

Terms of Reference for the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee of the Integrity Council

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the terms and reference for the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee of the Integrity Council. The document shall be read in conjunction with the Modalities and Procedures, the Conflicts of Interest Policy, the Code of Conduct, and any other policies as determined by the Governing Board.

2 Purpose of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee

- 2.1 The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee is a sub-committee of the Governing Board of the Integrity Council, and established by decision of the Governing Board pursuant to 2.4.10 of the Modalities and Procedures.¹ The purpose of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee is to support all Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities related activities in the Integrity Council under a structured horizontal collaborative workstream. The Committee shall ensure the workstream activities and direction align with the Integrity Council strategy goals, while applying best practice governance and prioritising the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the Integrity Council and the carbon markets.

3 Composition of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee

- 3.1 The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee comprises members of the Governing Board. At least one member of the Committee must be an Indigenous Peoples and local communities member of the Governing Board.

¹ "The Governing Board may (2.4.10.1) establish committees with such terms of reference and membership as it may deem appropriate" [...] (2.4.10.3) delegate to such committees [...] actions and authority to take steps on its behalf.

- 3.2 The members of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee shall elect a Chair or two co-Chairs from amongst the Indigenous Peoples and local communities members of the Governing Board who serve on the Committee.
- 3.3 Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee members will be supported by and work in close collaboration with the Executive Secretariat.

4 Scope of work

- 4.1 The main objective of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee is to provide guidance on the Integrity Council's Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities strategy and execution, on behalf of the Governing Board. The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee will also be responsible for making decisions (where authority is delegated by the Governing Board in accordance with clause 2.4.10.3 of the Modalities and Procedures).
- 4.2 The committee shall be responsible for:
 - 4.2.1 Providing independent expert guidance and direction to the Governing Board and Executive Secretariat on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities related matters as required.
 - 4.2.2 Taking decisions related to the Integrity Council Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities strategy and execution as required.
 - 4.2.3 Raising awareness of and advocating for the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities strategy with partners and communities.
 - 4.2.4 Identifying stakeholders to take part in Integrity Council stakeholder engagement processes to ensure that the Assessment Framework is inclusive of the needs of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who might be affected by its use.
 - 4.2.5 Ensuring that Integrity Council communication and engagement approaches are tailored to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to meet their needs.
 - 4.2.6 Ensuring close working relationships between the Integrity Council and the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Engagement Forum.
 - 4.2.7 Providing advice and recommendations to the Governing Board on all Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities related issues in ICVCM's work and in relation to the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Engagement Forum.
- 4.3 The Governing Board may, at any time, request the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee to perform further tasks.
- 4.4 The Chair or co-Chairs shall provide governance guidance and leadership, including chairing meetings and delegating tasks.

5 General responsibilities for all Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee members

5.1 Each Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee member should:

- 5.1.1 Strive to attend all planned meetings and, should they not be able to attend a meeting, inform the Chair or co-Chairs and the Executive Secretariat in advance of the meeting;
- 5.1.2 Prepare appropriately for meetings, by reading and reviewing all drafts or other documentation made available;
- 5.1.3 Provide written feedback or inputs within agreed timescales;
- 5.1.4 Adhere to these Terms of Reference, the Code of Conduct, the Conflicts of Interest Policy and any other policies determined by the Governing Board.

6 Meetings; Decision taking

- 6.1 At a meeting of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee, in order to constitute a quorum, no less than three Committee members must be present, of which at least one must be an Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Governing Board member.
- 6.2 If the Chair or co-Chairs of the Committee are not present, the Committee members shall select one of the attendees to act as chair for that meeting.
- 6.3 At least one co-Chair of the Expert Panel shall be invited to attend all meetings of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee as an observer. The Chair or co-Chairs may also invite other observers to attend its meetings. Observers shall not have voting rights.
- 6.4 The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee meetings shall be attended and supported by the Executive Secretariat.
- 6.5 The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee shall meet quarterly, or as otherwise specified by the Governing Board or called for by the Chair or co-Chairs.
- 6.6 The Committee may seek to have direct meetings with the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Engagement Forum.

7 Review and Amendment

- 7.1 These Terms of Reference shall be reviewed as often as the Chair deems necessary but at least once every three years.
- 7.2 These Terms of Reference may be amended by the Governing Board.

Version Control

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1.2	17 September 2026	Amendments to allow the appointment of either one Chair or two co-Chairs, as determined by the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee.
1.1	26 February 2026	Amendments to: • confirm the basis on which the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee has been constituted; • clarify the composition of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee; • clarify the responsibilities of members of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee; • clarify that at least one co-Chair of the Expert Panel shall be invited to all meetings of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee as an observer; • update the meeting frequency of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Committee; • clarify when and how these Terms of Reference should be reviewed; • update the numbering structure of the document; and • minor amends and corrections.
1.0	19 September 2004	Original version