

Available at [www.dgmglobal.org/documents](http://www.dgmglobal.org/documents) in English, Español, Français, and Português.

Website: [www.dgmglobal.org](http://www.dgmglobal.org)

Twitter: @DGM\_Global

Facebook: @dgmglobalproject

## DGM Digest: COP23 Edition

November was a busy month for the **Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM)**, with several representatives traveling to Bonn to participate in the DGM's 2nd Global Exchange and the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP 23) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Now that COP 23 has ended, we are eager to share some updates and celebrate a major achievement for indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) through this special edition of the DGM Digest.



Above: DGM Global Exchange participants gathered in Bonn, Germany to share their experiences and strengthen their capacity for effective engagement at COP 23.  
Photo Credit: Minnie Degawan

### About the LCIP Platform

The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIP Platform), under development within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is intended to “strengthen the knowledge, technologies, practices, and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change,” to facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices, and lessons learned on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to enhance the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in UNFCCC processes. The LCIP Platform originated from a decision taken two years ago at COP21 in Paris (Decision 1/CP.21, Paragraph 135).

Through a series of formal and informal dialogues to operationalize the concept<sup>1</sup> for this platform, IPLC leaders and other stakeholders from around the world have demonstrated their commitment to global climate action. As developed through these dialogues and ultimately confirmed by the Parties at COP 23, the LCIP Platform will have three main functions:

- **“(a) Knowledge:** the platform should promote the exchange of experience and best practices aiming at applying, strengthening, protecting and preserving traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples, and local knowledge systems as well as technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, taking into account the free, prior and informed consent of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices;
- **“(b) Capacity for engagement:** the platform should build the capacities of indigenous peoples and local communities to enable their engagement in the UNFCCC process. The platform should also build the capacity of Parties and other relevant stakeholders to engage with the platform and with local communities and indigenous peoples, including in the context of the implementation of the Paris agreement and other climate change related processes;

- **“(c) Climate change policies and actions:** the platform should facilitate the integration of diverse knowledge systems, practices and innovations in designing and implementing international and national actions, programmes and policies in a manner that respects and promotes the rights and interests of local communities and indigenous peoples. The platform should facilitate stronger and more ambitious climate action by indigenous peoples and local communities that could contribute to the achievement of the nationally determined contributions of the Parties concerned;”

Eager to make this vision a reality, these IPLC leaders and their many allies, including the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (DGM), came to Bonn, Germany in early November to participate in COP 23.

### IPLC Priorities at COP 23



Januario Tseredzaro of the DGM Brazil National Steering Committee, reflecting on IPLC priorities during the DGM Global Exchange.  
Photo Credit: Patricia Dunne

During the Global Exchange, the DGM asked participants to share a few of the top priorities<sup>2</sup> they hoped to achieve through greater IPLC participation in COP 23 and future UNFCCC processes and events. Here are a few of their responses:

- Support the implementation of the Paris Agreement in accordance with IPLC priorities
- Support the implementation of the LCIP Platform for knowledge exchange
- Support the full and effective participation of IPLCs in climate action
- Increase recognition of the role of IPLCs in climate action
- Ensure that IPLC contributions are reflected in countries' Nationally Determined Contributions

These priorities demonstrate the commitment of these IPLC leaders to supporting global climate action, and the latest developments of the LCIP Platform are a promising sign of even greater engagement going forward.

### Are you ready to listen?



Indigenous peoples participating in COP23 gathered for a ceremony led by an indigenous leader from Canada to celebrate the agreement on the main principles that will guide the LCIP Platform. Photo Credit: Johnson Cerda

Johnson Cerda of the Quechua Indigenous People of Ecuador and the Global Executing Agency (GEA) of the DGM took this opportunity to reflect on the progress made by indigenous peoples in climate action in the 25 years since their role was first recognized at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.<sup>4</sup> He calls on the world to listen and learn from indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge as we work side by side to address climate change.

## The Latest from COP 23



Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) at the COP 23 SBSTA closing plenary. Photo Credit: Luis Barquin

Through a collaborative effort worth celebrating, the LCIP Platform has taken a major step towards implementation at COP 23. The persistent and constructive efforts of IPLCs, along with the transparency and inclusivity of the negotiators, led to a forward-looking decision to begin planning for the implementation of the platform and established some principles to guide it along the way. The full text of the decision is available on the UNFCCC website<sup>3</sup>, but a few of the key outcomes are summarized below:

- Validates the progress made since COP 22, including the official recognition of the platform's three primary functions, as outlined above
- Accounts for the interests and views of IPLCs, and recognizes the following principles in processes related to the platform:
  - Full and effective participation of IPLCs
  - Equal status of IPLCs and Parties, including in leadership roles
  - Self-selection of indigenous peoples' representatives in accordance with their own procedures
  - Adequate funding from the secretariat and voluntary contributions to perform the platform's functions
- Calls for a multi-stakeholder workshop, as the first activity of the platform, on implementing the platform's main functions, to be co-moderated by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and a representative of an IPLC organization, both of whom will play an equal role in the design of the workshop
- Requests that SBSTA consider the further operationalization of the platform at its 48th session (April-May 2018), including the establishment of a facilitative working group, the consideration of a workplan to support the full implementation of the platform's functions, and making recommendations for the continued development of the LCIP Platform at COP24.

The DGM congratulates the IPLCs who led this effort, and all of their partners who have assisted with the development of the platform to date, including the invaluable support of Morocco and Fiji, which prioritized the platform during their Presidencies at COP 22 and COP 23. The DGM is proud to support their efforts as the LCIP Platform takes these next steps towards full implementation.

*"It is promising to see many of the commitments made in Paris beginning to come to fruition. The LCIP Platform...has presented a space for the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to have a role in climate action and this is particularly relevant to the work that we are trying to achieve through the DGM."* - **DGM Global Steering Committee Co-Chair Idrissa Zeba**

## IPLCs in Climate Finance



DGM exchange participants learning about and sharing their experiences with IPLC Engagement in Climate Finance. Photo Credit: Luis Barquin

Beyond its support for the LCIP Platform, the DGM Global Exchange also featured a panel discussion<sup>5</sup> for experts to discuss their experiences engaging IPLCs in climate finance. The panelists included Chris Filardi, who discussed the origins of and prospects for a new initiative called Nia Tero, GSC Co-Chair Mina Setra, who shared her experience as an observer in the Climate Investment Funds and GSC Member Grace Balawag, sharing lessons learned from her participation in the development of the Indigenous Peoples Policy of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Ms. Setra stressed the importance of IPLC representation in the design of the DGM, which is the result of negotiations dating back 10 years. In that time, she learned the importance of patience and persistence in the long process through which the DGM came to fruition. In her words:

*"The DGM is not given to us. We had to fight to get this...We cannot afford to have our negotiators or delegations come and go...it is important to have the history of negotiations from the beginning."*

Ms. Balawag emphasized the importance of working alongside governments, even if they have not always been the allies of IPLCs. She clarified:

*"Even if we are fighting our government, we have to be patient in our negotiations with them so that they will support us in the process, especially at the national level."*

The overarching takeaway from this panel was that strengthening the role of IPLCs in climate action requires committed and persistent representatives, who are patient, have a holistic view of their progress, and are well-versed in the language and history of negotiations.

## Progress Worth Celebrating



Parties met in the "Bula Zone" in Bonn's World Conference Center for plenary sessions and negotiations. Photo Credit: Luis Barquin

Work on the LCIP Platform is far from over, but it's worth taking a moment to acknowledge the progress<sup>8</sup> that was made at COP23 and to recognize the contributions of the platform's champions.

The participation of indigenous peoples and local communities was always constructive, proactive, and clear, and the negotiations were conducted in a way that was transparent, inclusive, and receptive to the views of non-party stakeholders.

The meetings were open to observers, and the negotiators frequently consulted representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations on their views related to specific text under consideration. The co-facilitators and secretariat performed their roles exceptionally in facilitating the discussions and managing the time effectively to achieve the expected outcome.



And finally, the full commitment and leadership of Fiji in the Presidency of COP 23, along with the SBSTA Chair, were key to this result.

Today, we celebrate a major accomplishment for IPLCs in the UNFCCC. Congratulations to them and all the friends of the LCIP Platform, including the negotiators whose commitment made this possible.

## Strengthening IPLC Engagement

Immediately prior to COP 23, the DGM Global Learning and Knowledge Exchange Project (DGM Global) held its 2nd Annual Global Exchange<sup>6</sup>, bringing together 14 key IPLC leaders from 11 countries and 4 regional networks to discuss their priorities and plans for strategic engagement at COP 23.

Recognizing the importance of the LCIP Platform during these negotiations, the DGM Global Steering Committee, consisting of IPLC leaders from 10 countries, made the strategic decision to focus the Global Exchange and engagement at COP 23 around the LCIP platform. This included hosting several important dialogues and side events to feature the perspectives of key stakeholders and raise awareness of the platform's significance at COP 23.

**Understanding the LCIP Platform** – To build a collective understanding of the design and current status of the LCIP Platform, DGM Global conducted a series of technical sessions on the platform as part of its Global Exchange. As planned by the DGM Global Steering Committee, this was an opportunity for the participants to strengthen their understanding of the platform and the current state of negotiations in order to engage more effectively with the UNFCCC in support of the platform once COP 23 had started.



On November 3, Global Exchange participants heard from a panel of LCIP Platform champions. Photo Credit: Patricia Dunne

**Opportunities and Priorities Related to the LCIP Platform** – On the final day of the Global Exchange, DGM Global facilitated a panel<sup>7</sup> with key champions supporting the LCIP platform. Among these distinguished panelists were Raumanu Pranjivan, representing the COP 23 Presidency, Vice-Chair Annela Anger-Kraavi of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), Koko Warner of the UNFCCC Secretariat, Pamela Rocha Perez of Ecuador's COP 23 delegation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rita Mishaan of Guatemala's COP 23 delegation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Geert Fremout of the Belgian delegation, which is represented at COP through the common positions of the European Union.

The focus of this panel was on the opportunities for IPLC engagement in the development and implementation of the LCIP Platform, as well as the panelists' perceptions of its planned functions and structure. They highlighted the need for the platform to have a flexible structure that can evolve over time and emphasized the importance of the platform's inclusive design, ensuring that no vulnerable groups are left behind.

One of the highlights of the panel was its emphasis on the usability on the platform. They shared their perspective that the platform's utility will depend on the continued leadership and commitment of indigenous peoples and local communities to work with governments to ensure that their knowledge isn't just uploaded to some virtual space and forgotten, but that it is incorporated into national and international policy processes. They also expressed that the platform should be a permanent structure of the UNFCCC and that it should be supported by a working group to keep the platform moving forward over the coming years.



DGM Global Steering Committee Co-Chair Idrissa Zeba shared how the work of DGM Burkina Faso is compatible with the country's Nationally Determined Contributions. Photo Credit: Luis Barquin

**The LCIP Platform and NDCs** – One of the functions of the LCIP Platform is to facilitate stronger and more ambitious climate action by indigenous peoples and local communities that could contribute to the achievement of the nationally determined contributions. The LCIP Platform will create a space for dialogue with the UNFCCC parties at the international level, but it will also need to facilitate dialogue at the national level. To share the ways that IPLCs are already contributing to adaptation and mitigation efforts, the DGM, in coordination with the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), invited Lizardo Cauper Pezo of DGM Peru, Laura Bautista of DGM Mexico, and Idrissa Zeba of DGM Burkina Faso and the DGM Global Steering Committee, to share how their work supports their countries' NDCs. By exchanging these experiences, the panelists collectively highlighted how the LCIP Platform is an opportunity for governments to strengthen their engagement with IPLCs at national and international levels and to expand the participation of different sectors of society in the NDC revision process.



Panelists preparing for a side event on African Perspectives on the LCIP Platform. Photo Credit: Patricia Dunne

**African Perspectives on the LCIP Platform** – On November 7, COP 23 celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day by recognizing the contributions of indigenous peoples' initiatives on climate change adaptation and mitigation, highlighting examples from around the world. Joining the celebration, the DGM, in collaboration with the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee (IPACC), the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), and the government of Burkina Faso, hosted an official side event<sup>9</sup> to share African perspectives on the LCIP Platform. The session was moderated by Mr. Merouane Toulfi of the UN Human Rights Council in Morocco, who was one of the key LCIP Platform champions at COP22.

The event began with a presentation by Ouedraogo Pamoussa, of the Permanent Secretariat of Burkina Faso's National Council for Sustainable Development, who described the importance of rural development and engagement with local communities for reaching the country's NDC targets and emphasized the importance of integrating existing communication channels with local communities as a starting point for connecting engagement at national and international levels. Next, Dr. Mohamed Handaine, President of IPACC, shared case studies on the use of traditional knowledge for climate change adaptation in Morocco and Niger.

Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim of IIPFCC then shared a brief overview of the progress of the LCIP Platform to date, as well as a case study on preserving traditional knowledge through 3d mapping in Chad. Finally, DGM Global Steering Committee Co-Chair Idrissa Zeba shared an overview of Burkina Faso's NDCs and highlighted how DGM Burkina Faso has been designed partially in support of the country's national targets. The success of the LCIP Platform will depend on the full and effective participation of IPLCs from all regions of the world, and regional dialogues like this one can help to ensure that no groups are excluded from these processes.

## About the DGM

The **Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (DGM)** is a one-of-a-kind program of the **Forest Investment Program (FIP)** designed and led by representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities, in a collaborative effort with the World Bank. The DGM provides these communities direct access to climate finance so they can enhance their capacity to engage in and contribute to dialogue and actions on **reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+)**.

### References:

1. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbsta/eng/06.pdf>
2. <http://www.dgmglobal.org/activities/2017/11/3/advancing-iplc-priorities-at-cop-23>
3. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbsta/eng/129.pdf>
4. <http://www.dgmglobal.org/blog/2017/11/21/cop23-ready-to-listen>
5. <https://www.facebook.com/limoncocha/videos/10155222290970547/>
6. <http://www.dgmglobal.org/exchanges>
7. <https://www.facebook.com/limoncocha/videos/10155222712755547/>
8. [www.dgmglobal.org/blog/2017/11/16/step-forward-cop23-lcip](http://www.dgmglobal.org/blog/2017/11/16/step-forward-cop23-lcip)
9. <https://www.facebook.com/limoncocha/videos/10155232015025547/>

