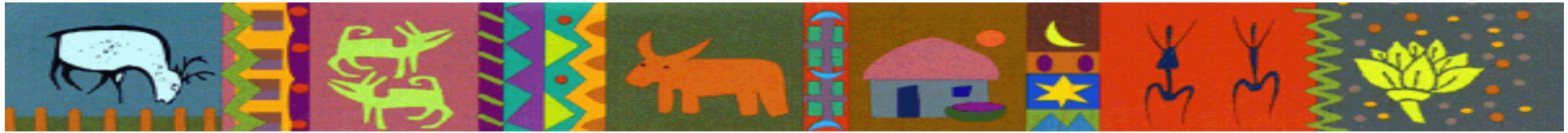


# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CAMPAIGNS ON PROTECTION OF SEEDS AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE: GAINS AND CHALLENGES

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- Chair: UN Permanent Forum on  
Indigenous Issues





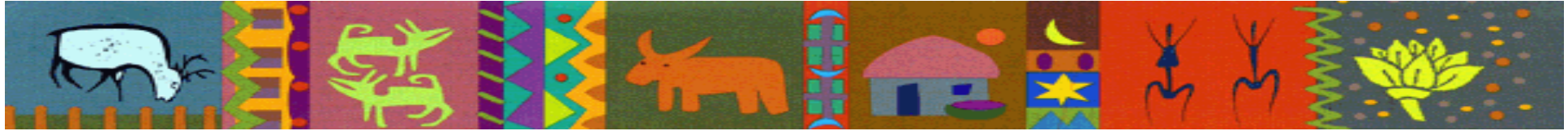
## OUTLINE:

1. Some facts on indigenous peoples
2. Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines
3. Assertion of right to culture and identity and to lands, territories and resources (including seeds)
4. Gains and challenges in the global arena





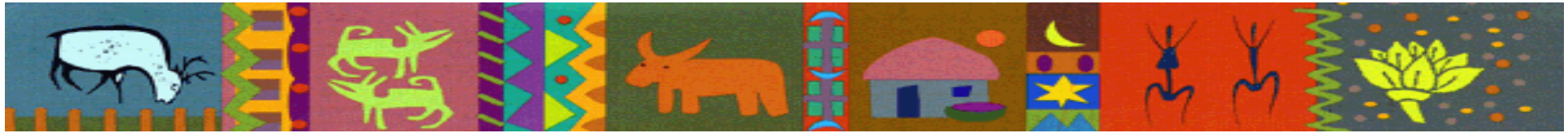




- Indigenous peoples' population exceeds 370 million
- Major contributors to agriculture, ecosystem, biological and cultural diversity worldwide
  - 75% of the world's diverse cultures: 4,000 out of world's 6,000 languages are spoken by indigenous peoples
  - 80% of world biodiversity in indigenous peoples' territories
  - Cultivate 65% of crop varieties consumed worldwide





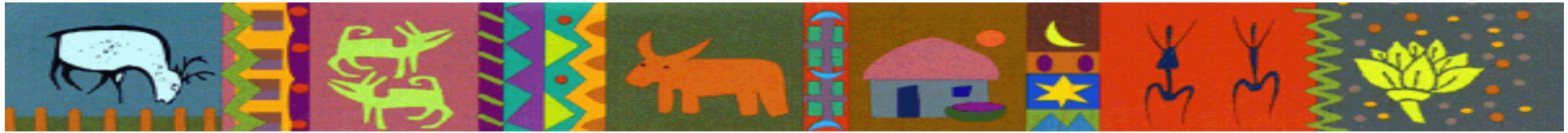


## **Majority of indigenous peoples live in rural areas and still practice traditional sustainable livelihoods ;**

- Shifting cultivation or rotational agriculture
- Trapping, hunting and gathering
- Pastoralism and animal husbandry
- Agro-forestry/high mountain agriculture

Marine and coastal livelihoods

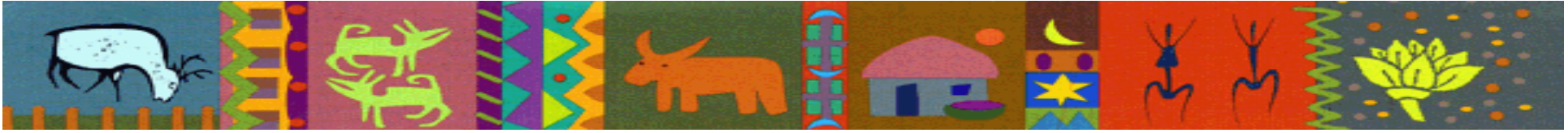




## Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines

- around 100 distinct peoples in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao
- Population – 12 -15% of total population of 85 million
- Kankanaey-Igorot (the people I belong to)
- Indigenous People's Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997

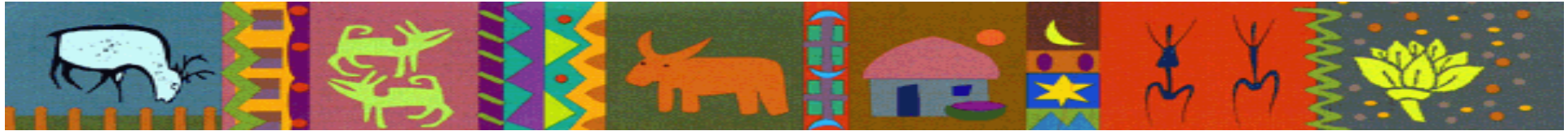




## Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines

- Assertion of rights to culture and identity and rights to lands, territories and resources at national and global level
- Campaign to save seeds and related traditional knowledge one aspect of these rights.
- Ancestral domain and land delineation and ancestral domain devt. plans



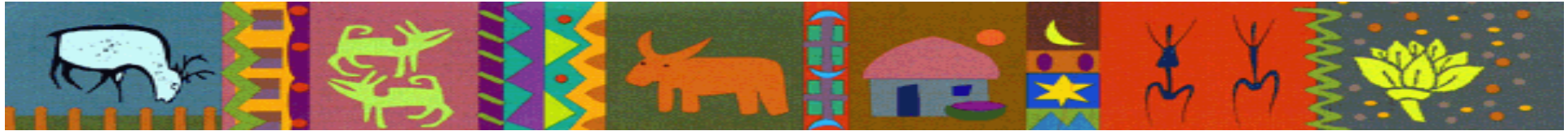


## **Programs and Campaigns on protection of seeds and traditional knowledge:**

- Strengthening traditional livelihoods
- Assertion of customary laws on protection of indigenous science and knowledge as a form of sui-generis protection of TK
- In situ (on field) conservation and seed banking
- Seed development and local seed breeding



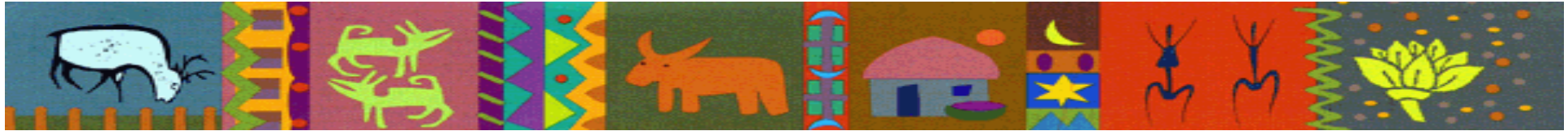




## **Programs and Campaigns on protection of seeds and traditional knowledge:**

- Campaigns against biopiracy
- Campaigns against GMOs –local ordinances to declare GMO-free provinces and villages
- Capacity building for indigenous peoples for national implementation of Convention on Biological Diversity
- Implementation of the UNDRIP and the IPRA





## **UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

- **13 Sept. 2007 – adopted at 61<sup>st</sup> Session of General Assembly. (GA Res 61/295) – 22 years after drafting process started.**
- **144-voted yes; 4 voted no (USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, US)**
- **24 Preambular paragraphs and 46 articles**

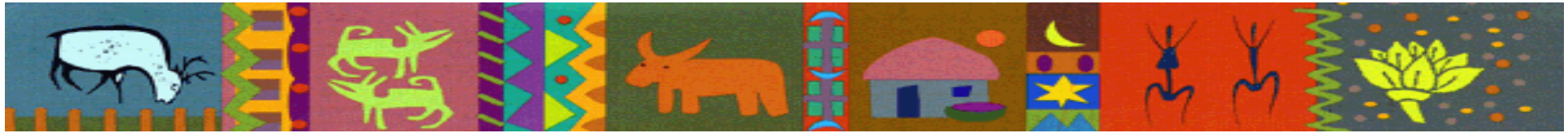








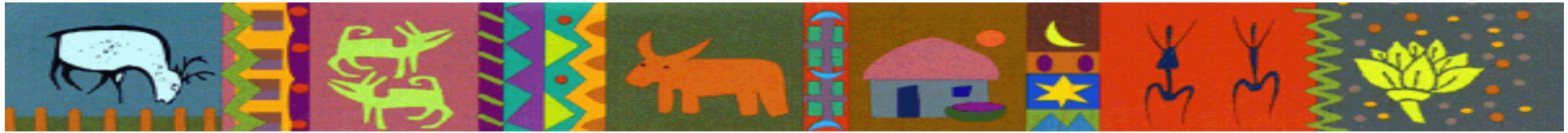




## UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- PP 6: indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of
- colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources..
- preventing them from exercising their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests,

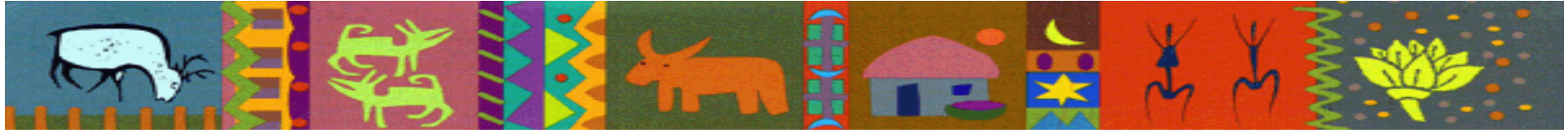




*PP 7: Recognizing* the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive

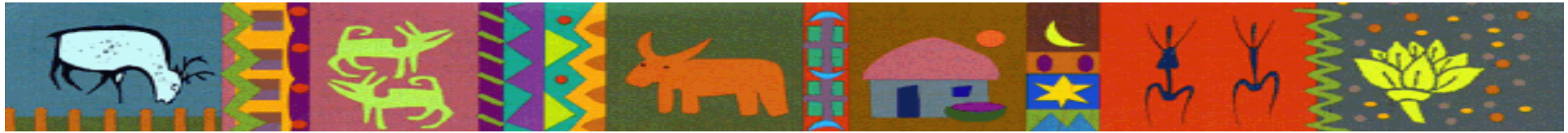
- from their political, economic and social structures
- from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources





- Art.3:** Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination.
- By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.



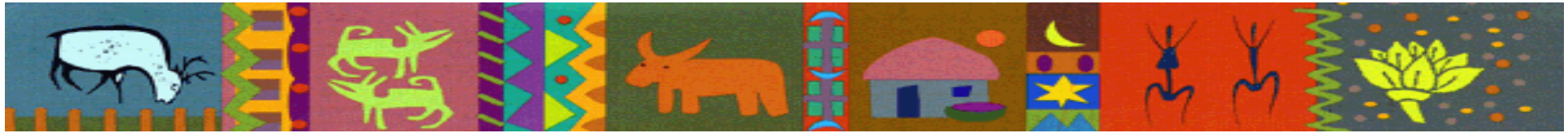


## Art.20:

1. right to maintain and develop their economic and social systems
  - ◆ to be secure in their enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development,
  - ◆ to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.



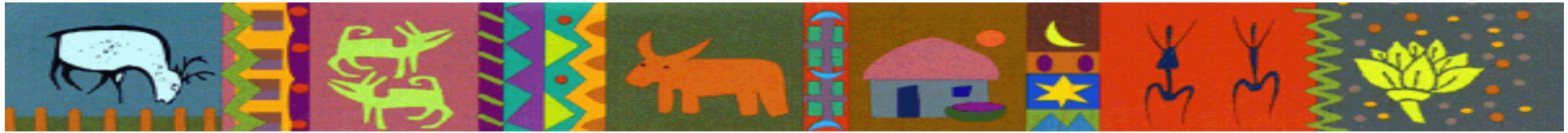




**Article 25:** Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their

- traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters, and coastal seas and other resources
- and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.





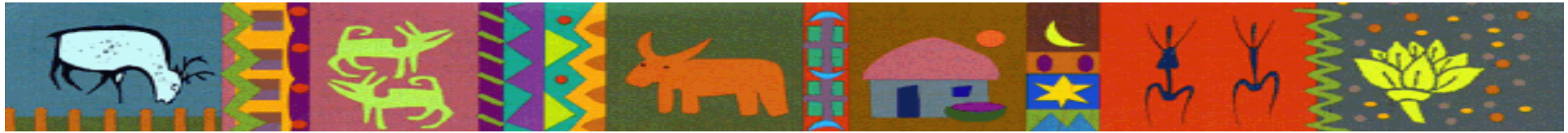
**Art. 26:** 1) Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired





**Art. 28** -right to redress to lands, territories and resources which are taken, confiscated, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent



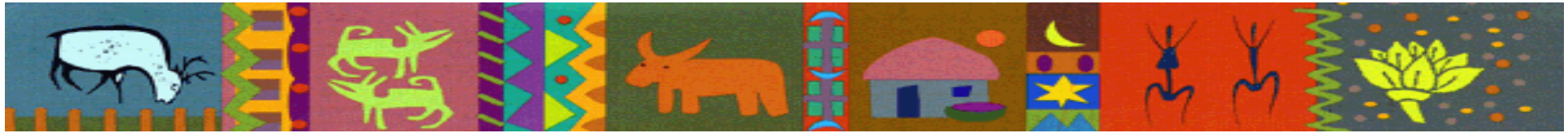


## **Art. 31: 1) right to maintain, control, protect and develop their**

- cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions
- manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures,
- including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, design

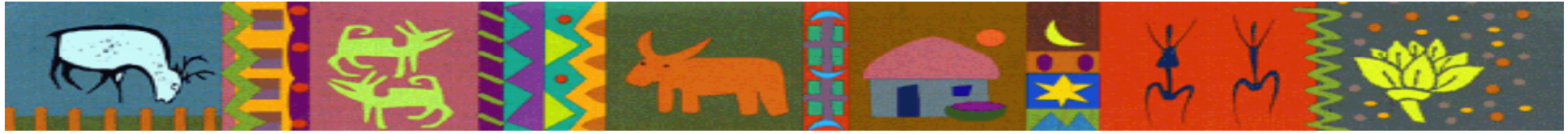






**Art. 42** – The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues..and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration

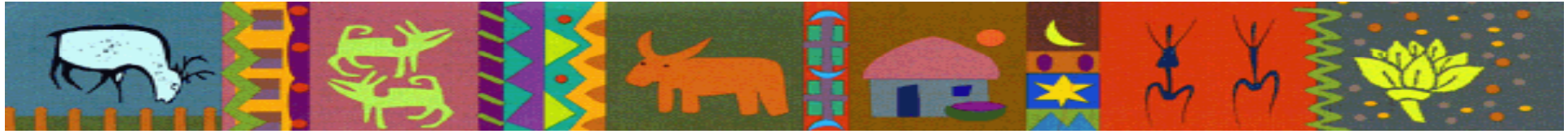




## **Establishment of spaces, mechanisms and bodies within the UN**

- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2000) – 8 indigenous experts/8 government experts
- UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.(2001)
- Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples (2005-2015)





## **Programme of Action of the Second Decade**

Objective iii. Redefining development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally appropriate, including respect for cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples.





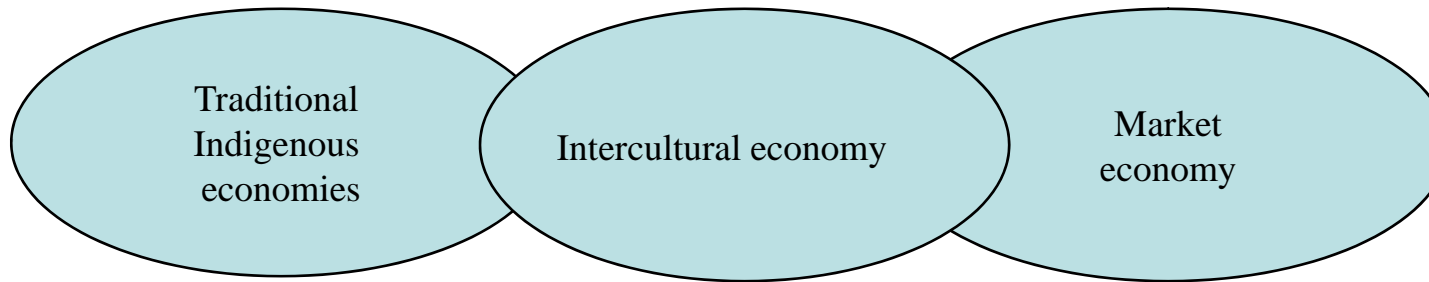
## Challenges:

- Popularization and Implementation of UN Declaration on the Rights of indigenous peoples and Second Decade Programme of Action.
- Strengthening indigenous peoples' traditional livelihoods
- Effective implementation of Article 8j of CBD (protection of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities) at national/local level
- Promoting indigenous peoples' self-determined development or development with identity and culture





# Strategies for indigenous economic development



## **Strengthening territory and Identity**

- Regularize ownership
- Food security
- Sustainability of heritage
- Production and delivery of goods and services within the community
- Alternative financing services
- Strengthening governance systems
- Strengthening juridical systems

## **Capitalizing on comparative advantages and market niches**

- Ethno-tourism
- Management of heritage
- Integrated Ecosystems Management (NRM, protected areas, agro-biodiversity)
- Arts and handicrafts
- Medicinal plants
- Organic products, etc
- Environmental services
- Germplasm banks
- Intercultural education
- Intercultural health system

## **Increasing Inclusion**

- Labour markets
- Good and services markets
- Higher Education and training
- Financial and business services
- Strengthening linkages between indigenous governance systems and national systems
- Strengthen interface between indigenous juridical systems and national systems

Source: Adaptation from C. C. Perafán, "Impacto de cultivo ilícito en pueblos indígenas" AIBD, 1999 and Deruyttere, A. Strategy for Indigenous Peoples (Draft), 2006



5. Increasing indigenous peoples' participation and visibility in other social movements and global spaces.
6. Strengthen capacities of indigenous peoples to file legal cases against corporations and against government.

