

AIPP Environment Policy



Endorsed by Executive Council in July 2022, subject to be adopted by General Assembly (GA)

Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Chiang Mai, Thailand

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1. Policy Statement

The environment policy has been framed to guide the implementation of environment related constitutional provisions, realize international environmental standards and enable collaboration on environmental management actions. The constitution of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) has mandated to constitute necessary policies to execute its constitutional provisions. The preamble of the constitution has interpreted that “having declared our right to self-determination to protect, utilize and develop our lands territories and resources in ways appropriate to our traditions, values and culture” means Environment Policy declares self-determination to protect, utilize and manage the environmental resources sustainably in an adequate way of our traditions, values and cultures which is also followed by the article VII Section 1 “living with dignity and enhancing their sustainable management systems of land territories and resources for their own future and development in an environment of peace, justice and equality” and article VII Section 2 “sustainable resource management systems for their development and self-determination”. The Section 3 Goals 3.3 has also stated “to promote and protect the integrity of nature and the environment and enhance the sustainable resource management systems of indigenous peoples”. AIPP abiding by its constitutional mandate, it has taken an accreditation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and UN Environment Programmes as well as allies with the organizations, forums and networks working on environmental protection at regional and global arenas where the common understanding and consent are built up on inter-relationship and reciprocity between human and environment for environmental safeguards. Hence, AIPP promulgates its environmental policy in order to practically translate its constitutional commitment and mandates adopted in different sub-regional, regional and global meetings and forums into actions.

2. Objectives

Environment policy carries an objective of protection, promotion, utilization and development of the environment and resources effectively and sustainably which interrelate to the indigenous peoples’ knowledge, identity, way of life, traditions, values, cultures and beliefs. Based on the roots of sustainable production, consumption, protection, promotion and development of the environment and resources, Environment Policy aims to bring progressive changes in the daily behaviors and actions in AIPP’s secretariat, EC, Advisory Board and its members and partner organizations for healthy environment and wellbeing.

3. Definitions with commitments into actions

The policy shall be executed into actions taking care of protection and promotion of indigenous knowledge and practices on sustainable use and management of resources, food security and traditional seeds along with natural farming, avoidance of use of chemicals and toxic products, execution of environmental safeguards and commitments to respect and enhance environmental protection, ecology and biodiversity and environmental human rights. The commitments into actions shall be undertaken by AIPP secretariat, EC, Advisory Board, members, partners and networks on following areas:

I. Environment Friendly Culture

Culture itself is an environment determined by the needs, values and beliefs. Hence, environment policy shall enhance enabling organizational culture which shall promote and support organizational and professional thinking and behavior to implement the policy.

The following responsible actions shall be undertaken:

- a) Encourage awareness and commitment to environmental management, develop and promote indigenous culture friendly environmental activities among the indigenous communities, members, partners and AIPP secretariat in reference to UNDRIP, UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, CBD, SDGs, SENDAI Framework, UNDRR, ILO 169, UNCCD.
- b) Establish a culture of professional development so as to respect, acknowledge and promote the collective culture of working together in multicultural and multilingual harmonious, dignified and peaceful environment at AIPP secretariat, its members, partners and networks.
- c) Promote Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and practices of sustainable use and management of land, territories and resources, food security and traditional seeds, documentation and transmission of indigenous knowledge, and acknowledgement and recognition of the contribution of IK in the form of environmental safeguard and nature-based solution.
- d) Adopt the culture of avoiding using chemicals and toxics
- e) Respect and act the culture of keeping the workplace and surroundings clean, tidy, peaceful and harmonious with less sound and air pollutions.
- f) Learn and act the culture of respect, acknowledgement, celebration, standing in solidarity and uniformity for enabling and cheerful working environment
- g) Respect, ensure and promote disability friendly accessible environment and reasonable accommodation in AIPP, members and partners including in the AIPP organized events.

II. Practice of Five R's (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle) and Waste Management

Waste contributes to the pollution of environment and it increases the greenhouse gas effect that causes global warming. The use of any materials and resources needs to be decided according to its features relating to environmental impacts. Mindful use of materials and resources by defining their features in Five R's principles facilitates better waste management which ultimately protects and promotes to the resourceful nature, biodiversity and ecosystems.

Refuse: Refusing shall help to eliminate a lot of waste from the very beginning. It's simply about saying no and looking into reusable alternatives. It is to refuse single use plastics, like disposable coffee cups, utensils, and straws. These materials are often made of plastic and thrown away after one use. Accept the things you need and refuse the rest. There are sustainable ways to refuse that don't mean you have to go without.

Reduce: Simply reduce what you're purchasing by being mindful about what you need and want. Be realistic about what you actually need. Before making purchases, ask yourself if you really need this item. If you do, look at the quality. While price is a huge factor, try to find the best quality in your budget. Well made products shall last longer, reducing the times you'll need

to repurchase. Another point is to take care of your possessions by following cleaning instructions and labels, so everything lasts a longer time.

Reuse and Repair: Reusing and repairing go hand in hand. When it is being decided whether to toss something and buy a new one, ask first if it can be found a way to reuse or repair it. This applies to computer, printer, camera, furniture, and other technologies. Reusing also means selling or donating the used items so they go to loving homes instead of the landfill. Reuse and repair shall also contribute to economic savings.

Recycle: One of the easiest ways to reduce the waste is to recycle. Recycling is one way that can reduce landfill contributions. Look into the materials that are easily recyclable and ensure that they are sorted properly.

Proper waste management is an important task for pollution free clean and healthy environment. It requires waste monitoring, establish compost waste system, create e-waste recycling system for computers and other electronic equipment, provide centralized bins to promote recycling behavior and the phasing out of under desk bins from offices, initiate waste education activities. In the procurement systems of the office, encourage to increase the proportion of recycled products and materials purchases.

AIPP along with members, partners and stakeholders shall promote and encourage change of behavior, consumption pattern within the organisation and home being mindful on Five R's principle and waste management.

III. Energy and Water Management

The source of energy is the electricity, gas, or renewable energy and water. It needs to apply the functional and practical approach of sustainable consumption and production along with regular monitoring and reporting of energy and water consumption of the office. It needs to replace air conditioning system with more energy efficient system, install energy efficient lighting technology. It is mindful to keep a target of decreasing carbon emissions, increasing renewable energy and saving water.

Some responsible actions shall be undertaken:

- Switch off the electricity when works are done
- Make habit of working on natural lights rather than electric light
- Minimize using air conditioning system when the natural temperature is moderate outside
- Ensure all official equipment and lights inside the office, meeting rooms, kitchen and toilets are off while leaving office as the last person of the day in office.
- Close all water taps of in the kitchen, office and toilet basins properly after use.
- Make an ensure every effort to use water efficiently and avoid pollutants entering the drainage system.
- Use energy efficient products wherever practical, and monitor usage to achieve minimum energy consumption.
- Seek and employ local products and services to reduce transport costs.
- Avoid unnecessary travel and use energy efficient vehicles and driving styles.
- Encourage the use of public transport, cycle or foot.

IV. Innovative and Nature-Based Solution for Pollution Prevention

Pollution is considered as an environmental hazard which affects to nature, human health and ecology. Pollution disturbs the peaceful and healthy working environment for which the organization has to take precautionary measures to protect from pollution. Machinery sounds, noisy movements of the people and vehicles, louder sound systems, harmful polluted air, use of pesticides and chemicals, open drainage and unmanaged open meat shops, unmanaged and careless sanitation and hygiene practices are the causes of pollutions. So, AIPP secretariat, secretariat, EC, Advisory Board, members, partners, networks and all concerned stakeholders shall apply and practice innovative and nature-based solutions based on indigenous customary values and belief system of sharing, caring and protecting the nature.

Following actions shall be undertaken:

- Ensure AIPP secretariat, members, partners, networks and concerned stakeholders to adopt the precautionary measures to protect the environment from different kinds of pollutions
- Educate and aware to secretariat, members, partners and networks on environmental safeguards and policies adopted and committed by the UN, governments, alliances and stakeholders
- Endorse and adopt the pollution free measures and environmentally friendly approach and technologies to prevent from all sorts of pollutions.
- Implement the peoples' friendly environment policies, strategies and activities so as to respect the rights, innovations and participation of the indigenous peoples.
- Arrange lesser polluting vehicles for a better transport, fleet vehicles that meet low emission standards, report on air travel emissions and find a way to reduce air travel.

V. Natural Landscape and Biodiversity

Protection of indigenous natural landscapes and biodiversity represents an identity of the indigenous land, territories and resources which are natural heritage. Indigenous communities shall take action to protect ecology, natural habitats and species. AIPP's projects and programmes shall promote, protect and restore significant ecosystems through its various activities carried on at grassroot levels. AIPP shall execute IKPA (Indigenous knowledge and Peoples of Asia) in order to enhance the protection of the indigenous natural landscape and biodiversity connecting to self-determined development and full access, control and rights over natural resources.

4. Strategy

AIPP secretariat, EC, Advisory Board and its members, partners and networks do the advocacy for the environmental rights and identity of the indigenous peoples in reference to international human rights treaties and conventions. The impact of environmental risks and challenges first fall over the indigenous peoples and communities who are living in and with the nature and environment in harmony and peace. The inherent relation between indigenous peoples and nature are originally and naturally inter-dependent as defenders of each other. So, AIPP shall promote

collective actions and responsibilities of indigenous peoples and communities for enhancing, protecting and promoting the environmental human rights of indigenous peoples along with protection and conservation of the environment and resources securing identities, cultures, values, knowledge, wisdom and beliefs. The policy shall work as a safeguard that shall be undertaken by AIPP secretariat, its members, partners and networks who work on environmental protection and environmental rights of indigenous peoples. AIPP shall communicate, coordinate and collaborate with its members and partners by enhancing their understanding on importance of Environment Policy including other policies through various activities for its effective implementation. The policy also carries a value of compliances to be abided by the agreements/contracts done with partners, members and other agencies which shall be also an effective way of policy implementation.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Monitoring is a collective efforts so all AIPP organs including members, partners, networks and stakeholders shall have the responsibility to monitor, evaluate and report the status of implementation and effectiveness of the policy at the secretariat, members and partners organizations in their organizational and individual behaviors and practices. As well concerned programmes shall be responsible for monitoring, evaluation and reporting the status of policy implementation at their respective programmes and project partners.

6. Review of Policy

Review of policy shall take place twice a year during semi-annual and annual assessment and planning where all secretariat team members shall openly provide their inputs and comments on the impact of the policy. Another space for review of the policy shall be EC meeting where EC members shall have review and revise the policy based on relevancy and full consensus among the EC members and the secretariats. In the meantime, AIPP Foundation board shall have the sole legal jurisdiction to review the policy. Ultimately, General Assembly shall have the stand of approval or denial of the reviewed policy.

The End