

National-level Policy Scoping Study

The Amerindian Peoples Association (APA), in partnership with the Nia Tero Foundation of Seattle, Washington, is seeking a consultant or organization to conduct a National-level Policy Scoping study on Indigenous Guardianship in Guyana. This study is expected to be conducted over a month and a half period beginning in the shortest possible time and will be done through desk-based research and telephone interviews of key informants to generate a rapid assessment of data, legislation, policies, plans, and reports available and in place on the subject. This study will be an internal document to inform national policy advocacy strategy and work plan of the APA in partnership with Nia Tero. The consultant must have expertise on policies relevant to Indigenous guardianship in Guyana and must have a proven track record of completing similar studies satisfactorily.

Objectives of the Policy Studies

1. Determine the extent and quality of data available on Indigenous guardianship, including on land tenure, governance rights, population, forest cover, carbon storage, species richness, and overlaps with protected areas;
2. Identify and analyze the policies in place that impact, positively or negatively, on Indigenous Peoples' guardianship, including on the rights to land, self-governance, and self-determined development;
3. Assess the extent and quality of participation of Indigenous Peoples in planning, implementation, reporting, and monitoring on biodiversity, climate and sustainable development;
4. Using the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as reference, identify the data and policy gaps that prevent the full enjoyment of Indigenous Peoples' rights in relation to guardianship;
5. Provide a set of constructive and practical recommendations to address the data and policy gaps identified.

Deliverables

1. A policy study in accordance with the content outline provided, containing a concise and practical set of recommendations, at most 20 pages in length, excluding Annexes.
2. An annotated tabulation of existing data and policies and their impact on Indigenous Peoples in the country.
3. A listing of organizations at the country level engaged in policy advocacy on Indigenous Peoples' rights, with a focus on Indigenous guardianship.
4. A 5-page strategy paper containing the recommendations and a proposed approach for implementing the recommendations.

Content Outline

- I. Survey of available data on Indigenous Guardianship:
 - Availability of data on extent of Indigenous territory in the country, including overlaps with key biodiversity areas, protected areas, or other conservation areas;
 - Availability of demographic and economic data and information on Indigenous governance in Indigenous territories;
 - Availability of data on forest cover, carbon storage, biodiversity inventories, and conservation plans.

- II. Summary and analysis of policies that affect Indigenous guardianship:
 - Annotated enumeration and content summary of international treaties, legislation, and policies that affect Indigenous guardianship, including on Indigenous Peoples' rights, land rights, environment, conservation, climate change, education, health, economic development, and participation;
 - Analysis of how the enumerated policies impact on Indigenous guardianship.

- III. Indigenous participation in policy and decision-making on Indigenous guardianship:
 - Extent of Indigenous participation in crafting and implementing legislation;
 - Extent of Indigenous participation in development and implementation of plans, such as National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, Climate Plans, and Development Plans;
 - Indigenous participation in national reporting and monitoring of treaties, legislation, and policies that affect Indigenous guardianship;
 - Annotated listing of organizations at the country and community level engaged in policy advocacy on Indigenous Peoples' rights, with a focus on Indigenous guardianship.

- IV. Challenges and gaps
 - Identify the gaps and challenges to the respect, protection and fulfilment of Indigenous Peoples' rights relevant to guardianship, as articulated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- V. Recommendations
 - Provide a set of constructive and practical recommendations to address the data and policy gaps identified;
 - Proposed strategy and approach for implementing the recommendations.

- VI. Annexes
 - Tabulation of existing data and policies and their impact on Indigenous Peoples in the country.