

Enhancing the Use of cultural community mapping, land use planning and Indigenous Knowledge to enhance water management for climate, Resilience and Environment.

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Thank you chair for this opportunity.

We believe that community groups play a critical role in ensuring careful management of land and water resources to enhance biodiversity and ensure long-term resilience.

We would like to draw attention to the need to enhance the management of water sources and channels through community led actions and local land use management.

Approaches include:

a) **Awareness raising and environmental education on the risks of climate change, and the essential role of effective management of water.** This is done through sensitisation of communities as well as through conducting environmental education in schools and communities using meetings, posters, flyers, image boxes, home education, focus group discussions.

b) **Setting up multi-stakeholder/multi-actor water management and water security dialogue and governance schemes for communities** (dialogue and management platform). This approach aims to tackle human induced deforestation and forest degradation around water sources.

c) **Document and plan the customary land tenure underpinning water sources and courses with informed and data set established at every level.** Community participatory mapping, georeferencing and land use planning of their customary lands is conducted to ensure farming and other community activities are known and better planned, taking into account the importance of protecting the landscape and water bodies.

d) **Promote landscape and ecological restoration.** Nurseries with native and water retention tree species be developed and managed by local residents and school children. Sacred and primary forests be equally restored in order to retain cultural values.

e) **Monitoring and evaluation systems.** Tree growing rates will be monitored regularly with the use of drones and direct field visits by project teams. A regular surveillance

mechanism should be established at community level to reduce poor water management practices.

e) **Improved ecofriendly livelihood activities with communities.** We recommend that best practices on Zero deforestation, climate friendly agriculture and fishery activities should be promoted at household levels in order to increase income levels for a sustainable livelihood.

f) **Build on enhanced and sustained public – private partnership** in the management of water resources.

g) **Decolonise water and other natural resource management approaches frameworks** to create holistic and user-friendly approaches that blend science and innovative technologies with indigenous knowledge.

h) **Provide adequate financial resources towards the management of water sources, targeting IPLCs and local governments.** These resources provided by developed to support developing countries should be provided as subsidies and grant and not as loans to the already poor governments.

We look forward to working with partners to deliver on these community-led initiatives to ensure climate resilience and long-term shared water resource management.