

# **“The rights of ITPs in Climate Change Mitigation in Suriname, Guyana, Ecuador and Brazil”**

**Webinar Summary Report**

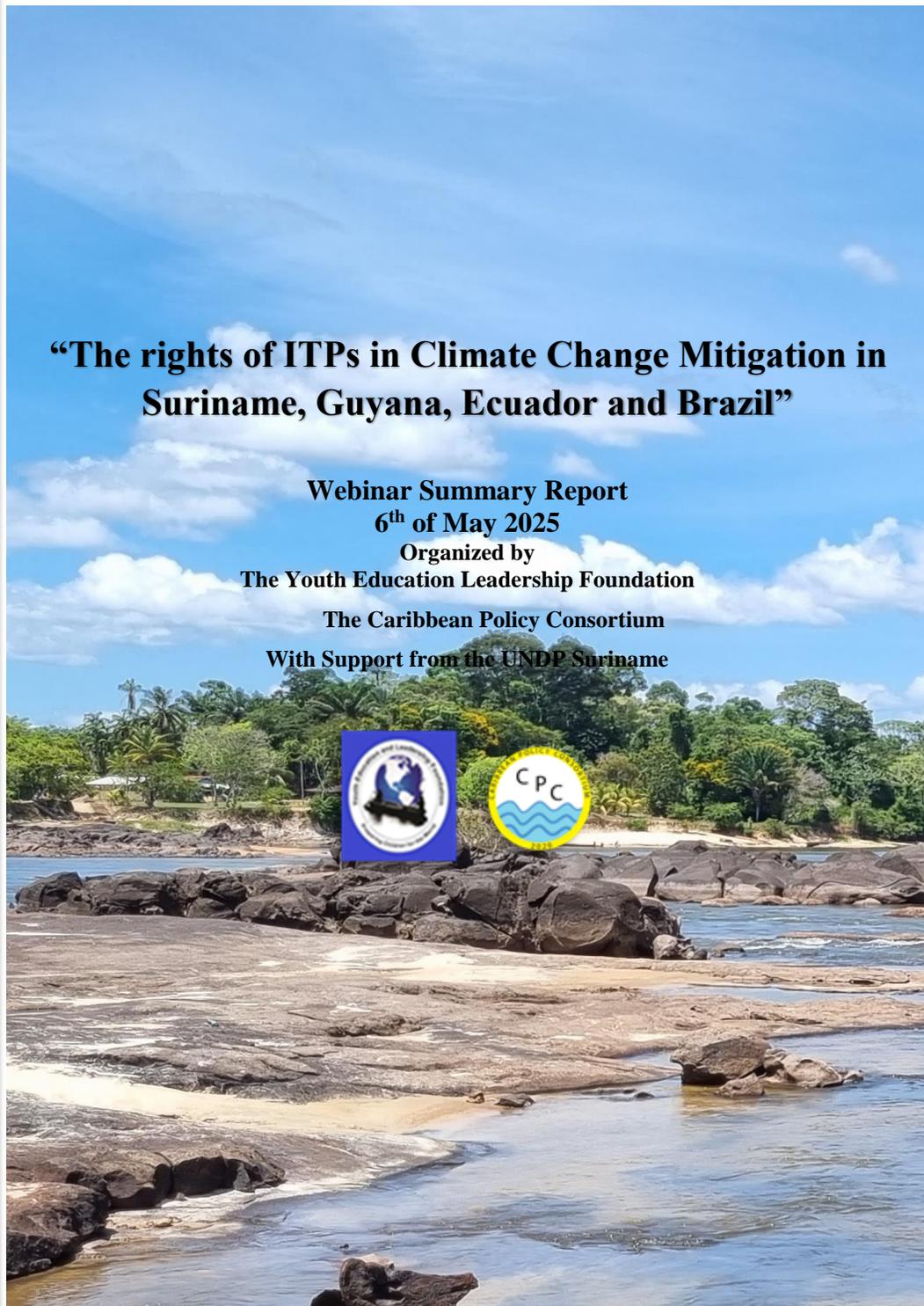
**6<sup>th</sup> of May 2025**

**Organized by**

**The Youth Education Leadership Foundation**

**The Caribbean Policy Consortium**

**With Support from the UNDP Suriname**



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## **Introduction**

The following report gives a summary of the webinar “**The rights of ITPs in Climate Change Mitigation Suriname, Guyana, Ecuador and Brazil**”. This webinar was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 and focused on inclusivity of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ITPs) in battling the impact of Climate Change in Suriname, Guyana, Ecuador and Brazil. Approximately 80 people registered, but was attended by approximately 30 participants. It was organized by the Youth Education and Leadership Foundation (YELF) in partnership with Caribbean Policy Consortium (CPC) and supported by the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), Suriname.

The webinar had the following objectives:

- Discuss the importance of ITPs and their rights in Climate Change Mitigation strategies.
- Share experiences on good practices on Climate Change and ITPs
- Create awareness and understanding on the rights of ITPs

The target audience for this webinar were civil servants of the central and local governments, representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), representatives of the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), university students, academics, and representatives of civil society.

## **1. Partnering Organizations**

### *The Caribbean Policy Consortium*

The Caribbean Policy Consortium (CPC) was founded in late 2020. It is focused on advancing Caribbean policy interest, as well as decades of collegial work involving a network of policy and academic institutions in the Caribbean and North America. Against the backdrop of a focused approach on Caribbean policy interests, the CPC successfully forged strategic partnerships with the objective of widening the initiatives geared towards the Caribbean.

*Vision and mission:* The CPC accesses top tier talent anchored by a core network of expertise and scholarship from North America and the region, and addresses the need to reenergize United States-Caribbean engagement and identify a set of issue-areas to do so.

### *The Youth Education and Leadership Foundation*

The focus of the Youth Education and Leadership Foundation (YELF) is to research development issues and the requisite strategies to tackle them. The organization is guided by the principle of professionalism, integrity and synergy and aims to reach these objectives by: implementing development programs in various fields and conducting high level research and publications on topics regarding the most pressing problems in Suriname, as part of the Caribbean. The organization has the following focus areas:

- The Youth; this focus area emphasizes stimulating personal and professional development of the youth in Suriname.
- The Education: this aims to motivate students, stimulating parents and the community to participate in the education process
- The Leadership: the focus is on Governance, Socio- economic development, Climate challenge and sustainable development

*Vision:* “If you want to change a people, educate them”

## 2. Biographies of the speakers



Dr. Scott Mac Donald who is a fellow with the CPC and also the chief economist at Smith's Research & Gradings. Prior to that, he was the head of research at MC Asset Management LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corporation (2012–2015); head of credit and economic research at Aladdin Capital Management in Stamford, Connecticut (2000–2011); chief economist for KWR International (1999–2000); director of sovereign research at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette (1994–1998); sovereign risk analyst and director at Credit Suisse (1992–1994); and an international economic adviser in the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in Washington, D.C. (1988–1992). He is the author or editor of 18 books and numerous articles on economic affairs, covering events in the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and North America. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Connecticut, an M.A. in Asian studies from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, and a B.A. in history and political science from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. He has been an adjunct professor of political science at the University of Connecticut and is on the Board of Directors for El Centro Hispano, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to assist, support, and strengthen Hispanic families in Westchester County, New York.



Dr. Leonardo Barros Soares holds a master's degree in political science from the University Federal de Minas Gerais (2013) and a PhD from the same institution (2019). He currently serves as a professor of Political Science at the Federal University of Viçosa in Brazil. His research interests include local power, participatory democracy, deliberative democracy, participatory institutions, Indigenous policies and politics, comparative studies, Latin American studies, education, and Native Land Claims.



Mrs. Laura George is an Indigenous woman of the proud Kapong nation in Guyana. After serving for more than 10 years in the formal education sector, she joined a non-governmental organization as a volunteer and eventually became a full time staff and fierce advocate for the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Guyana. For the 14 years that she worked in policy, Laura George represented the Amerindian Peoples Association (APA) sitting in various round tables of national policy development in relation to REDD+, forest governance and legislative reform. After realizing that any significant change has to come from political will of any sitting administration and their Opposition, she left the APA to join the political platform as Technical Advisor to the Alliance for Change (AFC) on Indigenous Affairs where she hopes to continue the work of advocating for Indigenous voices in national decision-making.



Dr. Luisa Trujillo is an agroforestry specialist and biodiversity conservationist whose work bridges science, community development, and policy. With a strong academic foundation—a master’s in Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation from CATIE and a Doctorate and BS in Biological Sciences from the Central University of Ecuador—Luisa has spent over a decade advancing sustainable land-use strategies across Latin America. Her experience spans leadership roles at globally recognized institutions such as CATIE, Nestlé Research Center, and Humane Society International, where she designed and managed agroforestry and biodiversity projects in Costa Rica, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Ecuador. Serving at Ecuador’s Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, she leads the designing and implementation of an Amazonian agroforestry strategy rooted in local knowledge and Indigenous practices. Luisa is deeply committed to inclusive rural development, honed through her role as Internship Coordinator for Cornell University’s Latin American Studies Program in Ecuador and as a former Humphrey Fellow in Agriculture and Rural Development. Currently as a Consultant of Community Engagement at Social Accountability International, she contributes to implementing social compliance systems on palm farms—amplifying the voices of rural and Indigenous communities. Her work highlights how agroforestry can serve as a vital tool for climate change mitigation while reinforcing the rights and stewardship of Indigenous Peoples across the region.



Mr. Max Ooft, is a part-time lecturer at the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, Public Administration where he teaches the subject Human Rights and Business Administration, Project Development and Research Project. He is also a part-time policy officer at VIDS (the Association for Indigenous Village leaders in Suriname). He also does consultancies and has worked in the past on the international UNDP and UNESCO policy on engagement with indigenous peoples. Recently he has been a consultant at JPLNOB. Where the focus was on developing a policy for ITPs, the result of which is a government policy manual.

### **3. The context of Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean**

The moderator's opening remarks stated that the Caribbean region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, despite contributing very little to global greenhouse gas emissions

Dr. Mac Donald was asked to talk about the context of Climate Change in the Caribbean and the relationship with ITPs?

Dr. Mac Donald gave the context of the issue of Climate Change in the Caribbean, the Amazon basin and Andean Highlands. He stated that the effect of Climate Change in these regions are identified by the rising sea level, Climate Change driven migration, extreme droughts and extreme weather. He stated the importance of recognizing the increase of the demand for key commodities. The driver for this is the global energy transition and artificial intelligence (AI). AI is the next technological revolution and will change the way economies function. This can be felt in the more developed countries (United States, China) and will eventually also impact ITPs and the effort to mitigate Climate Change.

According to the International Energy Agency in 2023, Global Data Centers as a group, accounted for between 1 and 1.5 percent of global energy use. These numbers are expected to double by 2030 and could quadruple by 2040. Companies like MICROSOFT, IBM and META that develop AI need more energy. Over fifty percent of the world lithium reserve can be found in Argentina and Chili. Additionally these countries have sizeable ITPs communities that are caught up in the issues of land-rights and water rights.

Another point that was made by Dr. Mac Donald is the value of global mining which was \$ 2.3 trillion in 2024. This industry is projected to reach \$3 trillion in 2029. The annual growth rate of this industry was 6.2 percent in 2016. The companies in this industry are trying to meet the demand of energy. These following companies; ZiJin and Newmont are present in the traditionally territory of ITPs.

In 2022 the demand for energy increased, which was highly driven by electricity, which was up by 4.3 percent.

The driver behind all of these developments is AI. According to McKinsey, investment in the energy sector will rise from \$1.5 trillion in 2024 to between \$ 2 and 4 trillion in 2040 representing a growth of between 35 percent to a 100 percent

Dr. Mac Donald emphasized that the size of the companies that are showing up in these countries are enormous e.g.; Exxon Mobile has a market capital of \$ 445 billion. Ecuador GDP is \$ 300 billion. Guyana's GDP is \$ 75 billion. TotalEnergies market capital is \$128 billion. Suriname economy is \$ 14.7 billion.

The role of Artisanal Small Scale Mining (ASM) should also be considered in this discussion. It has become an important factor in this region. According to the World Bank 225 million people work in this sector in Latin America, Asia and over eighty countries in Africa.

The final point that Dr. Mac Donald emphasized is the problem of "Challenged Sovereignty" which is discussed by Dr. I. Griffith in his book "Challenged Sovereignty". One of the problems facing governments and ITPs are problems without passports. These are transnational issues that threaten the safety and security of individuals within states, thereby impacting the sovereignty of states. The ITPs have a claim to the land, but this is being challenge by criminal groups, that are in the illicit gold trade and other illicit activities.

Dr. Mac Donald cited a statement by the Organization of American State (OAS) report 2024: "Although this informal sector accounts for the most gold produced in Suriname now, it has been a terrific aggravation for natural resources policy, tax evasion, human trafficking, the illicit arms trade, deforestation, water pollution, mercury poisoning are all the main threats posed by ASM."

Dr. Mac Donald concluded that these issues can be seen as fundamental tensions between green energy, technological change and national security issues, for some countries. In addition to the damage caused by resource extraction that leaves vulnerable communities caught in the crossfires in search of means to deal with these challenges.

#### **4. The status of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples**

Can everyone give a short introduction on the situation of ITPs in the different countries and the status of these groups in relation to Climate Change and Mitigation? Please emphasize community push back in regards to specific policies, the effect of Climate Change on these communities.

##### **Brazil**

Dr. Barros stated that Brazil has a small population of ITPs, making up less than 1 percent of the population, though they inhabit 13 percent of the land mass. There are more than 300 indigenous groups speaking more than 200 languages. This is an important indicator of ethnic fragmentation, which makes it difficult to politically mobilize these different groups.

Indigenous peoples in Brazil have been severely affected by Climate Change. Some of these impacts are severe droughts in the Amazon basin and an increasing amount of wild fires. Dr. Barros agreed with Dr. Mac Donald on the existence of laws and legislation in these countries, and the importance of enforcing these legislation.

Dr. Barros stated that Brazil has the following legislations and policies regarding the protection of Indigenous Peoples rights: the constitution of 1988, ILO Convention 169, The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Climate Change is effecting the daily lives of Indigenous Peoples. An example was given of how these peoples are having a hard time performing certain rituals, because it is difficult to track the markers of nature, e.g. the blooming of a certain flowers, which happens later than the communities are accustomed to, or the migration of a certain butterfly.

##### **Ecuador**

Mrs. Trujillo stated that Ecuador adopted the rights of nature, *Pachamama* and the Indigenous concept of *Sumak Kawsay*, or “Buen Vivir” (Good Living) in the constitution. This means to live in harmony with nature. These legislations recognize that eco systems and communities are interdependent. Despite all these legislation the communities still face different challenges regarding Climate Change.

Ecuador is small, but a biologically diverse country. Climate Change challenges have led to an increase in forest fires and rain patterns that have been altered. The country is facing some catastrophes e.g. the melting of the Andean glaciers. These changes threaten cultural practices and traditional livelihood. One community member, an activist, is advocating on issues regarding Climate Change. Mrs. Trujillo mentioned that the government of Ecuador (GoE) is giving mining concession to companies that are not concerned with the impact of Climate Change.

Mrs. Trujillo noticed that in the COP world leaders refuse to discuss the problems that were brought to the table by indigenous leaders.

Mrs. Trujillo concluded that the perspective of Indigenous Peoples are not being taking into account in the Climate Change strategy in Ecuador.

## **Suriname**

Mr. Ooft stated that there is no legal recognition of ITPs in Suriname, despite international cases against the Government of Suriname (GoS). The GoS is legally not required to consult ITPs due to the absent of legislation. The ITPs are not considered rights holders. It is important to emphasize the existence of peoples in the forest during the different policy discussions. ITPs are also not included in the development of Climate Finance strategies.

Mr. Ooft continued by emphasizing that Oil and Gas is being introduced as the savior of Suriname, but the ITPs are not seeing improvements in their daily lives. Land grabbing is getting bigger. Local Content is being emphasized but ITPs are not being included in these discussions (to provide services). Other groups are being informed and are gearing up to provide services. Without a policy that recognizes the rights of ITPs for participation and consent, there will be a bigger threat with the discovery of Oil and Gas. This is the position of the ITPs in Suriname and why advocating for a rights based approach or just energy transition is important to these peoples. ITPs are not against any administration but against non-inclusive policies that do not recognize their rights.

## **Guyana**

Mrs. George stated that the population of ITPs make out approximately 10-12 percent of the total population of Guyana. A small fraction live on the coast. Guyana is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, but Indigenous Peoples are not experiencing this growth. The advocacy work in Guyana is mostly focused on land-rights protection. Indigenous Peoples do not see the off shore oil industry as a threat in the broader scheme of things. There has been massive investment in infrastructure development, which has been expanding to the hinterland (e. g the development of a highway). These investments will open a lot of traffic but the question that remains to be answer is the following: “what are people going to be trafficking? “Indigenous Peoples have not been consulted in these projects.

Mrs. stated that the leadership of Indigenous Peoples that do get a seat at the table, do not speak on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples of Guyana.

## **5. Indigenous and Tribal peoples and the Constitution**

### **Ecuador**

Ecuador set a global precedence in 2008 by adopting a Constitution that recognizes the “Rights of Nature” (Pachamama) and the Indigenous concept of Sumak Kawsay, or “Buen Vivir” (Good Living). These principles embed environmental stewardship and Indigenous worldviews into the national legal structure, acknowledging that ecosystems and communities are interdependent.

What was the impact of this for the ITPs?

Mrs. Trujillo you have also stated that one of the ways of incorporating indigenous communities in Climate Action is to reject tokenism: Avoid reducing Indigenous Peoples to “vulnerable populations.” Instead, recognize them as sovereign nations with distinct legal, spiritual, and ecological governance systems. Can you elaborate on this statement?

During the former administration the GoE, incorporated the rights of nature in the constitution (Art79 and 75). This framework allows Indigenous communities to advocate for the rights of nature. This influences biodiversity and sustainability and cultural diversity policies in Ecuador. They also signed ILO 169 and endorsed UN declaration on the rights of ITPs and Free Prior

Informed Consent (FPIC). In practice these laws are not applied. In 2022 the constitutional court of Ecuador ruled that there should be consultations with Indigenous communities when giving out concessions in their communities.

Even though all of these legislations exist, extractive projects are still being implemented in Indigenous Peoples territories without permission and FPIC procedures. Mrs. Trujillo states that it is important to understand that the Indigenous resistance is not an opposition to development, but an advocacy for more sustainability and a way to defend the way of life of Indigenous communities. Many of the leaders within the COP want to receive international funding to lead research according to the traditional knowledge, but what is noticed is that Indigenous perspectives are not being incorporated in these research schemes.

Mrs. Trujillo reemphasized rejecting tokenism and that institutions should stop labelling Indigenous Peoples as vulnerable. They should be recognized as sovereign nations. Climate actions can become more inclusive if tokenism is removed.

The previous statements gives examples of community pushback in Ecuador. But the question is what can other countries learn from Ecuador?

The moderator stated that the impact of the different legislation are not felt by Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador, because the current government wants to change the constitution, to benefit the economy of the country.

Another thing is that nature is considered a legal actor in discussions on climate.

## **Brazil**

Indigenous rights are federally recognized under the Brazilian constitution enacted in 1988, with land rights explicitly protected and mandated for demarcation (which provides an explicit land/property boundary and ownership designation) under Article 231

Dr. Barros: What mediums exist for Indigenous views to be articulated? Is there an effective national entity that can channel their views to the Government and Congress? Do they have representation - and advocates - in the Brazilian Congress? Why is it necessary for these views to be articulated in these countries?

What are the highlights of the 1988 Constitution in terms of recognition of Indigenous rights?  
Why is Article 231 important? Especially in relation to Climate Change

Dr. Barros emphasized that he would appreciate to have the rights of nature in Brazil. It is important to have legislations in place, but once we have that in place than you have different challenges.

Dr. Barros stated that the different countries have differences in their constitutions (Brazilian, the United States, and Ecuador).

Indigenous Peoples started to mobilize in Brazil in 1970 and 1980 and were able to pressure congressmen to include article 231 and article 232 in the constitution. In Brazil this period is considered the end of the totalitarian regime. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century Indigenous Peoples were seen as being under the custody of the state.

There are two main points in regards to art 231. It was the first time in Brazilian history were Indigenous identity was considered to be a permanent state and not a state that was a transitional state. Other countries assumed that Indigenous Peoples were going to be assimilated into the national society and disappear. Art 232 recognizes the multicultural nature of Brazilian society and the original rights to land of the Indigenous peoples. This means that Indigenous Peoples have the rights to land that predates the Brazilian state, so the state has the responsibility to recognize a right that is already in place. This leads to the conclusion that the rights of Indigenous peoples, to their traditional land, should not be challenged.

When it comes to Climate Change, art 225 states that all Brazilians have the right to an ecologically balanced environment. This lays the ground for the Indigenous Peoples and there organizations to pressure the government and claim that right. The Indigenous Peoples in Brazil were able to build a strong political organization called the National Articulations of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil. This organization was able to pressure the Government of Brazil (GoB) in getting a Ministry of Indigenous Affairs. In Brazil Indigenous Peoples are effectively influencing national politics. ABIP claims the vice presidency of the COP 30.

## **6. Indigenous and Tribal peoples and Climate Change**

### **Suriname**

What is the stand of the GoS regarding Climate Finance towards ITPs?

There is willingness to involve ITPs in policy discussions in Suriname. The Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment (ROM)<sup>1</sup> developed a carbon trading policy that considers the rights of ITPs. Inclusion and a rights based approach is very important. ITPs should not just be notified but effective participation is important to co- design and co- implement solutions. There is also willingness from the GoS to involve ITPs regarding Climate Finance. “The devil is in the details”. It is not clear how these finances will be spent.

Mr. Ooft agreed with Dr. Barros on ITPs having original rights.

One concept that the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS) emphasize is a rights-based approach<sup>2</sup>. Suriname has not recognized the rights of ITPs and there is no policy on ITPs and Climate Change. This is the reason why the rights based approach should be legally imbedded in national laws.

Moderator: one thing that is interesting is that in Brazil, Guyana and Ecuador the rights of ITPS are incorporated in the constitution, but that is not the case in Suriname.

### **Guyana**

In Guyana there is the Amerindian Act. What are the advantages and disadvantages and how does it relate to climate change?

Mrs. George states that the Amerindian Act is really a law that has refused to recognize that Indigenous Peoples are peoples that have been displaced from their land. This act does not recognize that Indigenous Peoples were the first peoples in Guyana. Indigenous Peoples have been questioned why they need these rights. The Amerindian Act is disrespectful and does not recognize Indigenous Peoples customary land tenure. So, the country has individual pieces of land

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<sup>1</sup> Ministerie van Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieu

<sup>2</sup> Vereniging Inheemse Dorpschoufden Suriname

that the state gives to Indigenous peoples. The law does not protect customary boundaries. Indigenous peoples' governance has been colonized and politically interfered with. When it comes to voting for politically indigenous leadership, something that happens every three-year, political parties work hard to influence the result of this leadership. Different parties are working hard to influence this process. This is why the leaders who are elected are reluctant to advocate for rights protection. The rights to self-determination is curtailed by the Amerindian Act.

There are provisions in the law that allows the GoG to remove a traditional leader that have been chosen by the community. This can be done by any sitting Minister. There are examples where the GoG removes Indigenous leaders (Toshaos) who are vocally advocating for Indigenous Peoples rights. This is why there has been a call for a revision of this law. The current administration has been fighting Indigenous Peoples' interest and organizations (The Indigenous people Organization) and accusing them of having their own agenda. As long as there is no one in the political spectrum to make sure that the voices of Indigenous Peoples are heard and respected than they will be labelled as people that complain. These are the limitation of the laws that Indigenous Peoples are experiencing in Guyana.

An important point is the financial contributions of the extractive industry to economic growth in Guyana, Suriname and Brazil. This is considered a driver of growth and development of these countries, cementing the idea that the vision for development of these respective governments is: ensuring and securing major investments in the extractive industries; more precisely, offshore oil industry, bauxite and mining. A very good example is the offshore oil industry in Suriname and Guyana

Dr. Mac Donald: Will the fossil fuel industry challenge any progress made by Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in regards to Climate Change?

Large transnational corporation have to respect regulation of the countries where they operate and pay attention to ITPs organizations and civil society. In 2024 the world's largest copper mines in Panama were closed because of ITPs groups.

Sovereign Funding is important, how is this money being allocated. How do ITPs deal in relation to environmental issues? It is important to have political influence. It is the government's responsibility to make sure that the interest of ITPs are met.

Ecuador is struggling with the Chinese oil companies that are drilling for oil without consulting the local communities. The fundamental principle is getting political power and getting the oil companies to pay attention to the needs of ITPs.

In Guyana there are investment being done in the infrastructure. In Suriname there were discussions about roads that will be built to the interior of the country.

Will these infrastructure development facilitate illicit transport of mercury and illicit human trafficking?

Climate financing is a huge issue. 1 percent of Global finance goes to Climate Mitigating issues. It is going to be a very difficult path moving forward. There have been some changes in the US policy towards the Caribbean: USAID has been dismantled, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Funding for \$ 60 million has also been stopped, which was specifically set up to deal with Climate Change and work with workforce in the Caribbean region. There is going to be a greater need to get the different transnational organization working in the countries to facilitate the development of the local communities.

When the oil companies start pumping oil offshore in Suriname, what are the safe guard of Governance and what happens in terms of liability if there is an oil spill? These are the questions that need to be asked and answered.

Moderator; how do you get a seat at the table?

Dr. Barros stated that we should think about what some scholars observed in the Brazilian case. The Brazilian Indigenous Peoples have been able to present themselves as reliable partners in high level politics. They have also been able to present themselves as credible threats and have been able to politically mobilize around the country. Multiple political strategies are being deployed in Brazil by Indigenous Peoples e.g.: getting in to the institutional arenas, more ITPs candidates in the parliament and effectively mobilizing on the ground. Indigenous people's movement in Brazil are the strongest one these days.

## **Suriname**

Mr. Ooft states that ITPs movement are very strong in Latin America. The ITPs movement is the most outspoken one. Ideally there should not be that threat, but if Governments and companies are

not inclusive then these peoples are forced to look for other strategies. In Suriname international strategies and pressure are used. The GoS and companies are sued at international institutions when ITPs are not informed and consent is not given. International laws recognize the rights of ITPs. National advocacy is also important: e.g. the case of CHINELCO, a Chinese company that wanted to work in the traditional territory of ITPs without engaging them. This resulted in protest and the ITPs got support from other stakeholders (labor unions, NGO's).

## **Guyana**

Mrs. George stated that she noticed that she has been repeating the same recommendation for 14 years in different spaces (forestry, mining etc.) If a political administration doesn't respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples they will have a symbolic seat at the table, with no input on policy and decision that are being made. It is also important that Indigenous people's movements are supported by non-indigenous people.

## **Ecuador**

In Ecuador there is a big movement of indigenous peoples, the Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas del Ecuador (CONAIE). The people in Ecuador consider that this movement only protests against the GoE. Two years ago this organization mobilized a protest against the GoE, because the government decided to stop the subsidy of oil to the country for 12 days. The people in Ecuador think that the CONAIE is there just to protest, and not to talk about Climate Change and sovereignty. The land tenure in Ecuador belongs to Indigenous Peoples on paper, but they don't have ownership. They can only use the land for agricultural purposes and the (CONAIE) is fighting for this<sup>3</sup>. In Ecuador people have to change the way they see the Indigenous Peoples movement, it is not only to organize protest.

There is only one person that represents the Indigenous Peoples group in congress and she cannot influence decisions.

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<sup>3</sup> Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador

Western countries are significant providers of Climate Finance, particularly for climate mitigation strategies in developing countries. The European Union (EU) and its member states are the largest contributors, followed by other western nations like Japan and Germany. This funding supports projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and helps developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The US is actively involved in global Climate Finance, with a focus on supporting developing countries in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change.

Dr. Mac Donald: Can you elaborate on the perspective of the new administration on Climate Finance? Are the perspectives of ITPs being included internationally in these Climate Finance initiatives and how?

There is a big change in how the US sees Climate Change and Climate Finance. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been eliminated, PACT 2030 is also going to be eliminated. The US is talking with the United Nations (UN) and COP to remove all references to Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The US is not going to be a partner for Climate Financing in the next four years. The US will leave this up to the EU, Japan and Norway. Another option for Climate Finance is the private sector; Green Bond and Blue Bond.

### **Brazil**

The common challenges that Indigenous Peoples are facing in the region are also different depending on the national context. The decisions that are taken in the COP 30 are monitored by the UN bodies, and national states still have the last word. The big question that we should ask during the COP in Belem is the following: how loud is the voice of Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society going to be? Indigenous groups that are more outspoken and vocal are not usually welcomed in these kind of meeting. Indigenous Peoples organizations are very powerful in the state of Para, Brazil.

### **Ecuador**

Mrs. Trujillo stated in her closing remark that political inclusion of Indigenous Peoples needs to be promoted. Many of the Indigenous Peoples are politically marginalized. Ecuador's Indigenous women encounter many challenges to enter the political arena. They don't have access to loans

from the bank. The symbolic inclusion or tokenism is also a problem that was recognized during this webinar. By confronting these obstacles we can work towards inclusive policies that will support these peoples.

### **Guyana**

Mrs. George stated in her closing remarks that Indigenous Peoples have a lot of opportunities for their rights to be recognized and for inclusive decision making. The governments of the various countries keep missing these opportunities. There is an offshore development happening in Guyana, but Indigenous Peoples need to be more involved and proactive. If ITPs have a strong proactive network that is supported by other civil society groups, it will hold any government accountable. Decision making has to have a rights based approach in any development (health, education, social service). Guyana has a low Carbon development strategy, but it was not designed using a rights-based approach. Indigenous peoples' rights should not be subjected to a small space. It should come with a holistic approach.

### **Suriname**

ITPs rights are being discussed globally. Climate Change has a financial mechanism and is also a Human Right and we live in one eco- system and if humans are not respected, we will not have a good eco-system. In the Climate Change debate we should have synergies that recognize the Climate Change and the rights of peoples.

### **United States**

Dr. Mac Donald closing remarks emphasized the difference in the role of ITPs 20 years ago in the political sphere. There are opportunities for ITPs. There is a holistic element including human rights. There is a new technological revolution and it becomes more important that ITPs reject tokenism. Being a reliable partner is also important. There is a change that is coming in the direction of ITPs and their communities are going to be impacted by the changes in the global economy.