

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FOOD SYSTEMS FROM THE FRONT LINE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

In July 2021 the new work [Indigenous Peoples' food systems. Insights on sustainability and resilience from the front line of climate change](#) was co-published by [FAO](#), the [Alliance of Bioversity International](#) and the [International Center for Tropical Agriculture CIAT](#).

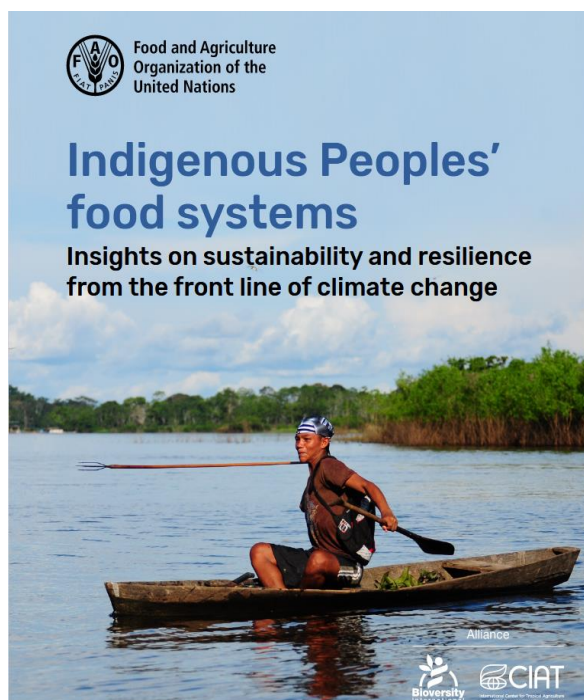
This publication was produced by a Scientific Editorial Committee chaired by the FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit, through a participatory field research with the involvement of Indigenous Peoples' communities, mapping eight diverse food systems from all continents and providing insights and details into their unique elements of sustainability and resilience.

The book contributes to ongoing global food system debates, including aspects such as the ability to generate food without depleting the natural resources but rather preserving and enhancing the biodiversity and health of the ecosystems, the use of renewable energy sourced from within the food system, the importance of customary governance mechanisms and institutions, and the role that traditional knowledge plays in climate resilience.

[In the presentation, FAO emphasizes that](#) this publication provides an overview of the common and unique sustainability elements of Indigenous Peoples' food systems, in terms of natural resource management, access to the market, diet diversity, governance systems, and links to traditional knowledge and indigenous languages.

The following presentations, prepared by the local indigenous organizations with the support of the Editorial Committee, describe the fundamental aspects of their ancestral knowledge and their natural resources management contributing to make food systems sustainable and resilient:

- Hunting, gathering and food sharing in Africa's rainforests. The forest-based food system of the Baka Indigenous People in South-eastern Cameroon.
- Voices from Arctic nomads: an ancestral system facing global warming. Reindeer herding food system of the Inari Sámi people in Nellim, Finland.
- Treasures from shifting cultivation in the Himalayan's evergreen forest. Jhum, fishing and gathering food system of the Khasi people in Meghalaya, India.
- From the ocean to the mountains: storytelling in the Pacific Islands. Fishing and agroforestry food system of the Melanesians SI people in Solomon Islands.



- Surviving in the desert: the resilience of nomadic herders. Pastoralist food system of the Kel Tamasheq people in Aratène, Mali.
- Ancestral nomadism and farming in the mountains. Agro-pastoralism and gathering food system of the Bhotia and Anwal peoples in Uttarakhand, India.
- Following the flooding cycles in the Amazon rainforest. Fishing, chagra and forest food system of the Tikuna, Cocama and Yagua peoples in Puerto Nariño, Colombia.
- The maize people in the Mesoamerican dry corridor. Milpa food system of the Maya Ch'orti' people in Chiquimula, Guatemala.

The publication ends with a rich bibliography that allows access to texts and studies to deepen the issues addressed and the characteristics of the food systems presented.

Presenting the publication, Anne Nuorgam, Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) highlights that Indigenous Peoples are amongst the longest living cultures in the world. They number 476 million people worldwide, living in more than 90 countries and belonging to 5.000 different peoples and linguistic groups. Their territories encompass over a quarter of the world's land surface and intersect about 35 percent of all terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact landscapes in the world. Indigenous territories preserve and sustain 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity.

Recognizing the great contribution made by this publication, the Chair of the UNPFII hopes it can motivate policymakers to integrate Indigenous Peoples' perspectives that have been shown to be capable of producing nutritious foods, while preserving natural resources and biodiversity since hundreds of years. Their experience can also provide answers to the debates taking place around the world to promote a transition to more sustainable food systems.

In this perspective, during the [UN Food Systems Pre-summit](#) held on 27 July 2021 at FAO headquarters in the presence of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Indigenous Peoples made visible the value of their ancestral food systems and presented them as a game-changing solution to ensure more sustainable food systems for the future and around the world. Indigenous Peoples' food systems will be also presented as an evidence-based contribution at the [UN Food Systems Summit](#) to be held in September 2021.

To know more

[Indigenous Peoples' food systems. Insights on sustainability and resilience from the front line of climate change](#)

[Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems en FAO sitio web](#)

[FAO Indigenous Peoples Unit](#)

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[Alliance of Bioversity International](#)

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[Articulo en FAO sitio web](#)

[The State of food security and nutrition in the world - Digital Report 2021](#)

[UN Food Systems Summit](#)

