

Safeguarding Policy

Policy Statement

People's Planet Project (hereafter 'PPP') is committed to safeguarding and protecting the rights of vulnerable populations, key among them the Indigenous communities and Indigenous youth with whom we partner. PPP's goal is to empower Indigenous communities in their fight against deforestation, and so we work closely with Indigenous peoples worldwide.

The purpose of this Policy is to protect Indigenous peoples and youths from harm. This Policy sets out PPP's commitment to ensuring that our work with Indigenous peoples, and with Indigenous youths, proceeds in a way that fosters full respect for and promotes and safeguards of the rights and dignity of Indigenous peoples. PPP will ensure that our partnerships with Indigenous peoples are carried out with full Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, that Indigenous communities are constantly involved in decision-making processes relating to our projects, and that Indigenous autonomy and dignity is fully respected.

PPP recognizes that Indigenous peoples and youths face certain risks and threats. This Policy will provide a framework for anticipating and avoiding negative impacts to Indigenous peoples, and responding appropriately in times when this fails.

Scope

This Policy applies to all PPP staff, volunteers, and its Board of Directors, as well as third parties considered partners, etc., who in this Policy will be referred to as PPP personnel.

Definitions

- Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC): a right held by Indigenous peoples which allows them to give or withhold consent to a project that may affect them or their territories, withdraw previously given consent at any time, and can negotiate the conditions of a project. This right is based on the principles that (a) all peoples have the right to self-determination and (b) all peoples have the right to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Consent can be given either in written form or recorded verbally, acknowledging that Indigenous communities may have preferences regarding this procedure.
- Youth/child(ren): individuals under the age of 18, regardless of whether they are living independently.

- Exploitation: the actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power differential, or trust for the benefit of the individual leveraging their position, power, privilege, or wealth (through enticement, manipulation, coercion or trickery) to engage a person in forced or illegal activities.
- Abuse: anything which individuals, institutions, or processes do or fail to do which directly or indirectly harms a person or damages their prospect of safe and healthy life and development. The main categories of Abuse are Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Neglect/Negligent Treatment, Sexual Exploitation & Abuse, and Exploitation.

Policy & Guidelines

PPP carries out activities, specifically the facilitation of filmmaking and geospatial mapping workshops, in partnership with Indigenous communities, which include as participants Indigenous peoples and youth. The youth involved in these workshops will be 16 years of age or older. PPP commits to ensuring the rights of Indigenous peoples and youth, obtaining FPIC at all steps of our activities, avoiding all manners of exploitation, abuse, or other negative impacts, and minimizing the risks of such things occurring.

At all stages of PPP's activities, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes will be followed. We acknowledge that these processes do not guarantee consent; possible outcomes are consent, consent after negotiation and revision of the project, or withholding consent. PPP will only carry out activities with full consent from our Indigenous partners, and commits to maintaining that consent, or ceasing activity, via constant communication and full transparency. No coercion or corruption may occur in order to obtain consent, as this means the consent is not freely given. All information regarding projects must be shared in full and with complete honesty.

Certain PPP personnel will deal with different types of risks included in this Policy.

- Project Lead & Project Coordinator: Directly interact with Indigenous peoples and youth when carrying out PPP activities (GeoStory Camps).
- Videographers, editors, and geospatial analysts: Will be handling data from Indigenous peoples and youths, including video, images, and maps.
- Communications and outreach staff: Will be handling data from Indigenous peoples and youths, including video, images, and maps.
- Other non-local PPP personnel: This includes anyone who is not working directly as part of a GeoStory Camp, and is thus interacting primarily remotely, virtually, or indirectly with Indigenous peoples and youth. For example environmental lawyers, M&E consultants, etc.

(a) Before Projects Begin

Prior to the establishment of any partnership or project, PPP will communicate extensively and transparently with the involved Indigenous community/communities. All details regarding the projects to be carried out will be communicated with the utmost honesty and transparency, and we will also take input from the Indigenous communities regarding their priorities, expectations, and limitations. These discussions will form the basis for any partnership formed. Although PPP provides equipment, the curriculum, and

organizes the workshops, Indigenous communities will hold complete autonomy throughout the process and will guide the final form of the workshops.

(b) During Projects

PPP personnel will work to ensure that projects are carried out as agreed with our Indigenous partners, and that if any changes need to be made, our Indigenous partners are consulted, made fully aware of what these changes are, and give their consent for the changes to be made. If consent is withdrawn for the project because of any proposed changes, activities will cease and will be resumed only if an agreement is reached between PPP and our Indigenous partners.

In addition, PPP personnel will commit to paying attention to situations where abuse or exploitation might occur, and mitigating against the possibility.

(c) After Projects & Monitoring & Evaluation

PPP's Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) processes will also pay attention to the implementation of FPIC and safeguarding processes. We will follow up on whether or not projects aligned with and met the expectations of Indigenous communities, as well as what changes we can make to our processes to ensure that communication and expectations proceed better.

(d) Data Privacy

It is important that PPP maintains a high level of confidentiality and data privacy, especially as we work with digital content, including documentary films and geospatial data. No personal information, including for example names, locations, etc., will be shared publicly without the explicit written or verbal consent of the parties involved. In addition, the risks of sharing any information publicly will be carefully analyzed for adverse consequences before any decisions are made. When necessary or appropriate, and with the consent of the parties involved, PPP will use such tactics like anonymizing third parties, using aliases, etc. Any information that has been collected which a third party withdraws their consent to be used will be promptly deleted from public and/or private channels and/or destroyed.

PPP will obtain explicit written or verbal consent for videos and images of Indigenous peoples and youths to be used in its activism, marketing, outreach, etc. activities, including use in official content, posting on social media channels, or use in newsletters. Indigenous peoples will be informed exactly how their videos and images will be used (e.g. in promotional content, for fundraising purposes, etc.) and on what platforms (e.g. social media, email newsletters, website, grant applications, etc.).

Any film or visual content published on PPP's platform 'Tribal Stories' will also only be published with the consent of the Indigenous creators and those depicted within the content.

(e) Youth

Special attention must be given to protecting the rights and interests of Indigenous youth, as minors participating in PPP's projects. It is strictly forbidden for PPP personnel to engage in any actions that are abusive or exploitative, and PPP will guard against exploitation and abuse at every step. PPP is committed to safe employment and recruitment practices that reduce the risk of harm to youth from people unsuitable to work with them or have contact with them. PPP personnel will also be informed of what to look out for in terms of abuse or exploitation, to guard against abuse or exploitation by third parties.

When working with youth, not only must the individual give full consent to be involved in projects and for their work and any film or images of them to be used, but also family members, guardians, and/or elders should be informed and consent as well.

Grievance Mechanism & Oversight

Any PPP staff, partner, participant of a project, or other involved third party is welcome and encouraged to voice concerns, complaints, or queries to the Project Coordinator.

If you are a victim of a violation of this Policy, such as abuse, mistreatment, or exploitation, or you suspect that a violation has occurred or may occur in the future, a report should immediately be made to the Project Coordinator. If the Project Coordinator is the cause of this report or related to this report, or you believe this may be the case, the next point of contact is the Commission of the Board of Directors, which has ultimate oversight over PPP's activities, and operates independently of the on-the-ground team. The Commission can also be approached with general concerns or queries.

Approaching the Project Coordinator can be done in person or via digital communication (eg. email, Whatsapp). Project Coordinators may change depending on the project. To contact the Commission, this can be done via email to:

commission@peoplesplanetproject.org

Please include as much information and as many details as possible within your communication, so that the situation can be fully understood and all the appropriate steps taken. Detailed reports of actual and suspected violations also helps PPP to strengthen its commitment to protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and youth, so as to decrease future risks as well.

Signed

On behalf of the Board of Directors



Abdel Mandili
Founder & Executive Director