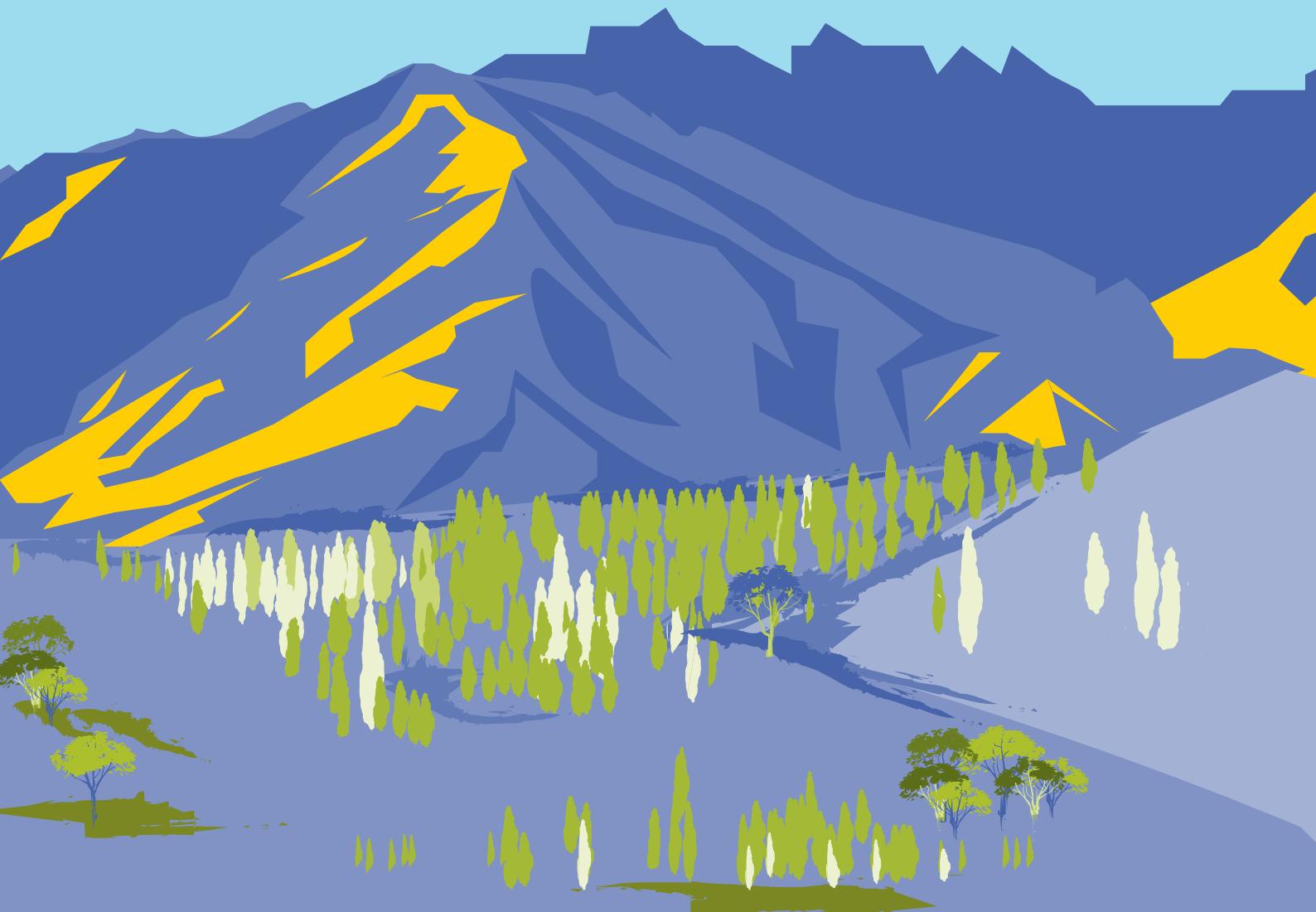


# The Tuggoz Declaration on Climate Change and Mountain Indigenous Peoples

International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples



**Second International Learning Exchange on Climate Change and Biocultural Heritage**  
Tajikistan, 11–18 September 2015



We, over 50 indigenous peoples and traditional farmers representing 21 communities in 10 countries, together with civil society and research organisations, gathered in the communities of Jafr and Tuggoz in Tajikistan from 11 to 18 September 2015, in order to analyse the impacts of recent climatic changes on Mother Earth and on our food and farming systems, and to develop responses to this crisis.

Our communities include the Monpa of Jangbi village, Bhutan; the Naxi of Yunnan and Zhuang of Guangxi, Southwest China; the Lepcha of northern India; the Samarkandek, Doboly and Taldy-Bulak villages of Kyrgyzstan; the Yupna and Jiwaka people of Papua New Guinea; the Jafr village and Wakhan people of Tajikistan; the Quechua communities of the Potato Park, Peru; the Higaonon tribe of Mintapod village, the Philippines; the Kanakanavu community of Taiwan; and the Pga-ke-neyau of Hin-lad-nai and Ba-pae-khee villages, Thailand.

We are happy to announce that we have established an International Network of Biocultural Heritage Territories for in-situ conservation and holistic adaptation to climate change. The network will ensure the continued evolution and adaptation of our local crop varieties, livestock, wildlife and forests, and the protection of our rich cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and spiritual values which sustain and enhance this biodiversity. We have also established an International Network of Community Seed Banks, and a related farmers' seed exchange programme, for in-situ conservation and adaptation to climate change.

Mountain ecosystems are home to many indigenous cultures and languages, and are rich but fragile repositories of biological and cultural diversity, water and other critical ecosystem services that are sustained through indigenous stewardship practices. Of unique importance are the indigenous agricultural traditions that have provided important food crops, critical for the food security of the world, and that sustain an enormous diversity of locally adapted

and resilient crops and livestock for adaptation to climate change. These are the result of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of our peoples and communities over generations. Therefore, the survival of our knowledge systems and cultures are critical for the survival of humanity.

We found that in many mountain regions, indigenous peoples are already facing drastic changes in their food and agriculture systems due to extreme and unusual weather patterns, and that these have become more apparent in the last 18 months. In Papua New Guinea extreme drought (no rain for the last six months) and frost has led the government to declare a state of emergency as many communities have no food; the Stone Village in Yunnan (southwest China) has experienced extreme spring drought for the last five years; in the Philippines and Taiwan, typhoons have become more frequent and destructive; in India and Thailand, giant hailstones have damaged housing and crops; in Kyrgyzstan late spring frost and snow destroyed apricot and other fruit harvests; and in Tajikistan, unprecedented mudflows due to fast glacial melts have destroyed more than 150 houses and killed seven people this year. Many communities are also suffering from reduced water availability and increased pests and diseases associated with changes in rainfall patterns and increased temperatures; and some have experienced extreme winds and very heavy rain which destroy crops.

Even though we have contributed least to global emissions, we are suffering disproportionately from the impacts of climate change. However, we have been marginalised from participating in climate change policy and planning processes at local, national and international levels.

As an international network concerned for the future of mountain ecosystems, the livelihoods of our communities, and the food security of the world, we call on all governments and climate change negotiators to:

**“In many mountain regions, indigenous peoples are facing drastic changes in their food and agriculture systems due to extreme and unusual weather patterns”**



1. Urgently agree and implement radical cuts in their emissions to stop the destruction of our food and farming systems, livelihoods, biodiversity, forests and cultures in fragile mountain environments
2. Recognise the important role of indigenous peoples and traditional farmers in enhancing climate adaptation and mitigation, and ensure that our rights are fully respected in all mitigation and adaptation policies and programmes, including rights to our ancestral territories, natural resources, spiritual values, cultures and traditional knowledge systems, ways of life and farming practices
3. Fully recognise and respect our traditional knowledge, innovations and practices that are based on empirical evidence and observation, and their equal and complementary value to scientific knowledge
4. Ensure the full and effective participation of mountain indigenous peoples, including women, youth and elders, in climate change policy and planning processes at international, national and local levels, in accordance with our right to Free Prior and Informed Consent
5. Give priority to the needs of vulnerable communities, including mountain indigenous peoples, women, youth and elders, in the allocation of climate finance and ensure that financial resources for adaptation reach local communities
6. Support the development of local adaptation plans through community-led participatory processes; and ensure appropriate safeguards for forest peoples in the context of mitigation financing
7. Protect local seed systems and genetic resources and the indigenous farming systems, territories and landscapes that sustain and enhance them,

through the legal recognition of indigenous Biocultural Heritage Territories, and the protection of Farmers' Rights and indigenous peoples' intellectual property rights

8. Fully recognise and respect our cultural and spiritual values, worldviews and languages; systematically integrate traditional knowledge and languages into formal and informal education systems to ensure their transmission to future generations; and recognise the eligibility of traditional knowledge holders and practitioners to obtain university qualifications and degrees
9. Legally recognise and protect the rights of indigenous peoples and traditional farmers to participate fully in natural resource management and in all decision-making relating to their natural resources and territories; and acknowledge the role of women in climate change adaptation, local seed systems, natural resource management and food security
10. Ensure the full and effective implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the recognition of indigenous peoples, through national laws implemented by dedicated government departments.

We call on indigenous peoples and traditional farmers to assert their food sovereignty and to first and foremost give importance to the food and nutrition of our children, and we call upon national governments to fully implement the right to food.

Finally, we want to reaffirm our commitment to working together and in our own communities towards our goals of ensuring food sovereignty and fostering biodiversity-rich agricultural systems and the protection of our Biocultural Heritage and local rights.

**“ We call on all governments ... to give priority to the needs of vulnerable communities in the allocation of climate finance ”**



## Get involved

To find out more about the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP), contact the Network Coordinator, **Alejandro Argumedo**, [alejandro@andes.org.pe](mailto:alejandro@andes.org.pe)

To finance INMIP adaptation projects and engage the network in policy dialogue, contact the Country Coordinators:

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