



SHARED LEARNING & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE: Empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE
STORY

✓ The Challenge

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) make up 5 percent of the global population but manage or have tenure rights over at least a quarter of the world's land surface. Despite having little representation in the bodies making decisions on forests and climate action, IPLCs safeguard 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity and are among the most important stewards of forests. Amplifying their voice is a powerful way to protect the ecosystems that play a critical role in mitigating the effects of climate change; it also requires capacity building and knowledge sharing among IPLCs.

The World Bank Group works with IPLCs to enhance their sustainable economic growth and livelihoods, implement culturally appropriate conservation and development, and design and execute strategies to address multiple sources of disadvantage. It does so by taking into account IPLCs' views, experience, and development priorities.

✓ **The Solution—Who Did What?**
The Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM), a special window under

the Climate Investment Funds' Forest Investment Program (FIP), is a global initiative that supports projects in 13 pilot countries and a Global Learning and Knowledge Exchange Project (DGM Global). IPLC representatives direct all aspects of the DGM through Global and National Steering Committees, supported by Conservation International, DGM's Global Executing Agency. Through its unique design, the DGM aims to establish recognition of IPLCs as effective leaders in efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.

To expand impact and sustainability, DGM Global facilitates knowledge exchange, learning, and capacity building at regional and global levels. The project also supports strengthening networks and alliances of community organizations within and across regions to enhance their representation and voice in regional and global policy fora.

In 2017–18, DGM Global conducted regional exchanges in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, in which program beneficiaries shared best practices and

experiences. Each exchange engaged DGM partners, including subproject beneficiaries, IPLC networks, and IPLC leaders from non-FIP countries, and featured a mix of technical sessions, plenaries, participatory learning activities, field visits, and lessons learned from DGM progress in their respective countries. Global- and national-level DGM bodies collaborated to develop the content and thematic focus of each exchange. Topics included land titling, climate finance, climate international policy, gender, agroforestry, sustainable forest management, and sustainable livelihoods. The exchanges included field visits to IPLC-led initiatives, facilitating synergies across projects.

The four-day Africa Exchange (August 2017 in Kumasi, Ghana) focused on agroforestry and community forest management. It assembled 34 IPLC participants from ten African countries, a representative from a DGM project in Nepal to foster cross-regional exchange, community leaders, policy experts, forest specialists from Benin and Burundi, and the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal

