers and electricity; (d) support for diverse economic opportunities; (e) access to financial services; (f) access to technologies and communication tools for natural resource management; and (g) investments in digital and physical connectivity.

03. Voice: Strategic Engagement and Partnerships with External Actors

In many countries, Indigenous Peoples have established coordination and engagement platforms that foster collective action, solidarity and promote the recognition of rights and resources to support the *Resilience Drivers* and *Enablers*. In the case of some countries and some development agencies, strategic dialogue platforms with Indigenous Peoples have been institutionalized. These platforms have served to enhance mutual understanding and trust, and in so doing, have facilitated strategic planning, mobilization of culturally relevant investments, consultation processes, and prevention and resolution of conflicts.

At all three Regional Roundtables and the Global dialogue, Indigenous leaders stressed the imperative need for strategic engagement and partnerships at national, regional, and global levels together with enhanced access to direct financing. They noted that to effectively engage on critical global issues such as climate change, existing development models need to be modified so that Indigenous Peoples' rights, roles, knowledge, and contributions are duly recognized and supported from the outset.

The World Bank has unique contributions to make within this space. Its broad experience with community and locally driven development programs can inform implementation models to reach remote contexts and work with community leaders and systems. Its pioneering of nature and climate direct financing mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples have produced a wealth of lessons and innovations. And finally, its support for engagement, investments and risk management with Indigenous Peoples has set a new standard and transformed multiple country systems.

Policy Recommendations to support Indigenous Peoples' Resilience

01.

Recognize and Uphold Key Indigenous Rights, including:

- **The recognition of Indigenous Peoples as distinct social and cultural groups** with unique rights and worldviews.

- **Ensuring secure tenure and access rights for Indigenous Peoples over their customary lands and natural resources**, including recognition of collective land tenure systems.

- **Recognition and support of Indigenous governance systems and self-determination** as essential for: their management of natural resources, ability to address climate shocks, provision of social safety nets, and conflict resolution and cohesion.

- **Recognition and protection of Indigenous knowledge, cultural practices and spiritual values** for ecosystem management and collective well-being and promoting the transference of these across generations.

02.

Promote Access of Indigenous Peoples to Intercultural Services, Infrastructure, and Technologies through:

- **Closing public investment gaps** in Indigenous territories with a focus on physical and digital connectivity, basic infrastructure (clean water and sanitation), culturally pertinent social services, and access to diverse eco- nomic opportunities, financial services, and technologies.

- **Adopting intercultural approaches** that integrate Indigenous knowledge, languages, and cultural practices and engage Indigenous Peoples in the design and delivery of these services.

- **Supporting Indigenous-led programs** for service delivery programs.

03.

Foster Strategic Engagement and Partnerships with Indigenous Peoples by:

- **Establishing structured dialogue platforms with Indigenous Peoples** that are built on a mutually agreed processes and objectives, generate cross-cultural understanding, and trust, and facilitate the participation of Indigenous Peoples in decisions that affect them.

- **Investing in the *Process* of meaningful intercultural engagement** by building capacity and mutual understanding among all participating parties, i.e., development agencies, States, and Indigenous representatives, to facilitate processes that are founded on respect and dignity.

- **Supporting direct financing mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples** to increase the availability of funds for Indigenous resilience that have procedural and fiduciary requirements tailored to suit their contexts.

04.

Address Climate Justice by:

- **Recognizing Indigenous Peoples as critical partners in addressing climate change**, ensuring that their voice and participation in policy, decision making, and benefits is commensurate to their contributions.

- **Supporting Indigenous-led climate action initiatives** that promote adaptation, mitigation, and resilience within Indigenous territories.

- **Promoting social integrity and equitable benefit-sharing in climate finance and carbon markets** by ensuring that Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, natural resources and self-determination are secured and that equitable benefit-sharing arrangements are in place.

05.

Recognize and Empower the Roles of Indigenous Women and Youth in Indigenous Peoples' Resilience through:

- **Recognizing and valuing Indigenous women's knowledge and expertise** in traditional medicine, food security, cohesion, financial management, natural resource management and the inter-generational transfer of knowledge and values.

- **Empowering Indigenous women leaders** by ensuring their equitable participation in dialogue and investments, supporting leadership development, and mobilizing resources for initiatives they lead, especially in economic empowerment, food security, and cultural revitalization.

- **Promoting and supporting the intergenerational transfer of knowledge** by adopting Intercultural, Bilingual Education into national education systems, promoting opportunities for youth to learn from elders and knowledge holders, and supporting language and cultural revitalization programs.

- **Supporting youth leadership** to participate in governance and decision-making processes, including Indigenous systems and with external actors and promoting opportunities for youth cross-learning, leadership training, and capacity building on emerging issues.

Conclusion

*The Indigenous Peoples' Resilience Framework builds on the voices, evidence, and experience of Indigenous Peoples from three continents and diverse socio-cultural regions.It attempts to articulate Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and understandings of the concept of resilience. It illustrates through multiple examples what has driven Indigenous Peoples' resilience, especially in the face of climate shocks. The Framework concludes that Indigenous Peoples' resilience over centuries has resulted almost entirely from internal **Drivers**. However, as Indigenous Peoples are part of broader societies and states, these **Drivers** are conditioned by enabling conditions or **Enablers** that are often controlled by external actors. In a moment when the global community seeks to build resilient societies, this Framework offers Indigenous Peoples' unique and nuanced perspectives to inform collective action towards a resilient future for all.*