



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages

Guidelines

10 recipes for sustainable development, one common ingredient: Indigenous languages

Inspiring projects to build your appetite for action on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages

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Template

(Indicate here which Output the project is addressing) by (Which National Commission is doing the project)

Recipe #X: (Title of Project)

Introduction (200 words)

Use this section to offer a summary of the project. Remember to include the Indigenous language(s) the project is targeting and relevant stakeholders and partners the project works with.

Ingredients (200 words)

This section should include a list of elements that you find are essential to the planning and implementation of the project.

Some guiding questions:

What is required before the undertaking of such a project to ensure its progress? What ingredients are needed to create a project that achieves its aims? Who needs to be involved in the planning and implementation processes for this kind of revitalization project?

Directions (400 words)

This section should include a list of steps in the planning and implementation of the project, much like the steps of a recipe.

Some guiding questions:

How should one use the ingredients mentioned above in implementing the project? What steps should come before others? How should the ingredients be engaged with to ensure maximum success of the project? And as with any good recipe, what signs should one look out for to know that one is on the right track? This section will be useful for sharing best practices which others can refer to in their own projects.

More info:

Indicate here links that gives additional information on the project, such as articles, URLs, additional resources and contact information.

Guidelines

The United Nations General Assembly ([Resolution A/RES/74/135](#)) proclaimed the period between 2022 and 2032 as the **International Decade of Indigenous Languages** (IDIL 2022-2032), to draw global attention on the critical situation of many indigenous languages and to mobilize stakeholders and resources for their preservation, revitalization and promotion.

The proclamation of an International Decade is a key outcome of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, for which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) lead global efforts. The Organization continues to serve as the lead UN Agency for the implementation of the International Decade, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and other relevant UN Agencies.

As the IDIL 2022-2032 progresses, we are launching the drafting of the online publication **“10 recipes for sustainable development, one common ingredient: Indigenous languages”**. The publication is intended as an analogy, to give clear examples on good practices and innovative projects to implement the [Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages](#). The Global Action Plan enables members to take ownership of the IDIL: it gives a precise roadmap, defining the major steps and their implementation and monitoring. Like any good recipe, it can be adapted to suit different situations.

Do note that the initiatives presented in this publication are not meant to be finalized projects with completed outcomes. Rather, they can be ongoing efforts designed to bring stakeholders together, prioritize Indigenous languages in discussions, and foster meaningful exchanges.

Structure

- Each submission will consist of a chapter in this “recipe book”. They will each highlight an innovative project carried out by the National Commission. The project must be linked to one of the 10 outputs of the Global Action Plan (see page 4).
- Each chapter must be written in **both** English and **an** Indigenous language of the place of implementation of the initiative. The chapter may also be written in a third language among the official languages of UNESCO (French, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish or Russian).
- Each chapter should not exceed 800 words.

Each chapter is structured as follows:

- 1. Engaging title**
- 2. Relevant output of the Global Action Plan (see page 4)**
- 3. Introduction / Context**
- 4. Ingredients – list of things to consider**
- 5. Directions – list activities and concrete actions**
- 6. More info – links to relevant webpages**

Terminology

UNESCO recognizes the diversity and richness of Indigenous cultures around the world and understands that there is no universally accepted terminology when referring to Indigenous Peoples and/or to Indigenous languages. In light of this, we encourage participating National Commissions to use the terminology that they deem appropriate and resonates with their own cultural and linguistic contexts. UNESCO does not impose or endorse any specific terms, allowing each Member State the freedom to honor their Indigenous communities in the way they find most respectful and accurate. This approach ensures that this publication remains inclusive and reflective of the varied perspectives and traditions of Indigenous Peoples globally.

10 Outputs of the Global Action Plan

1. Inclusive, equitable, intercultural, quality **education** and lifelong learning environments and opportunities in Indigenous languages provided in formal, non-formal and informal educational settings
2. Enhanced capacities among Indigenous Peoples for applying their languages and knowledge to the eradication of hunger and maintaining the integrity of Indigenous **food systems**
3. Favourable conditions established for **digital empowerment**, freedom of expression, media development, access to information and language technology, alongside artistic creation in Indigenous languages
4. Appropriate Indigenous language frameworks designed to offer better **health** provision, recognizing traditional systems of medicine, as well as promoting social cohesion and delivering humanitarian responses, especially during health crises, times of conflicts and natural disasters
5. Access to **justice** and availability of public services guaranteed to Indigenous language speakers and signers
6. Indigenous languages are sustained, as a vehicle of living heritage and biodiversity, whilst participation in - and access to - all forms of **culture** are enhanced for Indigenous Peoples
7. Enabling environment is created for Indigenous languages, thereby contributing to **biodiversity** conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecosystems management, land restoration, improving the marine and coastal environment, reducing natural hazards, preventing pollution, and managing water resources
8. Economic **growth** is strengthened by enhanced decent job opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and languages users
9. **Gender equality** and women's empowerment are achieved through the preservation, revitalization and promotion of Indigenous languages
10. Public and private **partnerships** are firmly established to place on the global agenda a long-term commitment to the preservation, revitalization and promotion of Indigenous languages

Example Submission: Canadian Commission for UNESCO

Global Action Plan Output 7 on Biodiversity - **Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO)**

ENGAGING TITLE: Recipe #1: Conversing with the Land

Introduction

For First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across Canada, Indigenous languages are not only a communication tool between people; they contain knowledges on how to live in healthy, reciprocal relationships with land, water and all beings and connect ancestors to current and future generations. They contain insights, values and practices to protect biodiversity and converse with Mother Earth. As such, one of CCUNESCO's priorities under the International Decade of Indigenous Languages is to raise awareness that by maintaining and revitalizing Indigenous languages, safeguarding Indigenous knowledges to inform current and future biodiversity policies and practices. CCUNESCO has facilitated and supported conversations, panels, and roundtables in various spheres on this subject, for example at the UN Biodiversity Conference: COP15 in Montreal in 2022.

Ingredients

- Respect the **“nothing about us without us”** principle. Ensure events & initiatives are Indigenous-led, co-developed, and co-organized with free and prior informed consent of Indigenous partners. This includes practices that are needs-driven, beneficial for partners, build-in capacity development and are non-extractive.
- **Take time** to build relationships of trust, respect and reciprocity with partners and ensure these relationships are nurtured and sustained. Build long-term partnerships rather than one-offs.
- **Acknowledge and respect the diversity** of Indigenous communities, languages and dialects *while building on commonalities to support one another*.
- **Leverage existing resources and networks** and avoid duplication of efforts.
- **Create open and safe spaces** for knowledge sharing between Indigenous nations and communities as well as with non-Indigenous allies (e.g. via webinars, in-person gatherings, publications, videos).
- Link local initiatives to **national and global priorities**.
- **Support pilot projects** with communities and map out processes and learnings to be shared with others.
- **Ensure that youth are meaningfully included** in projects and initiatives and support leadership development.
- Promote dialogue and **collaboration** across sectors by convening knowledge holders from different backgrounds.
- **Honour Indigenous knowledges and science** by recognizing their equal validity and significance alongside Western science, valuing the unique perspectives and insights that Indigenous knowledge systems offer.

Directions

1. Recognize that the world is experiencing parallel extinction crises: it is becoming less linguistically diverse, and it is also growing less biologically diverse. Recognize that it's vital to examine the interconnection between these two crises and that linguistic, cultural and biological diversity contribute to a stronger and more resilient world.
2. Build knowledge about how Indigenous languages are intrinsically linked with biodiversity conservation and explain this interconnection to people who have not considered it before.
3. Demonstrate how certain words and concepts in Indigenous languages and can be applied to develop conservation and sustainable development policies. Raise awareness about how Indigenous languages contain guiding concepts and values about living in harmony with the land on which they evolve.
4. Integrate Indigenous languages into conversations on sustainability to spark alternative ways of thinking/seeing/doing approaching climate and environmental challenges (alternative to Western/scientific view).
5. Frame Indigenous language revitalization as an essential part of addressing the environmental crisis.

More info:

- [Indigenous languages: transmitting knowledge for biodiversity protection](#) (video filmed at COP15)
- [Reflections on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages](#) (video filmed at the Decade launch in Ottawa)
- [Ărramăt - Indigenous perspectives on sustainable development](#) (article on CCUNESCO website)
- [CCUNESCO's International Decade of Indigenous Languages Working Group](#) (list of members)