



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

“Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure -IKRI”: A Unique Tool to Address the Global Water Challenges With Indigenous Peoples Perspective

Contributing to UN Water Thematic Focus:

Water for Sustainable Development
Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment
Water for Cooperation

March 23, 2023

10:30 to 12:00 EST (UN-NY)

Registration link:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvdOuuqzkgGdJSZPsdCO9IMfKzd97JtzbE>
[Simultaneous Interpretation English / Spanish](#)

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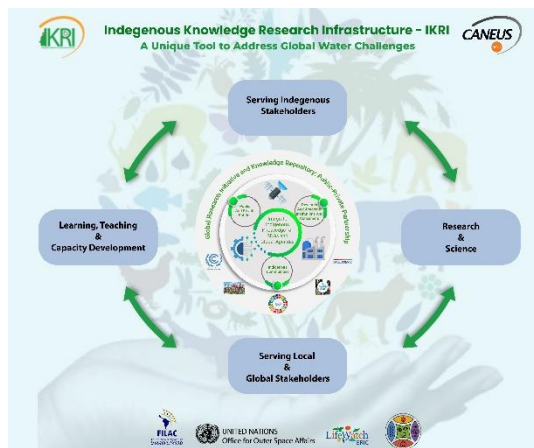
Background:

Indigenous Peoples hold unique knowledges and environmental best practices, which are cross sectoral to support the 2030 Agenda. These needs to be recognized, documented, protected, and used as tool to improve the global water challenges.

Indigenous Peoples play an important role and have responsibilities to protect and nurture water for the community’s development. The Indigenous Peoples see the water as living being and manage this relation in a holistic approach. Additionally, Water has a cultural or spiritual dimension apart from its role as an everyday necessity and live saving capacity.

The key issue is to identify Indigenous Peoples needs and formulate focused solutions by integrating their knowledges and practices with emerging science and technology-based tools and approaches.

Therefore, to address these challenges and provide sustainable solution for Global Water Agenda, the organizers undertook series of related initiatives over several years, which led to the creation of a “Global Research and Knowledge Repository” termed as “Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure – IKRI” through public-private-partnership.

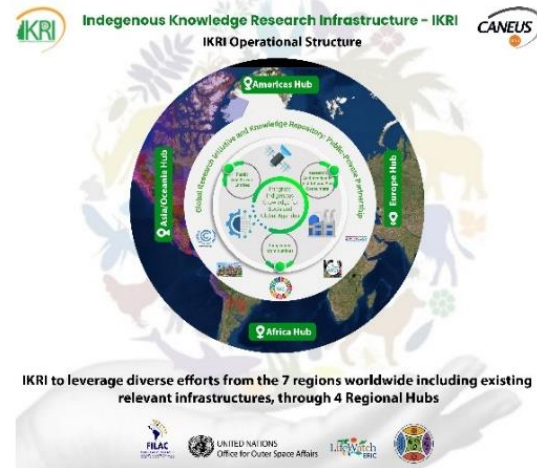




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The IKRI is a dynamic digital collaborative research tool that uses frontier technologies, e.g. AI and geospatial intelligence to capture, process, analyse, and present Indigenous Peoples’ Knowledge from multiple sources. It will integrate diverse efforts and serve IKRI stakeholders through 4 regional Hubs.



About:

Through this side event, we plan to demonstrate the “Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure: IKRI”, initiative aimed to address the three thematic interactive dialogues for the UN Water 2023 conference, i.e., (i) water for climate, resilience, and environment, (ii) water for sustainable development, and (iii) water for cooperation.

Objectives:

1. To stimulate collaborations between academia, private sector, governments, global water authorities, researchers, and the Indigenous Peoples for the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems and water for the next decade and beyond.
2. To examine the impact of science and innovation integrated with Indigenous knowledge and practices to improve water resource management and service delivery.
3. To mobilize different actors representing the private sector, philanthropic community, academia and other relevant financial institutions working with and for Indigenous Peoples Fund and/or Indigenous Nations, making the financial decisions to implement the acceleration framework for the water action agenda.

Expected Outcome:

1. To offer UN Water Conference stakeholders and participants, an opportunity to learn about integrating Indigenous knowledge in building water management and resiliency of ecosystem, and usefulness of IKRI, as a tool for the post-2023 water conference.
2. To influence the new global framework covering a more systematic approach to water management in the context of an increasingly political, economic, and natural crisis, using the lessons learned.
3. To devise a roadmap to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets including those covering implementation of the UN Decade for Action on Water and Sanitation.



Format:

The format for this 90 minutes session has been structured using an interactive approach to include moderated panel discussion, demonstration of use cases and sharing experiences, and quick poll, expecting active participation of participants.

Voluntary commitments linked to the Water Action Agenda:



The principal commitment is to continue preserving the ecosystems that help to grow water or maintain freshwater bodies, with holistic approach, and sharing these knowledges and practices with other stakeholders.

For example, Pawanka Fund and partners CANEUS, FILAC, UNOOSA have been working in the seven socio-cultural regions of the world, where Indigenous Peoples live. Therefore, the outcomes will be scaled up with all organizations, including those funded with Pawanka grants in the past 8 years.

Thus, this side event demonstrates the commitment to the Water Action Agendas.

Furthermore, the Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure – IKRI offers an important tool to commit:

- the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for achievement of social, economic and environmental objectives;
- the implementation and promotion of related programmes and projects; and
- the furtherance of cooperation and partnerships at all levels to achieve internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Guiding Questions:

1. What are the challenges for integrating Indigenous knowledge and practices to address the water global crisis, and improve water resource management and service delivery?
2. How can IKRI project promote and leverage the protection of Indigenous Peoples' Knowledge to advance the recognition and respect of their rights?
3. What are the requirements of key stakeholders interested in Indigenous knowledge related to Global Water Agenda, and how can these be incorporated into IKRI in accordance to Indigenous Peoples' rights framework?
4. How to develop and test the IKRI prototype to make a robust global collaborative infrastructure to support sustainable development and integrated management of water resources for achievement of social, economic, and environmental objectives?
5. What financial decisions are needed to implement the new global framework covering a more systematic approach to water management for the water action agenda?



Program:

- A. Setting the Stage and Raison d'être:** *10:30 – 10:40*
- “Welcome and Need for IKRI to address Global Water Challenges”
Dr Myrna Cunningham, Chairperson of Pawanka Fund, (Nicaragua)
 - “Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure: Mission, Design and Development”
Dr Milind Pimprikar, Chairman, CANEUS (Canada)
- B. Addressing the Themes for the UN Water 2023 conference** *10:40 – 11:20*
- “Water for climate, resilience, and environment” issues for IKRI
Ms. Joan Carlin, Indigenous Filipino environmentalist (Philippines)
 - “Water for Sustainable Development” issues for IKRI
H.E. Glan McCallun, President of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (Canada)
Rep Government, (Columbia)
 - “Water for Cooperation” issues for IKRI
Dr. Isack Husein, Head of Department at National Museums of Kenya (Kenya)
Rep Government, (Norway)
 - “Indigenous Peoples Perspective” to Address Global Water Challenges for IKRI
Ms. Luisa Castañeda-Quintana, DCL Candidate, Faculty of Law McGill University, (Canada)
Mr. Saúl Vicente Vázquez, Water envoy, FILAC, Traditional Knowledge NFP (Mexico)
 - “Private Sector Perspective” to Address Global Water Challenges for IKRI
Dr. Thomas George, Vice-President, SaraniaSat CANEUS (USA)
- C. “Participant Input” Poll** *11:20 – 11:23*
- D. Outcome and Next Steps** *11:23 – 11:28*
- Dr Carla Bush**, Administrative Director, Pawanka Fund, (Nicaragua)
Dr. Milind Pimprikar, Chairman, CANEUS
- E. Closing Remarks** *11:28 – 11:30*
- Dr. Myrna Cunningham**, Chairperson of Pawanka Fund, (Nicaragua)

Supporting Documents:

1. Indigenous Knowledge Research Infrastructure (IKRI): A Tool to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals and Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic, UN-IATT 2022 policy brief.
<https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-5/IATT%20report%20on%20emerging%20techs%202021.pdf>
<https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/2.3.5-37-Pimprikar%20-%20indigenous%20research%20infra.pdf>
2. IKRI’s contribution to UN Biodiversity policies, priorities, and goals
https://caneus.org/IKRI_VM_COP15.mp4, and sustainable development
<https://caneus.org/unfss2021/>
3. The UN ECOSOC had highlighted IKRI amongst the 5 key 2022 Global partnerships and therefore would contribute to the Water Action Decade.
<https://ikri.org/ecosoc/> <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Summary%2019.pdf>
4. The IKRI further demonstrated international cross sectoral cooperation across the SDG’s
https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/Session_8_Concept_Note_Final.pdf
<https://sdgs.un.org/events/session-8-sharing-solutions-sdg-financing-knowledge-research-and-community-participation>