

AIPP CELEBRATES THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY WITH INDIGENOUS YOUTH & INDIGENOUS CHILDREN



I. BACKGROUND

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 22 May as the International Day for Biological Diversity on 8 February 2001 to increase understanding and awareness on biodiversity issues. This date commemorates the adoption of the [text](#) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 22 May 1992¹.

Indigenous Peoples' traditional territories are among the most biodiverse areas on the planet. Asia, home to the highest population of Indigenous Peoples has exceptional biological and cultural diversity. We, Asian Indigenous Peoples play a vital role in conserving and managing our land, territories, and resources². We have been leading the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in our territories long before the adoption of the CBD in 1992. Today, we remain essential stewards and permanent partners in the implementation of the CBD.

However, our communities continue to face multiple challenges and threats: biodiversity loss, climate change, deforestation, land degradation, commercialization, land use change, land grabbing, water grabbing, criminalization, militarization, and human rights violations in the name conservation, energy transition projects, and carbon markets, among others³.

In this context, upholding the human rights of Indigenous Peoples is non-negotiable in all biodiversity conservation action plans and strategies.

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day>

² <https://aippnet.org/e-sak-ka-ou-declaration/>

³ <https://aippnet.org/tohmle-statement/>

Recognizing both the challenges and our leadership, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), in partnership with our members and partners, has consistently celebrated the International Day for Biodiversity in [2021](#), [2022](#), [2023](#) and [2024](#), and highlighted Indigenous Peoples' contributions to the CBD and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).

II. THEME FOR 2025 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY

The theme for 2025 International Day for Biodiversity is “Hamony with Nature and Sustainable Development.” For more information, visit <https://www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day>

III. AIPP's 2025 CELEBRATION FOCUS: INDIGENOUS YOUTH & INDIGENOUS CHILDREN

Building on previous years, AIPP will once again collaborate members and partners to celebrate the 2025 International Day for Biodiversity. During AIPP engagements with Indigenous communities across Asia, a recurring message has emerged: the need to sensitize and empower Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Children in sustaining our cultural identities, worldviews, traditional practices, and occupations.

We have also witnessed inspiring stories of young people returning to their communities, taking leadership roles, and innovating by using Indigenous Knowledge with contemporary learning.

As part of the AIPP celebration of 2021 AIPP launched a comic book “[Let's Go Back Home: Reviving Indigenous Knowledge](#)” on 22 May in English, Thai and Karen languages. The comic book was co-designed and co-produced by AIPP, Pgakenyaw Association for Sustainable Development (PASD) and Mae Yod villagers to create love, respect, and pride among Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Children for their origin, language and cultural identity. Currently, the Mae Yod villagers are using the comic book as part of their local curriculum of the Ban Mae Yod School.

Recognizing the pivotal role of Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Children as the carriers of ancestral wisdom and future custodians of biodiversity, this year's celebration will spotlight the voices, initiatives, and aspirations of Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Children.

IV. CELEBRATION TIMELINE

- Launch: 22 May 2025 (International Day for Biodiversity)
- Closing: 5 June 2025 (World Environment Day)

V. HOW INDIGENOUS YOUTH AND INDIGENOUS CHILDREN CAN PARTICIPATE?

To guide meaningful contributions, AIPP has developed categories and questions tailored to different levels of engagement.

AIPP invites Indigenous Youth and Children to share their reflections, stories, and messages based on the categories below. Choose the set of guiding questions that best suits your experience:

Category 1: Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Children Living in Villages

- Introduce yourself: Name, Indigenous Community, Village Name.
- What does biodiversity mean to you and your community?
- Share your role in community efforts to protect forests, rivers, mountains, hills, or seas.

OR

- Introduce yourself: Name, Indigenous Community, Village Name.
- What does biodiversity mean to you and your community?
- Are there initiatives by you or your elders to pass Indigenous Knowledge to younger generations? How do you feel being part of these efforts?

OR

- Introduce yourself: Name, Indigenous Community, Village Name.
- What does biodiversity mean to you and your community?
- Share any songs, dance, poem or stories related to your village, forests, rivers, mountains, hills, or seas.

Category 2: Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Children Working with Organizations

- Introduce yourself: Name, Indigenous Community, Organization Name.
- How does your organization support Indigenous Youth and/or Indigenous Children?
- What is your message or recommendation to Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Children to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' movements?

OR

- Introduce yourself: Name, Indigenous Community, Organization Name.
- What are the two major challenges currently faced by Indigenous Youth and/or Indigenous Children in your country?
- What are your top two recommendations to your government to address the existing and future challenges of Indigenous Youth and/or Indigenous Children?

Category 3: Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Children Engaging in Policy Discussion on biodiversity and climate change

- Introduce yourself: Name, Indigenous Community, Organization Name.
- What are the two biggest challenges your community faces regarding land rights and protected areas?
- What should government do to address them?

VI. SUBMISSION FORMAT

You can submit your contributions in any of the following formats:

- A video message (2–3 minutes), recorded on a mobile phone/camera.
- Written message (maximum 300 words) along with a photo of themselves in traditional attire.
- Art or drawings showing the intrinsic connection of Indigenous Peoples with nature
- Songs or dance relating to nature

VII. LANGUAGE

Indigenous Youth and Indigenous Children are encouraged to deliver their messages in their Indigenous languages. Submissions in national language or English are also welcomed.

VIII. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

All contributions must be submitted to nuri@aippnet.org and fuji@aippnet.org by 12 May 2025.

For more information on the AIPP 2025 Celebration of the International Day for Biodiversity, please contact:

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