

Statement from the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD on the Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Strategy 2025–2031

- The Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD wishes to commend the Fund for its strong commitment to advancing climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable practices, and for promoting the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity across its operations. The new Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Strategy 2025–2031 represents an important step in this direction.
- We welcome that the Strategy places strong emphasis on environmental sustainability, the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, and the promotion of low-emission and climate-resilient practices. These priorities resonate with Indigenous Peoples' holistic approaches, traditional knowledge and long-standing stewardship of lands, forests and waters.
- We also appreciate the Strategy's recognition that protecting rights, strengthening governance systems, and valuing Indigenous Peoples' knowledge are essential to achieving lasting climate and environmental outcomes.
- Today, climate change is disrupting agriculture and, with it, the very basis of our existence on this planet—our food and our nourishment. At the same time, unsustainable agricultural practices are also contributing to harm our planet. We can build productive systems that respect the rhythms of nature, that prioritize the right to food for all humans over profit, and that sustain life on Earth.
- We, Indigenous Peoples, are deeply connected to our lands, territories, waters and resources. Our identity, wellbeing and cultures are inseparable from the ecosystems we have safeguarded for generations. We rely on sustainable livelihood practices deeply rooted in our lands and ecosystems, practices that have safeguarded biodiversity for generations while sustaining our food sovereignty and food security.
- Indigenous Peoples remain committed partners of IFAD in the implementation of this Strategy. We stand ready to contribute our knowledge, experience and leadership to ensure that its objectives translate into concrete, transformative action on the ground. Our partnership has consistently demonstrated that when Indigenous-led approaches are integrated, results are stronger, more sustainable and more cost-effective.
- We aspire to a biodiverse, climate-resilient future and we look forward to continued dialogue and collaboration with IFAD and Member States. Sustained engagement with Indigenous Peoples is a strategic investment that enhances the quality, relevance and long-term impact of IFAD's work. When this engagement is steady and well-supported, programmes reach communities more effectively, innovations scale faster and environmental gains last. Building on this collaboration is key for the Strategy to deliver lasting benefits for our communities and territories and beyond.