

UNFCCC Climate Change Talks: Bangkok, 28 September – 9 October 2009

Indigenous Peoples must be Part of Climate Solution

LATEST: Climate change impacts are already a reality for indigenous peoples. In many cases, their very survival is put at risk. High dependence on nature, the occupation of marginal lands, and a fragile situation in socio-economic and political terms make indigenous peoples especially vulnerable to climate change and extreme natural phenomena.

QUOTE: “Decision-makers should listen to, recognize, respect, and address the perspectives and rights of indigenous peoples in the international negotiations,” says Annelie Fincke, **IUCN’s focal point on climate change and indigenous peoples**. “This should also carry through to national and local levels.”

QUOTE: Adequate inclusion of indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities from the beginning, from the REDD Readiness Phase, is key if we want to them to participate in the implementation of REDD,” says **IUCN’s Senior Forest and Climate Change Officer, Consuelo Espinosa**. “Participation is not an option, it is a right.”

Key issues:

- Well-managed nature plays an important role in both climate change adaptation and mitigation. *“Nature can offer solutions that are available to the rural poor in particular, that are cost-effective and sustainable,” says IUCN’s Climate Change Coordinator, Ninni Ikkala. “The potential of forests in reducing emissions is well-known, whilst for example well-managed mangroves can reduce flood impacts in low-lying coastal areas.”*
- Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change must be included in the post-2012 adaptation framework. *“Managing and conserving nature can increase resilience and reduce the vulnerability of people to the impacts of climate change,” says IUCN’s Head of Ecosystem Management Programme, Neville Ash. “Governments should promote the inclusion of ecosystem-based adaptation in the Copenhagen agreement.”*
- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) can be an immediate solution to reducing harmful emissions, and can also provide benefits to local people and biodiversity. *“We know how to use REDD, we don’t have to wait for the development of low carbon technologies,” says IUCN’s Director of Environment and Development, Stewart Maginnis. “New science shows it’s more urgent than ever to act now; we can’t wait to start reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”*

Press Material and Events

- Daily Media Brief – sent to registered press Monday 5 to Thursday 8 October
- Press Drinks Reception and Premiere Screening of BBC Earth Report “Heads Above Water”, Foreign Correspondents Club, Bangkok, 19:00-20:00, Tuesday 6 October
- Press briefing on UNFCCC negotiations, 11:00-11:30, Thursday 8 October
- Closing Statement, Friday 9 October

All press briefings will be held in the **Press Conference Room at the United Nations Conference Centre, Rajdamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok**

Photos/Audio/Video material are available from: www.iucn.org/unfccc

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