



Regional Conference Highlighting the Voices of Indigenous Women and Youth for a Just and Sustainable Energy Transition

20-22 September 2024 | Bangkok, Thailand

<https://rightenergypartnership.org/just-transition-2024/>

ASIA INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND YOUTH ROADMAP FOR A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

Background

Climate crisis is causing serious challenges to the people and the planet and while there is a need to accelerate actions to reduce carbon emissions, solutions that are being implemented are increasing challenges that Indigenous Peoples including Indigenous women and youth face in their communities. The transition to renewable energy is increasing extraction of critical minerals needed for the development of these clean technologies. These minerals are most often found in Indigenous Peoples' territories. Large nickel reserves for example are found in Indonesia - of which one of the areas threatened by nickel mining is inhabited by Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation.

The transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy implemented without the respect of Indigenous Peoples' rights is resulting in displacements, loss of livelihoods, and adverse impacts to the cultural integrity of affected Indigenous communities. Disproportionate impacts fall on Indigenous women and youth and persons with disabilities, whose voices are often marginalized and are challenged with access to decision-making spaces. While they have to bear the multi-dimensional impacts of critical minerals extraction and deployment of largescale renewable energy projects, the destruction of their lands and the environment exposes them to more economic, social and cultural risks.

Indigenous Peoples' territories have been host to a number of large dams but they are the ones, who still lack access to electricity. The disregard of their rights to their ancestral lands and to self-determination is rendering them in worse situations of displacement that predisposes women and youth to a high level of uncertainties and insecurities including gender-based violence and harm to lives and limbs. To address their marginalization, specifically the need for access to energy, Indigenous Peoples and their support groups have also been initiating community based renewable energy projects to energize individual households, to enhance Indigenous women's traditional occupations, and livelihoods and education of Indigenous learners. These community based projects also strengthen the governance and management of the communities over their lands and resources.

Community based renewable energy projects have high potential to address the development visions of Indigenous women, youth and their communities. Energy transition should be based on



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Indigenous Peoples right to development and their holistic approach to development which notes the integrity and intersectionalities of the environmental, social, cultural, political and spiritual dimensions that is essential to the sense of security and life with dignity for Indigenous women and the youth. Energization will mean unburdening indigenous women which allows for more time for women to engage in other activities i.e. trainings and political participation.

OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure that mining and renewable energy projects including relevant laws and policies are fully aligned with the respect and protection of human rights including Indigenous Peoples' Rights.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Capacity building on safeguards including on monitoring and reporting, following the money and understanding the renewable energy supply chain
- Strengthen community mechanisms that ensure security and well-being of women and youth i.e. health, including mental health
- Gender sensitization of Indigenous Peoples political systems in the context of General Recommendation 39
- Strengthen leadership capacities of Indigenous women and youth for their full and effective participation in decision making including in Indigenous political systems
- Capacity building in conducting community-led impact assessments and in negotiation and accessing redress mechanisms
- Capacity building and awareness raising on Indigenous Peoples rights and relevant laws and policies
- Conduct research on the impacts of renewable energy projects and mining of critical minerals and metals to Indigenous Peoples with emphasis on the specific impacts to Indigenous women and youth
- Document how mining and renewable energy projects are adhering to the respect for Indigenous Peoples, women and children's rights
- Conduct awareness raising on documentations and researches done on violations and non-adherence to international human rights standards of states and businesses
- Establish community protocols (FPIC and natural resource management strengthening roles of Indigenous women and youth in decision making and management of the territory and resources, etc)
- In the conduct of FPIC, ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous women and youth in decision making, including, where necessary, providing safe spaces and accessibility support to ensure the engagement of Indigenous women and youth



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- Conduct mapping of territory and identify no go zones for projects
- Develop guidance on Human Rights Due Diligence
- Strengthen organizations and movements of Indigenous women and youth
- Mapping of energy transition laws and policies at national and regional levels vis-a-vis IPs' rights and climate solutions
- Support legal and policy reforms for just energy transition with respect to Indigenous Peoples' rights
- Conduct holistic security trainings for Indigenous Peoples
- Strengthen the capacities of Indigenous women and youth to access equitable benefits from energy transition projects

OBJECTIVE 2: Establish effective mechanisms for meaningful engagements with Indigenous Peoples to establish trust, collaboration and partnerships

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Strengthen networking and collaboration with like minded organizations and other peoples' movements and project affected communities and community leaders
- Strengthen Indigenous Peoples justice systems and ensure that it is gender responsive and aligned with international human rights standards
- Mapping of organizations working on just energy transition and those supporting human rights defenders at risk
- Capacity building for Indigenous Peoples in accessing available remedy mechanisms
- Partner with UN agencies to promote the implementation of CEDAW GR 39
- Organize dialogues with governments and businesses on just energy transition
- Strengthen the engagement platforms of Indigenous Peoples with various development banks.
- Collaborate with UN Agencies to establish coordination platforms for Indigenous Peoples and ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous women and youth in these platforms.
- Collaborate with UN Agencies and civil society to provide legal and material sanctuary support for Indigenous women and youth defenders at risk including their communities.



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OBJECTIVE 3: Ensure direct access to funds and technical support by Indigenous Peoples communities to implement their own self determined priorities and development aspirations

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Conduct trainings to strengthen financial accountability and transparency for Indigenous Peoples communities and organizations
- Conduct trainings on fundraising, proposal development, and project management ensuring equal opportunities for women and youth;
- Strengthen self reliance and community ownership by utilizing existing resources within the community
- Establish a multi-donor pooled dedicated funding mechanism for financial and technical support for Indigenous Peoples- and women-led renewable energy and development projects.
- Facilitate fiscal sponsorship, including cross-country collaboration, for Indigenous Peoples' organizations and enterprises to implement their own renewable energy and development solutions
- Support institutional strengthening, including legal registration if needed, of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and enterprises implementing their renewable energy and development solutions
- Lobby and dialogue with donors and investors for flexible rules for funding for Indigenous Peoples' own renewable energy and development solutions

OBJECTIVE 4: Strengthen support for Indigenous-led renewable energy solutions through creating an enabling environment, capacity building and technology transfer

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Conduct capacity building, inclusive of Indigenous women and youth, on the establishment, management, and control of community based renewable energy projects beyond gender based roles
- Strengthen leadership of women and youth in renewable energy initiatives
- Conduct specific inter learning spaces for Indigenous youth and Indigenous women to learn among and between themselves (re: Just Energy Transition and Renewable Energy) to enable their effective participation
- Compilation and publication of experiences of Indigenous Peoples on community based renewable energy initiatives
- Strengthen and establish regional and national learning centers for Indigenous-led renewable energy



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- Enhance capacities of Indigenous Youth on knowledge management and dissemination with security of Intellectual property rights over the knowledge as identified and needed
- Build capacities of Indigenous youth on documentation and dissemination of Indigenous-led renewable energy and development projects through audio-visual materials and popular media
- Provide support for the organizational strengthening of Indigenous-led renewable energy initiatives
- Mapping of laws and policies in relation to Indigenous-led renewable energy solutions and implementation thereof
- Mapping of existing initiatives for Indigenous-led renewable energy initiatives
- Lobby for enabling environment for community-based renewable energy initiatives including recognizing equitable
- Provide support for existing renewable energy initiatives for maintenance and upgrade as needed

OBJECTIVE 5: Strengthen solidarity and collaboration among Indigenous Peoples to jointly advocate for a Just Energy Transition

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Inter-learning exchanges among Indigenous Peoples in country and across countries on experiences on advocacy strategies on renewable energy projects and mining of critical minerals and metals and transfer of knowledge, skills, and appropriate technology on renewable energy
- Strengthen intergenerational learning between Indigenous elders and youth to ensure second line leadership
- Strengthen existing regional networks of Indigenous Peoples working on Just Energy Transition (ie Asia Indigenous Peoples Network on Extractive Industries and Energy – AIPNEE) and networks of Indigenous women and youth (Asia Indigenous Women Network, Network of Indigenous Women in Asia, Asia Young Indigenous Peoples Network, Asia Indigenous Youth Platform)
- Support for digital access of Indigenous communities to strengthen online collaboration, monitoring, reporting, and solidarity