



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES

April 2022

Purpose: This is a living document, intended to provide a common (minimum) standard for how Enduring Earth (EE) engages with Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs). It is subject to change based on dialogue with IPs and LCs and advances in EE thinking and commitment. We will strive to apply these principles consistently, with appropriate consideration of the different local contexts of each PFP.

Preamble:

Drivers of ecosystem change, including biodiversity loss and climate change, are of serious concern to IPs and LCs that rely on lands and waters for their economy, livelihoods, and culture. IPs and LCs have laws, customs and worldviews that reflect a deep connection to nature, including inherent rights and responsibilities to steward traditional territories, and a commitment to future generations.

Indigenous and community stewardship can play a significant role in conservation and in sustaining [biodiversity](#) and mitigating [climate change](#). Lands owned and managed by IPs and LCs cover at least [38% of the planet's remaining intact landscapes](#)¹ and vast stretches of freshwater and coastal marine habitats, which are home to much of the world's remaining biodiversity. Almost half of these places are threatened by high development pressure.² As such, many of the places we aim to protect through EE are traditional homelands historically and currently legally and/or customarily owned and/or stewarded by Indigenous and local communities. Centering the leadership, engagement, and long-term benefit of IPs and LCs, and ensuring rights are recognized and respected throughout this process, is essential to achieving our shared goals.

EE is composed of four organizations that aspire to integrate conservation with sustainable development. We recognize that effective stewardship of land and natural resources is underpinned by respecting IPs' and LCs' rights including self-determination, and supporting their leadership and good governance, as well as the flow of sustainable benefit streams (social, financial, and economic) to IPs and LCs. We commit to abiding by our organizations' social frameworks and policies³ in the implementation of Project Finance for Permanence (PFPs).

EE also recognizes that competing priorities at the intersection of conservation and human rights may arise in our work. We will proactively identify and discuss these dilemmas. We will actively seek to learn from navigating such challenges and share lessons across EE to inform continuous improvement. We will update our Principles and Approaches as needed.

¹ Kennedy et al. 2019

² Oakleaf et al. 2019

³ Organizational frameworks and policies are linked at the end of this document

We seek to support IPs and LCs rights, leadership, and engagement through the following Principles and Approaches.

Principles

We abide by the following principles:

1. The rights of IPs and LCs to **self-determination** and **autonomy** shall be respected and promoted;
2. Support shall recognize the importance of IPs' and LCs' **cultures, traditions, languages, knowledge, laws, and values**, and, where appropriate, elevate IPs' and LCs' efforts to **steward** their lands, waters, and resources;
3. Partner IPs and LCs shall be meaningfully represented in **project planning, decision-making, implementation, and project performance monitoring**, and as legitimate partners, they shall have access to information about proposed activities that may impact them in settings, languages, and formats that meet their needs;
4. Efforts that affect IPs and LCs will be undertaken through transparent and on-going processes that are guided by the principles of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), including the rights to **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)**. The standard of the FPIC approach shall be recognized, collaboratively designed with IPs and LCs, and applied through the life cycle of our PFP support.
5. Culturally responsive, accessible **conflict resolution and grievance redress mechanisms** shall be established during the development of a PFP in alignment with rightsholders and applied in good faith during implementation after Close for stakeholders and rightsholders to confidentially and confidently express legitimate concerns about the project;
6. PFP initiatives will allow for adequate time and space for **authentic and appropriate inclusion of** IPs and LCs to ensure effective **cross-cultural communication and collaboration**;
7. EE shall support **equity, inclusion, diversity, and justice** throughout the process, including measures to account for and minimize disparities based on racial, socio-economic, gender, ability, inter-generational, cultural, and other diversity.

Approaches:

In applying the above principles, we use the following approaches:

1. *Recognize, Respect, and Enhance Rights to Land, Water, and Natural Resources:*
 - a. From the beginning of any PFP Initiative, we will undertake the appropriate **due diligence** through pro-active consultation/engagement processes necessary to understand, recognize, and respect IPs' and LCs' rights and interests, including, but not limited to the right to **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent**;
2. *Enhance Stewardship of Land, Water, and Natural Resources:*
 - a. Respect traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights through promotion of the rights of IPs and LCs to practice, educate and transmit their **traditional knowledge** and

practices, cultural heritage, languages, and spiritual values to current and future generations;

- b. We will foster **management and monitoring approaches** that include **criteria** founded upon **Indigenous and local knowledge** and **cultural values** alongside **science-based methodologies**. We seek to elevate IPs and LCs priorities, use, and conservation of natural resources, and support the durability of their effective traditional conservation, stewardship practices, and language revitalization.

3. *Facilitate Good Governance:*

- a. We will strive to facilitate **good governance** through **representative, equitable, accountable, transparent, and culturally-aligned** decision making bodies;
- b. Our conservation/development support efforts will recognize the importance of **inclusiveness, equity, diversity, justice**, and the need for the **voices** of women, youth, and groups historically marginalized from decision-making processes to be heard and valued;
- c. We will facilitate **IPs' and LCs' access to decision-making spaces** that impact them and ensure appropriate processes are in place to include their voices and choices within multi-stakeholder dialogues.

4. *Promote Culturally-Responsive Economic Development and Sustainability:*

- a. We recognize the livelihood dependence of communities upon **nature's services** and will strive to ensure a **strong link** between the **protection** of natural resources and the **benefits** derived from them; wherever possible, we will support the development of **community-led sustainable livelihood** opportunities;
- b. Where appropriate and possible, we will assist communities to access **finance** and increase access to **local and/or global markets**, including through fair partnerships with the private sector.

5. *Attain Programmatic Impact By Scaling our Collective Support to Communities:*

- a. EE will build upon **our collective strengths and learnings** to share and scale wise practices that have worked well across PFPs, with a particular focus on IPs- and LCs-led practices. We will develop knowledge networks to share **approaches, systems, and tools, while recognizing the unique cultures, traditions, customs, and intellectual property rights of IPs and LCs**.

6. *Minimize Unintended Risks:*

- a. **Environmental and social risks** shall be **minimized** through the application of recognized environmental and social safeguard procedures to identify, avoid, mitigate and manage the risks (or potentially adverse impacts) of planned (or proposed) activities. We commit to abiding by our organizations' safeguard frameworks and human rights tools in the implementation of PFPs:
 - i. [WWF Environmental and Social Safeguards](#); [WWF Gender Policy](#); WWF Indigenous Peoples' Policy (to be added)

- ii. [TNC Human Rights Guide for Working with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#)
- iii. **Pew (to be added)**