



**Terms of Reference: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Advisory Committee  
WCS High Ambition Fund for Nature, Climate and People Proposal  
Phase 2 Call for Nominations**

## **1. Mandate**

The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Advisory Committee (IP&LC-AC) is a new group being created to advise the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) for a proposal it is developing to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) - High Ambition Fund for Nature, Climate and People. The IP&LC-AC will provide advice for the development of an IP&LC Grant Window and guidance to help ensure that the unique rights, interests, and perspectives of Indigenous peoples are acknowledged, affirmed and implemented as part of this Programme. This is envisioned as part of an approximately US \$1 billion co-investment platform bringing together a group of catalytic funding partners to support countries to meet their commitments to 30x30. Indigenous Peoples and local communities, civil society, governments, academia, and businesses are key stakeholders and have to play a central role in this High Ambition Fund such that communities on the ground can meaningfully benefit from this resource. We aim to create an IP&LC advisory committee that is globally representative to advise us on the design of the IP&LC Grant Window and overarching Programme design. A core goal of the Programme is to ensure strong country ownership among both Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and governments and ensure success in furthering 30x30 goals.

The mandate of the Committee will be to provide the Programme with non-political advice reflecting the interests and concerns of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for the development of the IP&LC Grant Window and the overarching Programme design, IP &LC policy, and guidance. The IP&LC-AC will also be asked to advise on approaches for collaboration and engagement with Indigenous peoples on policy and guidance products.

The IP&LC-AC will operate in an open and transparent manner, with final records of proceedings and committee reports made publicly available, subject to confidentiality requirements under legislation or governmental policies. WCS will provide orientation to new members so that they can learn about the mandate of the Programme, the GCF, applicable processes, and roles and responsibilities of Committee members.

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

The roles and functions of the IP&LC-AC are to:

- (a) provide advice to WCS on the proposed GCF HAF Programme and on activities related to the IP&LC Grant Window and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; provide input through national networks into national consultation processes that governments will organize
- (b) specifically for the IP&LC Grant Window, help ensure the fund is designed to support activities to secure legal recognition of land tenure, resource rights and access. The role will entail strategic guidance in:
  1. Designing the IP&LC Grant Window
  2. If the proposal is accepted, potential for oversight and review of the IP&LC Grant Window during the Programme period



(c) being available and prepared to participate in meetings, including potential future in-person meetings, conference calls, videoconferences; and participating in discussions before the IP&LC-AC prepares its advice to the Programme. More information on the High Ambition Fund Programme and the IP&LC-AC can be found in our FAQ document.

### **3. Membership Selection and Nomination Process**

Membership for the IP&LC-AC will be made up of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities representatives as per the seven socio-cultural regional groupings of indigenous peoples identified by the United Nations. Although the focus of the programming will be in the regions of developing states where the proposed GCF HAF Programme may fund activities, such as: Africa, Asia, and Latin America, views of all socio-cultural regions will be important to discuss intersections or overlaps where the other opportunities might be identified through different funding. There will also be seven Local Communities representatives reflecting geographies.

WCS is issuing a follow-up call for nominations to ensure we have full representation from all seven socio-cultural regional groupings of Indigenous Peoples identified by the United Nations. In this call, WCS is specifically seeking:

- 1) Indigenous Peoples applicants from the following regional groupings: the Arctic; Eastern Europe/Russian Fed/Central Asia and Transcaucasus; North America; and Pacific;
- 2) Indigenous Peoples and Local Community representatives from Eastern and Southern Africa, as this will be one of the focal regions for the High Ambition Fund; and
- 3) Local Community representatives from all seven regions.

Members of the Committee will serve as knowledgeable individuals in their own right and in their personal capacity in the best interests of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in conservation. Note: *Membership is not based on representation of a particular nation, community, or organization and Members do not propose to represent on the IP&LC-AC any particular Indigenous nation, society, traditional order, or clan, nor any Indigenous or non-Indigenous organization, employer, profession or constituency; nor receive instruction from any person external to the Committee in order to inform their advice.*

The Terms of Reference, the advice and all work products of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Advisory Committee do not fulfill or replace the obligations of their government or other parties to any Indigenous communities, nor do they affect protocols or treaties created by or signed with Indigenous Peoples for engaging government, industry or others, or for gathering, documenting, managing or sharing Indigenous knowledge.

The composition of the advisory committee membership should have due consideration given to gender balance, as well as representation of youth and people with disabilities where possible. The term of office for members (including alternates) is through the proposal development and submission period of October 31, 2023, and its renewal will be discussed based on the results of the proposal evaluation.

WCS will formally initiate the phase 2 self-selection process, by issuing a call for nominations inviting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to self-select and/or nominate themselves from



relevant regions where the proposed GCF HAF Programme may fund activities. To ensure the broadest distribution to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, WCS will inform international indigenous and local community networks and post to a publicly accessible website. WCS has established criteria for review, created a review panel, and will conduct a review, and appoint members. WCS will also establish and manage the stages of this process, including any formal requirements for the submission of nominations and timeframes for each stage.

We kindly request that nominations from those interested be sent to WCS ([pcylne@wcs.org](mailto:pcylne@wcs.org) and [amontefiore@wcs.org](mailto:amontefiore@wcs.org)) in line with Sections 3 and 4 of the Terms of Reference by close of business on 30 June 2023. Submissions should include: 1) a CV; 2) answers to IP&LC-AC questions (posted [here](#)); 3) a nomination from an IP or LC network, if relevant.

#### **4. Competencies and factors to be considered for IP&LC-AC membership**

In addition to regional representation and balance, membership of the IP&LC-AC will also consider other factors that aim for appropriate competencies and expertise and to ensure adequate representation of the variety and plurality of needs and situations of indigenous peoples in different regions. As the self-selection process is undertaken, Indigenous Peoples organizations and local communities' organizations may wish to consider cross-regional coordination in respect to the nomination of candidates.

The desired type of competencies relevant in the self-selection process for nomination of candidates include -but are not limited to- the following: (a) An indigenous person, living in the respective regions and self-identifies as indigenous to a particular group from the regions of developing states and is connected to the community where the proposed GCF HAF Programme may fund activities; a local community person that is connected to community where the proposed GCF HAF Programme may fund activities (b) An active member of an indigenous peoples organization or local community organization and preferably having a membership to existing regional, sub-regional or national networks/platforms of indigenous peoples and local communities; (c) Demonstrated ability and willingness to represent the views of indigenous peoples and local communities and their organizations in the respective region(s) and globally (again being mindful that individuals do not speak on behalf of all communities or Indigenous Peoples); (d) Knowledge of nature based solutions, climate change, sustainable development, conservation and/or conservation finance, knowledge of the Green Climate Fund mandate and architecture, including familiarity with GCF processes within the region and country is desirable but not required; (e) In-depth understanding of indigenous peoples' and local communities issues, rights and situations in their regions; (f) Demonstrated ability, transparency and accountability to disseminate information arising from activities related to the proposal back to their respective communities and regional networks; (g) Willingness and commitment to be part of and actively participate in the activities of the IP&LC-AC; (h) Demonstrated commitment to the ideals of consensus and solidarity building among indigenous peoples and local communities, hence able to function without bias with regards to nationality, ethnicity, gender or organizational and language or any other affiliations or identities; and (i) Experience in working with a diverse range of constituencies, including indigenous peoples, local communities, State parties, UN agencies and civil society organizations.

Each socio-cultural region will go through its own self-selection process either through a network or



through self-nomination by an individual guided by the above. Women, youth, and people with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply.

## **5. Modalities of work**

At least one meetings of the IP&LC-AC will be held as a kick-off and review of the proposed HAF Programme and the IP&LC Grant Window, and will be organized and supported by WCS as the Secretariat. Future meetings will depend on the success of the proposal and will be discussed. The advisory group members nomination will either be self-nominated or network nomination through an Indigenous Peoples and local community-led, self-selection process for each region and should be gender balanced. Priority consideration will be given to those who have been nominated through their networks.

Outcomes of the IP&LC-AC meetings or activities will be made publicly available. The IP&LC-AC may wish to develop its own rules and procedures, subject to and in a manner consistent with their worldviews and with the Policy and this Terms of Reference, that are necessary to enhance transparency and effectively guide and facilitate the conduct of its roles and functions, including its meetings. WCS is committed to transparency and self-determination of peoples as an operating principle. All activities of the IP&LC-AC are to be transparent with the exception of occasional confidential items that may arise. All Committee members, consultants, guests and WCS staff support who may be in attendance at a Committee meeting or privy to Committee information, shall protect and keep confidential any information that is identified as confidential and is received through participation on the Committee, unless such information is approved by the IP&LC-AC for public release.

To ensure that members speak freely during IP&LC-AC meetings and with regard to the advice that they provide to WCS, IP&LC-AC meeting records and reports will be non-attributable.

Provisions will be put into place to manage actual and potential conflicts of interest, to ensure that the IP&LC-AC members disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest situations that would impact the group member's ability to serve the role and that would reasonably be perceived as having such effect. In the event of any conflicts between these Terms of Reference and the Policy in respect of matters set out in the Policy, the Policy will prevail.

## **6. Code of Ethics**

Members are also expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Members must behave consistently with the principles/values of:

- good faith;
- mutual respect and honor;
- kindness;
- generosity;
- trust;
- humility;
- honesty; and
- integrity.



- Respect relevant provisions in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that pertain to funding; and other international human rights instruments
- Any other principles suggested by IP&LC-AC once formed.

## **7. Meetings, Travel and Expenses**

We will hold at least one meeting to kick-off and review Programme design and IP&LC Grant Window, and potentially one to two more meetings, time allowing, for the final review. If the Programme is funded, we will also explore the potential of this group to hold periodically scheduled meetings to review progress and implementation. Members will receive honoraria for the time spent preparing for and contributing to meeting outcomes, in addition to travel and per diem for participation in meetings.