

Guide on Conservation and Indigenous Peoples in Mesoamerica

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The Guide

- A collaboration with the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
- An indian law based perspective on conservation to ground natural resource and conservation policies in applicable international law, such as IUCN Natural Resource Governance Framework
- A paradigm shift toward a practice in which conservation actors work with indigenous peoples as collective rights-holders and equal partners

The Guide

- Legal rules to take into account include indigenous peoples' positive and customary laws, international law standards, and domestic laws that are consistent with said standards
 - UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ILO Convention 169, Inter-American Court of Human Rights' decisions
- Views and concern that indigenous peoples from Mesoamerica have on conservation projects, such as protected areas
 - 3 case studies, in-person consultations meetings with elected leaders, external review of the draft

Substantive Rights

- Self-determination and self-government
- Full collective ownership over lands
- Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

Procedural Rights

- Human rights impact assessment to inform project design, implementation & evaluation
- Due process of law in all consultation proceedings
- Effective remedies to protect legal rights

Thanks!

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