

Appendix I

TNC Commitments

In this Appendix:

[Understand TNC's commitment to upholding human rights and equitable partnership](#)

[Know which international standards and guidelines informed this Guide](#)

[Review the UNDRIP articles that underpin the nine Principles and Safeguards](#)

TNC's vision and values are reflected in the Guide's best practices for respecting and promoting human rights and equitable partnerships with IPLCs. The commitments to international standards and internal guidance that inform this work include:

Although most of TNC

- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- The principle of Free, Prior & Informed Consent
- The Guiding Principles of the Conservation Initiative on Human Rights
- TNC's Values, particularly Respect for People, Communities and Cultures
- TNC's Code of Conduct, particularly Respect the World Around Us
- Conservation by Design 2.0

A human rights-based approach to conservation is a direct expression of TNC's Values. Our commitment to respecting and promoting the rights of IPLCs requires us to pursue conservation outcomes that are equitable, collaborative and reciprocal.

[TNC's Code of Conduct](#) outlines expectations for ethical behavior. This includes:

- the importance of support and input from IPLCs in decision-making
- respect for all local populations and cultures wherever we operate
- the furtherance of the human rights of all people throughout our operations — across the globe
- an understanding that our goals and mission must never become more important than the rights of the people living in the communities we serve

The Conservancy is a founding member of the [Conservation Initiative on Human Rights](#), working alongside six other international conservation organizations to integrate human rights into conservation policy and practice. This operates on four main principles:

- Respect human rights
- Promote human rights within conservation programs
- Protect the vulnerable
- Encourage good governance

TNC's 2016 [Conservation by Design 2.0 Guidance Document](#)^[1] evolves our understanding of the ties between people and nature. It articulates a more inclusive approach to conservation and social safeguards related to human well-being, equity and human rights. This Guide turns commitments and ideals into action steps, and it will be part of the organization-wide implementation of CbD 2.0.

We also strive to align ourselves with the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). UNDRIP is considered the most comprehensive international instrument regarding the collective and individual human rights of indigenous peoples, and it recognizes their inherent rights and decision-making authority^[2]. UNDRIP was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007 and has 46 Articles that detail these rights and how they should be addressed when working with indigenous peoples.

The main articles in UNDRIP that inform the principles of this Guide are:

- Article 18: the right to participate in decision-making which would affect IPLC rights
- Article 19: the right to operate through their own institutions in Free, Prior and Informed Consent processes
- Article 23: the right to determine and develop priorities for health, housing, and other developmental programs
- Article 24: the right to access their traditional medicines and equal right to the highest standard of physical and mental health
- Article 25: the right to maintain and strengthen a spiritual relationship with their lands and waters
- Article 26: the right to own, use and develop their lands, territories and resources
- Article 29: the right to conservation and protection of their lands and resources and freedom from hazardous materials on their territories
- Article 31: the right to maintain, control and develop their heritage and customs, as well as their knowledge and intellectual property
- Article 32: the right to determine priorities for land use and development
- Article 40: the right to fair, just, and prompt resolution of conflicts

NC fully supports the principle of Free, Prior & Informed Consent, which underlies indigenous peoples' right to self-determination. Self-determination protects indigenous autonomy over their identity, culture and development priorities. This rests on indigenous peoples' ability to self-govern, live on their lands, maintain their culture, and protect themselves from undue influence by surrounding colonial or dominant society. Oviedo et al. (2000) describe the bundle of rights related to the right to self-determination as it pertains to conservation and natural resource management:

- Ancestral land/territorial and resource rights
- Land and resources control and management rights
- Self-government by own institutions and authorities
- Self-development (independent decision-making on development options)
- Prior informed consent on conservation and development actions
- Benefit-sharing rights
- Indigenous knowledge and intellectual property rights^[3]

Notes

^[1] See pages 16-19 and Appendices C & D.

^[2] Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/9/9 (2008), para. 85: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: “[R]epresents an authoritative common understanding, at the global level, of the minimum content of the rights of indigenous peoples, upon a foundation of various sources of international human rights law. The product of a protracted drafting process involving the demands voiced by indigenous peoples themselves, the Declaration reflects and builds upon human rights norms of general applicability, as interpreted and applied by United Nations and regional treaty bodies, as well as on the standards advanced by ... other relevant instruments and processes.”

^[3] Oviedo et al. (2000) Indigenous and Traditional Peoples of the World and Ecoregion Conservation: An Integrated Approach to Conserving the World’s Biological and Cultural Diversity. WWF & Terralingua.

<http://d2ouvy59p0dg6k.cloudfront.net/downloads/EGinG200rep.pdf>