

Indigenous Research Network

The Power of Inclusivity

December 2024
APEC Project Report

Acknowledgements

The Power of Inclusivity

On behalf of the Project Overseer, we would like to convey our deepest appreciation to all the speakers who have contributed to this project and shared their knowledge and work with us. We would also like to acknowledge the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) members who contributed to this workshop and shared their expertise with us.

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*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitani
My strength is not mine alone,
it comes from the collective group.*

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What is

The Power of Inclusivity?

Unity

Diversity

Growth

Empowerment

Belonging

Peace

Representation

Understanding

Support

Recognition

Participation

Open-Mindedness

Education

Equality

Connection

Acceptance

Collaboration

Encouraging

Respect

Open Dialogue

Culture

Gender-Friendly

Community

Storytelling

Justice

Equal Opportunities

Empathy

Willingness to change

Indigenous Leadership

“Inclusivity is empowering others to participate, lead, and thrive at all levels.”

Summary

The Power of Inclusivity

The workshop series **Indigenous Research Network: The Power of Inclusivity** is a joint initiative between APEC and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA), hosted by New Zealand and co-sponsored by Australia, Canada, Peru, and The United States. It aimed to gather young indigenous individuals from APEC and GRA economies to explore indigenous-led strategies for addressing climate change impacts on food systems and food security.

This initiative contributes to New Zealand's key action items in the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030. The mode of delivery was through two workshops, one virtual and one in-person in Peru.

The power of inclusivity emphasized the importance of involving young indigenous leaders in global climate decisions and actions. The workshops aimed to foster international cooperation and the transmission of traditional knowledge for building future leaders' capacity.

This project was designed to be a conversation-starter, encouraging economies to explore how diverse views might be incorporated and implemented more purposefully into government policies.

It provided a platform for emerging leaders to share their experiences and discuss how indigenous communities use traditional practices to enhance food security, resilience, and reduce emissions.

The overall goal is to influence policymakers and scientists to consider the views of young indigenous leaders in climate change decisions.

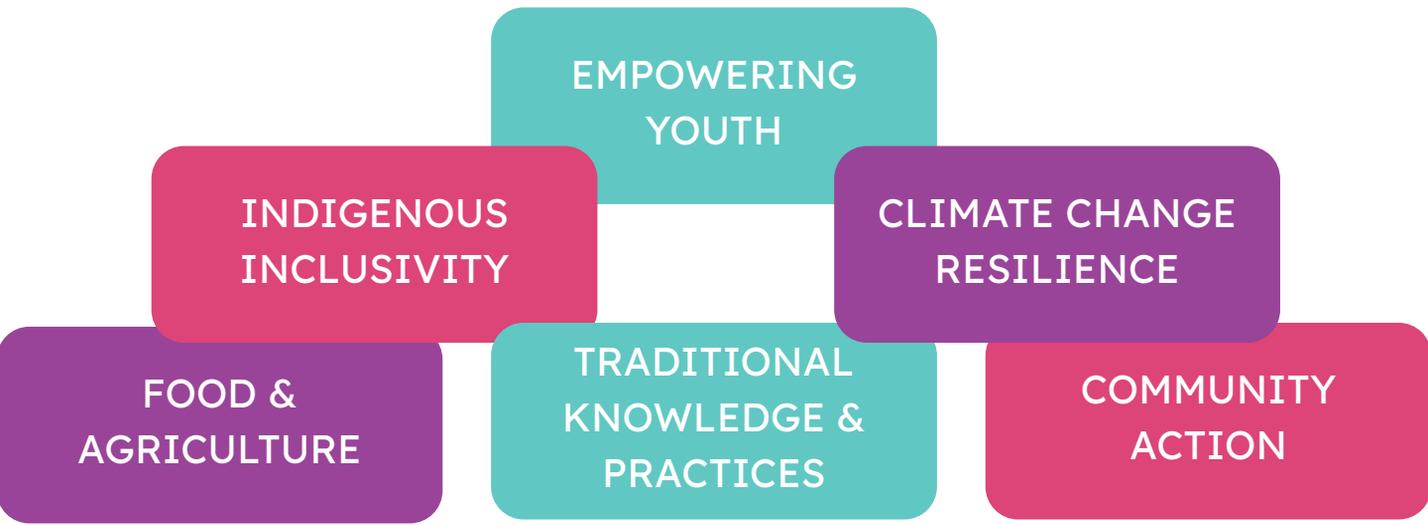
Key Objectives:

- Strengthening the ability and leadership capacity of indigenous youth in food and agricultural systems and climate resilience.
- International collaboration to include indigenous youth in their work and empower them in their emerging leadership roles.
- Preserving and honouring traditional knowledge and practices passed down through generations.

Objective & Outcomes

The Power of Inclusivity

This workshop series successfully achieved its objectives and intended outcomes. Throughout the series, which included both a virtual workshop and an in-person workshop, participants gained valuable insights from 11 expert speakers representing diverse cultures, experiences, and perspectives. The main topics explored were:



Indigenous youth shared their outlook regarding their roles, challenges, and contributions within interconnected areas of leadership, participation, education, and employment. The knowledge and experiences shared by both speakers as well as participants revealed key connections, challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions for APEC economies to actively engage young indigenous leaders in their work addressing food, agriculture, and climate change issues.

Feedback collated during and after the workshops highlight that the series fostered a deeper understanding of indigenous needs and the barriers, they face in participating. It also captured the value of their expertise for policymakers and researchers to utilize, emphasizing the importance of APEC economies creating accessible opportunities for indigenous youth to contribute and lead in these critical areas.

Many participants highlighted that this workshop series was the most interactive they have experienced at APEC or any other global forum. Due to this workshop series, an additional 17 economies have joined the Indigenous Research Network bringing the total to 37 member economies who are interested in growing these conversations into actions.



Capability Building

The Power of Inclusivity

APEC's mission is to equip member economies with the skills and knowledge necessary to help their populations adapt and thrive in evolving environments while supporting the development of long-term, strategic policies for better trade and investment engagement. This workshop series aimed to build the capacity of member economies in *four key areas*:

Providing opportunities for indigenous youth to be involved, have their voices heard, and take on leadership roles, thereby fostering a more inclusive environment for all and enhancing APEC's overall capacity.

Enhancing understanding of traditional knowledge and practices in addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

Deepening awareness of indigenous needs, encouraging APEC economies to improve their engagement with indigenous communities.

Leveraging indigenous expertise and experiences, enabling member economies to strengthen their practices and policies by incorporating the insights shared, particularly in ways that benefit their economies and include younger indigenous populations in decision-making processes.

Aligned with Peru's APEC priorities for 2024: **Empower, Include, Grow** this workshop was especially impactful for young indigenous leaders, who are often underrepresented in global forums. APEC and the GRA empowered an indigenous youth to lead the creation and direction of this workshop series, which focused on amplifying the voices of young indigenous leaders. By empowering and including these leaders, APEC member economies have grown from this experience. Participants had the opportunity to brainstorm both short-term and long-term goals for how they can continue to grow and foster inclusion in their own contexts.

Throughout the series, participants engaged in collaborative activities, gaining insights from one another and, most importantly, from the young indigenous leaders themselves. The in-person format, matched with interactive activities, fostered strong connections among participants.

The Project Overseer led activities designed to help participants understand the perspectives of indigenous youth. Participants explored the connections, challenges, opportunities, and solutions to engagement from both the standpoint of government officials and that of a hypothetical indigenous youth, Kaya, who desires to be involved but is uncertain where to start. This approach helped participants develop empathy for indigenous needs, providing them with insights they may not have gained had they not attended the workshop.

162

Registrants

Participation

The Power of Inclusivity

41

Economies

16 APEC economies represented:

- NEW ZEALAND
- AUSTRALIA
- CANADA
- PERU
- THE UNITED STATES
- CHILE
- PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
- INDONESIA

- JAPAN
- REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- MALAYSIA
- MEXICO
- THE PHILIPPINES
- THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
- CHINESE TAIPEI
- THAILAND

25 non-APEC economies:

- ARGENTINA
- BANGLADESH
- BENIN
- CAMEROON
- COLOMBIA
- EGYPT
- ETHIOPIA
- ESWATINI
- FIJI
- GHANA
- IRAN
- ITALY

- KENYA
- LITHUANIA
- MONGOLIA
- MYANMAR
- NIGERIA
- PAKISTAN
- SOUTH AFRICA
- SPAIN
- TUNISIA
- UNITED KINGDOM
- URUGUAY
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE



Surveys

The project overseer conducted a survey for registrants to complete ahead of attending both workshops for the series. Below are some summaries of the answers that were explored in the in-person workshop.

Biggest barriers in your community in this climate crisis..

Knowledge and Awareness Gaps

Climate change awareness: Lack of climate change knowledge among local farmers, youth, and communities.

Local vs. national strategies: Tension between locally developed adaptation strategies and national/global approaches that may not suit local needs.

Cultural and Environmental Changes

Disruptions to land and seasonal plant/animal calendars due to climate change.

Loss of biodiversity, soil degradation, and other impacts on the environment.

Limited Access to Information

Difficulty accessing climate change data and studies tailored to indigenous populations.

Traditional Owner voices often not being heard in decision-making processes.

Lack of Support and Funding

Insufficient funding to support climate change studies designed by Traditional Owners.

Limited access to training kits and appropriate resources for adaptation.

Shifting Agricultural Patterns

Changes in growing seasons: Warming temperatures shift where crops can be cultivated and increase the spread of pests and pathogens, affecting yields.

Food security challenges: Reduced food production, animal feed scarcity, and disruptions to water availability due to erratic rainfall.

Exclusion from Climate Policies

Indigenous communities are often excluded from climate-related policies, which are not targeted to their specific needs.

Lack of inclusion in discussions on climate change solutions and adaptation strategies.

Social and Economic Challenges

Decreasing population and workforce: Dwindling agricultural workforce and economic weakening due to climate impacts.

Cultural and institutional barriers: Political, economic, and social factors that hinder indigenous communities' involvement in climate action.

Barriers to Adaptation and Resilience

Lack of data and technology: Insufficient data on greenhouse gas emissions and inadequate resources to collect data.

Access to climate-smart technologies: Limited access to technologies that could help communities adapt to climate change.

Poor markets and policies: Challenges in markets for indigenous agricultural products and policies that do not consider indigenous needs or perspectives.

Ways to Include Young People in Climate Decision-Making:

Educational and Training Initiatives

Introduce climate change topics in schools and universities.

Provide training programs, workshops, and internships focused on climate change and sustainability.

Sponsor educational activities, such as climate impact training for youth in farming (e.g., Leventis Foundation in Ghana).

Community Engagement and Leadership Development

Engage community youth leaders to mobilize youth and encourage active participation in climate discussions.

Establish programs like Junior Rangers to develop leadership and resource management skills in youth.

Run youth justice programs to strengthen cultural ties and re-engage youth with education and employment, helping them develop skills for future leadership in climate action.

Youth Participation in Policy and Decision-Making

Include young people in national and international climate councils, panels, and committees.

Give youth a place at the negotiating table in climate discussions.

Empower youth by providing opportunities to contribute ideas through conferences, workshops, and direct involvement in policy creation.

Building Skills for the Future

Offer programs that provide youth with the qualifications and skills necessary for entering and staying in the workforce, ensuring they are prepared for roles in climate-related sectors.

Creating Safe Spaces for Youth Voices

Foster safe spaces, like youth councils, where young people can freely express their concerns, especially related to climate change and its impacts.

Ensure youth involvement in local cultural and environmental decision-making processes.

Empowering and Valuing Indigenous Knowledge

Create opportunities for indigenous youth to share and apply their cultural knowledge in climate decision-making.

Involve youth in the transfer of cultural knowledge through initiatives like mentorship programs and community-based youth councils.

Youth-Oriented Climate Solutions

Invest in youth-driven climate solutions, particularly focusing on adaptation and mitigation strategies for agriculture and food production.

Support youth in designing and implementing climate adaptation projects.

Collaborative Platforms for Youth Engagement

Provide special platforms and volunteer programs for youth participation in global forums.

Use both online platforms and in-person engagement (e.g., one-on-one teaching, community meetings) to involve youth in climate action.

Additional Methods:

Use advocacy, volunteering, negotiations, and campaigns to involve youth in climate related actions and policy discussions.

Social media and media projects to raise awareness and mobilize youth on climate issues.

Virtual Workshop



Date: 1 November 2023

-

Platform: ZOOM

MC: *Katerina Porou (NZ)*

Speakers: *Shiloh Babbington (NZ), Gilmer Yuimachi Diaz (PERU), Benson Saulo (AUS), Gina McGuire (USA), Cheyenne Wilson (NZ).*

The first part of the series was an introductory virtual workshop, aimed at building this platform to focus on youth engagement and the importance of the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge in addressing climate impacts. This event showcased the enriching stories of young indigenous leaders from the host and co-sponsor economies. Speakers shared their experiences being in leadership roles from a young age and the challenges they faced and overcame, encouraging APEC economies to be more inclusive and open to diverse perspectives.

The purpose of the virtual workshop was to:

Advocate the importance of inclusion of all people specifically young indigenous people as our emerging leaders in protecting the climate for their future

Connect indigenous communities through the exchange of traditional knowledge and practices related to food security and climate change resilience

AGENDA

Opening Remarks

Katerina Porou
- NZ

*Indigenous Research Network
empowering indigenous youth*

Shiloh Babbington
- NZ

*Kipuka Kauna 'oa - Refugia of
Resilience in native country*

Gina McGuire
- USA

*Shipibo-Konibo
"Reforestation" - Bari Wesna*

Gilmer David
Yuimachi Diaz
- Peru

Break & IRN Video

*Understanding issues
impacting young leaders*

Benson Saulo
- AUS

*What happens when
the lights go out?*

Cheyenne Wilson
- NZ

Q & A session

Concluding Remarks

Katerina Porou
- NZ

Panelists

Virtual Workshop

Shiloh Babbington, NZ

Shiloh is a young Maori from Ngati Porou and Ngati Kahungunu ki te Wairoa. She got the opportunity to live, work, and study in Fukuoka, Japan where she immersed herself in a different culture that made her further appreciate her own. She has a Bachelor of Arts Triple Major in Political Science, International Relations, and Education. She works at New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries in the Global Research Alliance on

Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) Secretariat where she leads the Indigenous Research Network. Shiloh has represented New Zealand as a keynote speaker numerous times at many global fora including APEC. Shiloh created the APEC workshop series: 'Indigenous Research Network: The Power of Inclusivity' to build upon her presentation at the APEC Women and Economy Forum in 2023 where she shared the importance of economies creating opportunities for young indigenous voices to be involved and recognised in global issues.



Benson Saulo, AUS

Benson Saulo is a descendant of the Wemba Wemba and Gunditjmara Aboriginal nations of Western Victoria, and New Ireland Province in Papua New Guinea. Appointed in 2021, Benson was the first indigenous person to be appointed an Australian Consul-General and Senior Trade and Investment Commission, delivered the Australian Government's diplomacy, economic and trade agenda in the US. Benson has a background in banking, economic development, and social impact, which provides a strong foundation for his role as Managing Partner at First Australians Capital,

an indigenous-led investment fund and indigenous business advisor. In 2011, Benson was appointed the Australian Youth Representative to the United Nations in which he undertook a national engagement tour to gain a deeper understanding of issues impacting Australian youth. Benson then represented Australian youth at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly as an accredited member of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Benson was named National NAIDOC Youth of the Year in 2014, and a finalist for Young Australian of the Year (VIC), and the Human Rights Medal for Youth by the Australian Human Rights Commission.



Gina McGuire, USA



Dr. Gina McGuire is an 'Ōiwi-Polish woman who works and resides in Hawai'i. She is a student of lā'au lapa'au (Hawaiian medicine), proud land caretaker, and horse mom. Gina is a Tribal Agriculture Fellow and an Indigenous Ecologist with the Akaka Foundation and Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry. She writes for the Native Climate initiative. Gina holds a BA from Stanford University, MS from University of Hawai'i Hilo in Conservation Biology & Environmental Science, MA in Creative Writing from Lancaster University, and PhD in Geography & Environment from University of Hawai'i Mānoa. Her research focuses are in cross-indigenous collaboration, indigenous research methodologies, and rural community wellbeing and ecologies.

Gilmer David Yuimachi Diaz, Peru

Gilmer David Yuimachi Diaz is a young indigenous leader from the native Bena Jema community of the Shipibo Konibo people in the city of Pucallpa, located in the Ucayali region, Peru. He is currently a psychology student at the National University of Ucayali and volunteers with the NGO Bari Wesna, where he is involved in activities that focus on empowering the local community, preserving their customs and culture, and participating in reforestation efforts.



Cheyenne Wilson, NZ



Cheyenne is a descendant of the iwi (tribes) Ngāi Tūhoe and Ngāti Awa. Cheyenne is the founder and Managing Director of Te Kaharangi Hono, a specialist Māori Agribusiness and whenua Māori consulting firm. She has a Bachelor of Environment and Society from Lincoln University. She is a trustee for the charities Meat the Need and Lean on a Gate, a governance group member for Our Land and Water National Science Challenge, and a council member for Muka Tāngata, People, Food and Fibre Workforce Development Council. Cheyenne was the

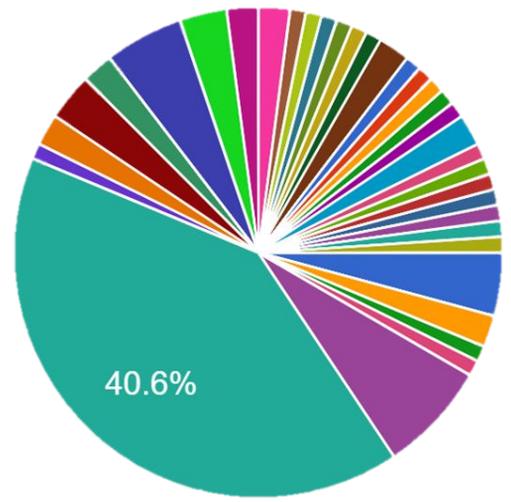
first chair of He Tātai Rangahua, the Food and Fibre Youth Council. A finalist in the Ahuwhenua Young Māori Farmer of the Year Award for Dairy in 2018 she mentors and supports rangatahi Māori in the food and fibre industries. She is committed to building the capability of tāngata whenua. Cheyenne has been supporting the Cyclone Gabrielle response and recovery efforts in Te Tairāwhiti since February 2023.

Participation

Virtual Workshop

104 registrants

32 economies represented



12 APEC economies represented

-  NEW ZEALAND
-  AUSTRALIA
-  CANADA
-  PERU
-  THE UNITED STATES
-  CHILE

-  PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
-  INDONESIA
-  MEXICO
-  THE PHILIPPINES
-  THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
-  CHINESE TAIPEI

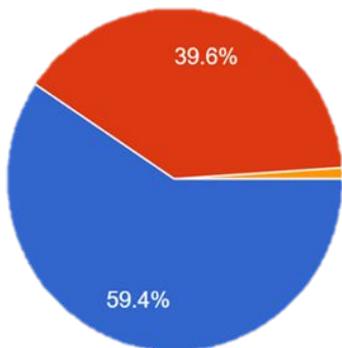
20 non-APEC economies

-  ARGENTINA
-  BANGLADESH
-  BENIN
-  CAMEROON
-  COLOMBIA

-  EGYPT
-  ETHIOPIA
-  ESWATINI
-  FIJI
-  IRAN

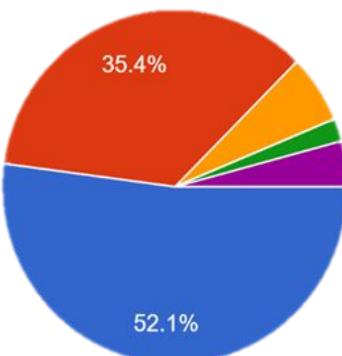
-  KENYA
-  LITHUANIA
-  MONGOLIA
-  MYANMAR
-  PAKISTAN

-  SOUTH AFRICA
-  SPAIN
-  TUNISIA
-  UNITED KINGDOM
-  ZAMBIA



Graph 2: Gender representation

-  Female = 61
-  Male = 43
-  Prefer not to say = 1



Graph 3: How often does your organisation engage with the Indigenous/Native Peoples in your economy?

-  Actively and frequently engage = 50
-  Engage in response to relevant issues that arise = 34
-  Engage less than once a year = 6
-  No engagement = 2
-  Non applicable = 4

The webinar featured a series of thought provoking discussions on the intersection of

- ★ Indigenous knowledge,
- ★ Climate change,
- ★ Youth empowerment.

Summary

Virtual Workshop

Gina McGuire from Hawaii focused on the need to shift the narrative of science to recognize the interconnectedness of culture and climate. She argued that climate and culture are inseparable, and that one cannot be fully understood without the other. Gina's perspective emphasized the importance of cultural resilience and the role of indigenous knowledge in addressing climate challenges.

Cheyenne Wilson from New Zealand shared a powerful story about the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle and how the Māori community, including many young people, came together to support one another in a time of grief and devastation. She emphasized the concept of *manaakitanga* (care and support) and the ongoing need for assistance in these communities, even months after the disaster.

Gilmer David Yuimachi Diaz from Peru shared his experiences as a young member of the Shipibo-Konibo community and the impacts of climate change on indigenous populations in his region. He discussed what governments, NGOs, and corporations can do to support climate resilience in indigenous communities, highlighting the importance of indigenous perspectives in the global climate conversation.

Shiloh Babbington from New Zealand discussed the underrepresentation of indigenous peoples in science and the feelings of imposter syndrome that many Indigenous Peoples experience when sharing their traditional practices and knowledge. She emphasized the need for mutual recognition between indigenous knowledge and western science, particularly in terms of intergenerational knowledge transmission. Shiloh also highlighted the increasing involvement of youth in climate action, as they grapple with questions about their future, such as the viability of having children in a rapidly changing world.

Katerina Porou from New Zealand emphasized the importance of rekindling culture and language through storytelling. She highlighted the challenges faced by indigenous communities when it comes to accessing funding, as the system often fails to accommodate their holistic ways of living and unique worldviews. She stressed the importance of protecting and nurturing indigenous knowledge within communities to ensure its survival and adaptation to climate challenges.

Benson Saulo from Australia spoke about the crucial role of youth in the climate change space. He advocated for the inclusion of young people in decision-making processes, stressing the importance of creating accessible spaces for them to participate. Benson also discussed how climate change is linked to culture, language, land, education, and health, urging that young people must be better prepared for the challenges they will face in the future.

In-Person Workshop: PERU



Date: 14 August 2024 - **Venue:** Costa Del Sol Hotel

- MC:** Shiloh Babbington & Marcela Fuentes (NZ)
- Speakers:** Guisella Ubaqui (PERU), Ciro Pacheco (PERU), Shiloh Babbington (NZ), Elina Figueroa (CHILE), Gaby Aguirre (PERU), Nicolás Costa (URUGUAY)

The second part of the series was an in-person workshop held in Trujillo, Peru, which focused on Latin American perspectives. The workshop fostered a safe and inclusive environment, allowing participants to engage deeply with the day's objectives and outcomes.

This space enabled participants to form meaningful connections, share their thoughts, and ensure their voices were heard. They had the opportunity to learn from young indigenous leaders and collaborate on brainstorming their own aspirations, challenges, and potential solutions to the impacts of climate change on their communities and economies.

A key question explored:

How can we best equip future generations with the skills and knowledge needed to sustain their environment?

AGENDA

Opening Remarks

Shiloh Babbington
- NZ

Civilisation of Tawantinsuyu

Ciro Pacheco
- Peru

Introductions & Group Photo

“The Power of Inclusivity”

Activity

Indigenous Research Network

Shiloh Babbington
- NZ

Climate change Art Contest

Activity

Peru

Guisella Ubaqui
- Peru

Chile

Elna Figueroa
- Chile

The Marshmallow Challenge

Activity

Lunch break

Peru

Gaby Aguirre
- Peru

Opportunities for collaboration

Nicolas Costa
- Uruguay

The Story of Kaya - How can I...

Activity

Panel Session

Q & A

Concluding Remarks

Shiloh Babbington
- NZ

Panelists

In-Person Workshop



Ciro Pachecho is a Quechan elder who is a traditional knowledge and indigenous food expert in Cusco, Peru. He belongs to the Agrocentric Civilisation of Tawantinsuyu and focuses on its contributions to food security and climate change effects related to agriculture, health, and nutrition.

Guisela Ubaqui is a young indigenous leader who studies environmental engineering. She belongs to the Youth for Agrobiodiversity Network of Apurimac and has volunteered in the Communities of Chaccrapma and Chiara for the plantation of Queñuas, as part of the Agrobiodiversity/Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (SIPAM) project. As part of this network, she has also helped make people aware of headwaters preservation.

Elina Figueroa is a young Mapuche agricultural ecologist. She is from Collipulli, an indigenous community in Araucania, Chile. Elina has been brought up in family agriculture which drove her passion to become an agricultural technician. She prides herself on her efforts of passing her ancestral knowledge onto her young children.

Gaby Aguirre is a young indigenous leader from the native community of Infierno, belonging to the Ese Eja people, located in Madre de Dios, Peru. She currently serves as the treasurer of the Organization of Indigenous Youth and Students of Madre de Dios (OJEIMAD), which is the youth branch of the Native Federation of the Madre de Dios River and Tributaries (FENAMAD). At 21 years old, she assumed her first position as the Treasurer of her community's board of directors. She serves to provide more voices and opportunities for youth in a context of pressures on their territories.

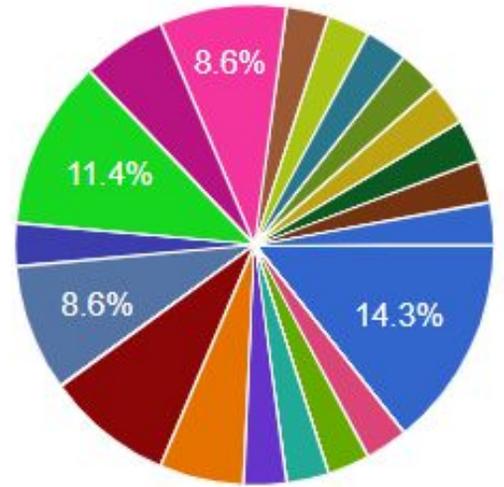
Nicolás Costa is an agronomist from Uruguay. He is part of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) where he leads research and policy action in Latin America and the Caribbean. He works closely with indigenous communities in the region, working on sustainability and climate change in agriculture.

Participation

In-Person Workshop

69 registrants

23 economies represented

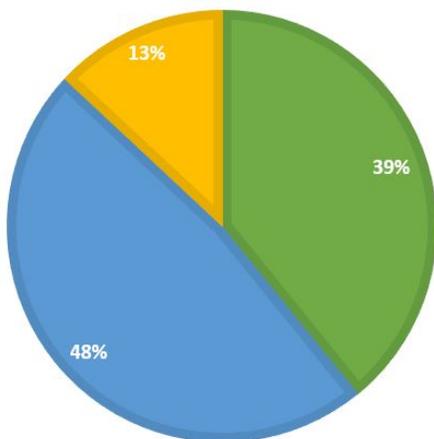


14 APEC economies represented

- NEW ZEALAND
- AUSTRALIA
- CANADA
- PERU
- THE UNITED STATES
- PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
- JAPAN
- INDONESIA
- MALAYSIA
- REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- CHINESE TAIPEI
- THAILAND
- THE PHILIPPINES
- THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

9 non-APEC economies

- BANGLADESH
- CAMEROON
- GHANA
- ITALY
- KENYA
- NIGERIA
- URUGUAY
- ZAMBIA
- ZIMBABWE



Graph 2: Gender representation

- Female = 27
- Male = 33
- Unaccounted for = 9



Collaborative Activities

To set the scene for the day we hosted a *Climate Change Art Contest* where participants got to embrace their inner child and think about what the impacts of climate change looks like and feels like to them. This activity engaged participants' creativity, with some expressing gratitude as they felt they had to grow up quickly due to the challenges their communities faced, resulting in a sense of missing out on much of their childhood. The connections built by sharing memories and challenges during this activity set the scene for the day, creating a safe environment for attendees to share. Participants:

- ★ *Embraced their creativity, open-mindedness, and their inner youth*
- ★ *Shared barriers their communities have faced while creating something to represent that or hope for resolution*



The Marshmallow Challenge was a highlight that got economies to work together in mixed teams and build tall structures out of the materials provided for them to hold a marshmallow at its peak without falling off. This activity proved to be successful in encouraging different economies to utilise their strengths, establish their roles in the team and then work together to achieve a shared outcome. The Marshmallow Challenge was a metaphor for uniting to build a platform of opportunities to uplift indigenous youth in food, agriculture, and climate resilience. This activity showed:

- ★ *Different economies working together*
- ★ *Everyones different roles to play but they are all significant to a team*
- ★ *Participants connection to the message of the day, with each team presenting their final structure and its meaning*



Perspective Change

In-Person Workshop

A key activity based on a hypothetical scenario focused around Kaya, a young indigenous leader who studies sustainable agriculture in Cusco, Peru. This activity involved participants adopting the perspective of Kaya who is eager to help their community in this climate crisis but unsure where to start. The Project Overseer created this activity to foster understanding among participants, brainstorming: **“How can I...”**

listen to their voices, empower them as leaders, recognise their contributions, create safe spaces, involve them in decision-making processes, build partnerships, build their capability and capacity, and support their initiatives.

By hypothetically stepping into the shoes of an indigenous youth, this exercise provided valuable insights into real challenges faced by indigenous communities and fostered empathy for their needs. They addressed four key questions about **connections**, **challenges**, **opportunities**, and **solutions**. In this perspective, participants explored their desire to engage in community efforts while facing barriers like limited resources and opportunities and discussed ways to overcome these challenges.

You are Kaya

- ★ *What do you feel about the challenge you face as Kaya, the next generation of guardians for the planet?*
- ★ *What are the challenges Kaya faces trying to get involved?*
- ★ *What opportunities and support from government does Kaya know of to help make progress on this mission?*
- ★ *What are actions Kaya can take to have their voice be heard and their perspectives included in the work of government?*

Finally, participants hypothetically stepped back into their shoes and reflected on how they as government officials and organizations could better include indigenous youth in their initiatives. Once again, participants addressed four different questions related to **connections**, **challenges**, **opportunities**, and **solutions** from their own perspectives. The "How can I..." activity encouraged collaboration among officials to identify ways to actively engage with and directly support indigenous youth in their economies; with the aim of returning home with actionable plans, leaving implementation up to their discretion.

Supporting Kaya

- ★ *What are the areas that you work in, what is the work of your team?*
- ★ *Where do opportunities exist? What is work coming up, could you involve indigenous youth in that process?*
- ★ *What challenges will government face involving young indigenous voices?*
- ★ *What simple changes could you make in your work and your team's work to involve indigenous youth? And how?*

In-Person Workshop

CHALLENGES FOR KAYA

Indigenous youth, like Kaya, face numerous challenges, especially when trying to get involved in leadership and decision-making spaces. A key issue is the lack of access to opportunities, which limits their ability to contribute meaningfully. To carry on their ancestral role as guardians of the land, Kaya and their community need the necessary tools, support, and recognition from those in positions to help. It is vital for them to be included in global platforms like APEC, where their voice can contribute to shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Resilience fatigue:

The constant struggle to adapt to climate change is taking a toll on Kaya's mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Cultural erasure:

The community's traditional ways of life are under threat due to external pressures and lack of recognition.

Lack of representation:

Kaya's voice and perspective as an indigenous youth are often overlooked in decision-making processes. The voice of her community leaders are also overlooked in decision-making processes.

Resource and Accessibility Barriers:

Limited financial resources, geographic distance from decision-making centers, and budget constraints make it difficult for young leaders to participate fully.

Structural and Communication Issues:

Limited access to key decision-makers, language barriers, mistrust, and the need for culturally sensitive approaches add complexity to effective engagement.

Cultural and Social Obstacles:

Resistance to progressive ideas, a lack of acceptance for new ways of thinking, and balancing idealism with pragmatism can hinder engagement. Additionally, there is a challenge of public backlash and media perceptions that undervalue youth voices.

CHALLENGES FOR SUPPORT

Involving indigenous youth in leadership roles presents several challenges, including limited resources, resistance to new ideas, and barriers in communication and access. However, it is crucial to address these obstacles and find ways to better engage young indigenous leaders as they are the future of our communities. By providing more opportunities, fostering inclusive spaces, and focusing on solutions-driven approaches, we can empower youth to actively contribute to decision-making and help shape a more inclusive and sustainable future.

Agriculture and Sustainability: Advocate for indigenous statements in agriculture, ensuring their voices are part of conversations about sustainable agricultural practices. Foster indigenous foods trade programs that define and promote indigenous products globally. Promote sustainability initiatives within indigenous communities, using traditional knowledge to drive climate resilience.

Government Collaboration: Collaborate with the government to gain access to agricultural development programs, funding for sustainable farming, and training opportunities to support indigenous communities. Encourage indigenous youth participation in policymaking to advocate for their community needs and leadership development.

Global Engagement: Explore emerging markets for indigenous businesses, facilitating global trade and recognition of indigenous entrepreneurship. Create opportunities for international engagement, allowing indigenous youth to network, learn, and share their perspectives on a global stage.

Learning and Adopting Best Practices: Research and adopt best practices locally and within the APEC ecosystem to implement effective strategies that can benefit indigenous communities.

Storytelling and Role Models: Invite indigenous leaders like Kaya to share their stories at events, creating visibility and inspiring the next generation of indigenous youth leaders.

HOW WE CAN SUPPORT KAYA

In-Person Workshop

Create Spaces for Indigenous Youth: Intentionally create spaces where indigenous youth are included at the table for discussions and decisions that affect their futures, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are met.

Policy Influence and Inclusion: Incorporate indigenous knowledge and experiences into upcoming policies, especially in areas like agriculture, climate change, and sustainable development. Ensure the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in key delegations and decision-making processes during international events and forums.

Employment and Capacity Building: Increase employment opportunities for indigenous youth, encouraging their participation in diverse sectors, including agriculture, technology, and environmental conservation. Support participation in bilateral and multilateral capacity-building activities, where indigenous youth can engage, lead, and gain valuable skills.

Interactive and Inclusive Learning: Implement funding programs that collaborate with universities to launch initiatives like a “Kaya Challenge”, which could help solve real-world problems facing indigenous communities. Promote inclusive deliberative processes like citizen assemblies, town halls, and community forums to engage indigenous youth directly in policymaking and local decision-making.

Youth Empowerment and Governance: Encourage more collaborative work between governments and indigenous youth, ensuring their active participation in decision-making and leadership roles. Support youth engagement in governance through programs like the IPA program, which facilitates knowledge transfer and decision-making participation for young indigenous leaders.

8 Key Takeaways

"Inclusion is not just about representation; it's about recognizing the value of every voice."

"Indigenous youth are not just the future; they are the present solutions to the climate crisis."

"We need to create space for young people at the table and amend that table to make it accessible to them."

"Together, we can unite even the most diverse perspectives to build a sustainable future."

"Traditional knowledge is the key to climate resilience and food security."

"Change is a matter of choice, not chance."

"Climate is inseparable from culture, and one cannot measure culture."

"We must shift the narrative of what science is and acknowledge the interconnectedness between culture and climate."

These key takeaways highlight the workshop's success in creating an inclusive, interactive, and forward-looking dialogue between young indigenous leaders, governments, and experts, resulting in actionable solutions for the climate crisis and food security.

By focusing on indigenous youth leadership, APEC has strengthened the capacity of younger generations to shape climate and food security policies, ensuring these decisions are informed by diverse, local perspectives. The workshop encouraged more inclusive participation in APEC's work, ensuring that underrepresented indigenous voices are heard and valued in policy discussions. By highlighting the importance of traditional knowledge, APEC is better equipped to integrate diverse approaches to sustainability and resilience, making policies more robust and adaptable to local needs. These takeaways support APEC's long-term vision of fostering sustainable economic growth, food security, and climate resilience by ensuring that solutions to climate change are effective, inclusive, and equitable.

The Way Forward

The Power of Inclusivity

This workshop series created a space for young indigenous voices to lead the conversation, share experiences, and offer solutions to climate-related challenges.

The in-person workshop was notably one of the most interactive events in APEC, with a strong focus on collaboration and mutual learning among diverse participants. The following activities were successful in achieving our desired outcomes:

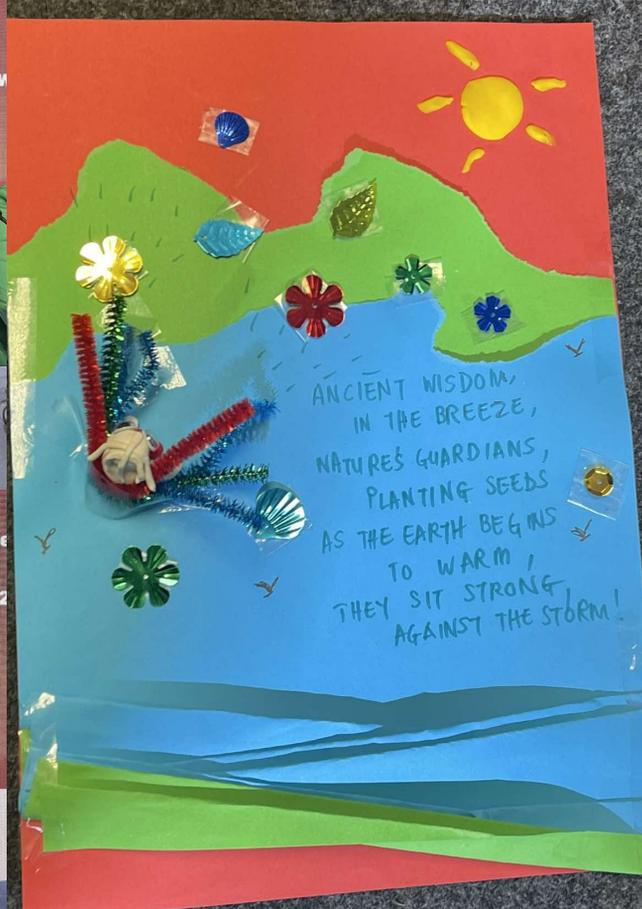
- ★ *The **Climate Change Art Contest** helped participants reflect creatively on the impact of climate change on their communities, fostering empathy and shared experiences.*
- ★ *The **Marshmallow Challenge** symbolized the importance of teamwork, using strengths to overcome challenges in building sustainable, inclusive solutions.*
- ★ *In the **How can I...** activity, participants stepped into the shoes of a young indigenous person who is eager to help her community but lacks resources or opportunities. This exercise highlighted barriers to engagement and inspired actionable steps for government officials to better include indigenous youth.*

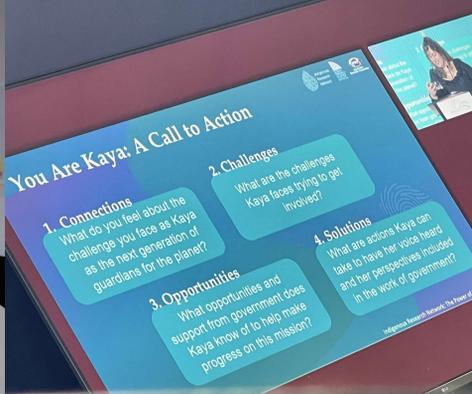
Participants of this series:

- ★ *recognized the vital connection between culture, language, land, and climate, and the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge into climate adaptation and food security efforts.*
- ★ *were inspired to create inclusive spaces and partnerships for young indigenous people to contribute to decision-making processes.*
- ★ *were motivated to design actionable outcomes to be implemented by participant economies, encouraging governments to involve youth in policy areas, particularly in food systems, agriculture, and climate resilience.*

Indigenous Research Network: The Power of Inclusivity set the stage for future collaboration, ensuring that indigenous youth continue to have a platform in global conversations, decisions, and actions about food systems, agriculture and climate change.







Appendix 1

Organisations involved

- ★ Agency for National Research and Innovation, Centre for Animal Husbandry
- ★ Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)
- ★ Agriculture Research Center (various countries)
- ★ Agrosavia-Corporacion Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria
- ★ South Africa Agricultural Research Council (ARC)
- ★ Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute
- ★ Board of Trade of Thailand
- ★ British High Commission
- ★ CENID-SAI, INIFAP
- ★ Centre for Independent Development Research
- ★ Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University
- ★ Climate Change Advisors Ghana (CCAG) and School of Agriculture, University of Cape Coast
- ★ New Zealand Climate Change Commission
- ★ Ghana CSIR-Animal Research Institute
- ★ UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- ★ Australia Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
- ★ South Africa Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
- ★ Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development, Faculty of Agriculture, Imo State University (Nigeria)
- ★ Desert Research Institute
- ★ Dulcet Association
- ★ Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
- ★ Eswatini Government, Ministry of Agriculture
- ★ FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency, USA)
- ★ Federal University Dutse, Nigeria
- ★ FarmUpNz
- ★ GRA (Global Research Alliance)
- ★ Indonesian Agency for National Research and Innovation (Research Centre for Animal Husbandry)
- ★ INIA-CSIC (National Institute for Agricultural Research, Spain)
- ★ National Institute for Forestry, Agriculture, and Livestock Research (INIFAP)
- ★ Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP)
- ★ Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA, Argentina)
- ★ Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD)
- ★ Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation (Australia)
- ★ Krishi Gobeshona Foundation
- ★ Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)
- ★ Lithuania University of Health Sciences

Organisations involved

Continued

- ★ New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)
- ★ Ministry for the Environment and Transport (Sustainable Development, Luxembourg)
- ★ Ministry of Agriculture & Waterways (various countries)
- ★ Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation
- ★ Peru Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation
- ★ New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAT)
- ★ Musika Zambia
- ★ Nia Tero
- ★ National Agriculture and Food Research Organization (NARO, Japan)
- ★ New Zealand Treasury
- ★ NZAGRC (New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre)
- ★ Poipoia
- ★ PODA Pakistan (Pakistan Organic Development Association)
- ★ Plant and Food Research (New Zealand)
- ★ PyJuliaR Consulting Firm
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- ★ Te Pukenga (New Zealand)
- ★ Te Whare o Angitu / Te Kura o Hirangi
- ★ Tompi Seleka College of Agriculture
- ★ University of Carthage
- ★ University of Eldoret, Kenya
- ★ University of Eswatini
- ★ University of Ghana
- ★ University of Nairobi
- ★ University of Sydney
- ★ University of Zambia
- ★ United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS)
- ★ National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA)
- ★ Bureau of Animal Industry
- ★ World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- ★ Thai Chamber of Commerce
- ★ Nga Haapu o Ngati Te Tarewa & Ngati Aamaru
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Appendix

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