



Birgitte Feiring

Department Director

Sustainable development and human rights specialist

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SKILLS

Human rights and sustainable development; consultation, participation and consent; indigenous peoples' rights; climate change; energy transition; land rights; natural resource management; data and indicators; corporate due diligence. Management, strategy development and programming; capacity-building and training; analysis and evaluation; partnerships and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

EDUCATION

M. Sc. Anthropology
University of Copenhagen

LANGUAGES

English
Full Professional Proficiency

Spanish
Full Professional Proficiency

French
Limited Working Proficiency

Danish
Mother Tongue

WORK EXPERIENCE

Department Director
Danish Institute for Human Rights

05/2015 - Present

- Responsible for analysis, strategy, publications and tools, global advocacy, partnerships and alliance-building for promoting a human rights-based approach to sustainable development. The overall focus is on harnessing the human rights system to further sustainable development, including through tools development and innovative use of data to enhance accountability. Specific thematic programmes on: energy transition, sustainable fisheries, land rights, education, indigenous peoples' rights and human rights defenders. Extensive work with National Human Rights Institutions. Chairperson of the Working Group on Sustainable Development of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. 2019-20 also heading the Human Rights and Business Department at the Institute, leading the work with companies and states to assess and address human rights impacts of business operations, and develop national actions plans and regulatory frameworks. See: <https://www.humanrights.dk/our-work/sdgs-human-rights>

Independent advisor
Charapa Consult

09/2010 - 04/2015

- **Specialized advice to a range of clients within the fields of indigenous peoples' rights, institutional guidelines and safeguards environmental protection, forest management and climate change.** Clients included the International Labour Organisation, Rainforest Foundation UK, Gobierno Territorial Rama y Kriol, International Fund for Agricultural Development, UN-REDD Programme, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Tebtebba Foundation, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Forest Peoples Programme, SwedBio, GIZ, European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, International Land Coalition, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, World Bank, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Greenland Government, United Nations Development Programme, Norad, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Danida. See: <http://www.charapa.dk/>

WORK EXPERIENCE

Chief Technical Advisor

International Labour Organization

09/2004 - 08/2010

- Overall management of global programme to promote and implement ILO Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples.
- Focus on land and resource rights; mechanisms for consultation, participation and consent; impact of hydropower projects; labour rights. Programme elements comprised; research; information dissemination and publications; training and capacity building; project cooperation with governments and partners at national and regional levels; and, mainstreaming of human rights within the ILO and the UN system. Regional projects in South Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Independent advisor

Charapa Consult

08/2000 - 09/2004

- Clients included Danida, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, Minority Rights Group, Rainforest Foundation, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation.

Anthropological research

Fieldwork

01/2000 - 07/2000

- Anthropological field work in the Peruvian Amazon, focusing on expansion of formal education and implementation of educational reform, as related to traditional knowledge and forest management practise. Research in Cocama and Aguaruna/Huambisa territories and at the FORMABIAP teacher training centre, Iquitos. The fieldwork was supported by Institute of Anthropology, University of Copenhagen, WWF/Novo Nordisk.

Seconded National Expert

European Commission, Directorate-general for Development

1997 - 1998

- National Expert, seconded to the EC by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Responsibility for the development of the EU policy on indigenous peoples and development co-operation (EC Working Document on support to indigenous peoples in development cooperation and 1998 EU Council Resolution on support to indigenous peoples). The position included formulation of the policy, and the facilitation of a consultation process, involving indigenous peoples and Member States of the European Union as well as presentation and discussions at the Council of Ministers.

Project manager

Ibis (now Oxfam-Ibis)

1994 - 1995

- Responsible for development of a bilingual and intercultural education programme in Ecuador for indigenous communities, and outreach/communication in Denmark, including elaboration of educational materials for Danish high-school students (CONAIE/Operation Dagsværk).

Project manager

Solstice Foundation (private foundation of public utility)

1992 - 1996

- Administration and monitoring of a wide range of projects, mainly within the fields of organic agriculture and sustainable use of forests, land titling and territorial management, community development. The position implied project design, management, monitoring and evaluation in Denmark, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Poland and the Kyrgyz Republic

Secretariat staff

Nordic Agency for Development and Ecology (NORDECO)

1991 - 1992

- Secretariat staff in Nordeco, a consulting and project management company, specialised in sustainable development initiatives with a particular focus on forest management

WORK EXPERIENCE

Volunteer, Ecuador

1985 - 1989

- Residence in indigenous communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon, support to emerging organizations struggling for recognition of land rights and forest protection. Campaigning against forest destruction and oil exploitation, articles, events and video documentaries on indigenous peoples and forest. Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonía Ecuatoriana/Ediciones Solitierra.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENTS AND CONSULTANCIES

Rainforest Foundation UK, community mapping (2015)

- Tropical forest community mapping initiative. Fact-finding and consultations with indigenous peoples' organisations and other stakeholders in the Asian region, regarding the interest, challenges and conditions for the development of a global digital platform for community mapping data.

Gobierno Territorial Rama y Kriol, consultation (2014)

- Team leader Guidelines for adequate consultation. Participatory elaboration of guidelines, in line with international human rights standards, for the State's expected consultations with the Rama and Kriol peoples, in the context of the planned "Nicaragua Canal".

UN-REDD Programme, safeguards (2014)

- Expert review of safeguards and requirements for stakeholder engagement in REDD+ under the UNFCCC, review of previous experiences and elaboration of recommendations for the 2015-20 UN-REDD global strategy.

AIPP, FPP, ILO, IWGIA, Tebtebba, the Indigenous Navigator (2014 - 2015)

- Elaboration of a framework and related tools for monitoring the implementation of indigenous peoples' human rights and development, including in the context of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Elaboration of tools for field-testing in selected countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

AIPP and Tebtebba, Indigenous peoples' rights within the UN-system (2014)

- Review of UN-System Efforts for the Realization of Indigenous Peoples' Rights. Case studies in Bolivia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya, Namibia, Nicaragua The review identifies good practices, challenges as well as recommendations for enhanced UN-system action, including in the context of the forthcoming post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Forest Peoples Programme, evaluation (2014)

- Evaluation of the Forest Peoples, Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Climate Change Project, implemented by Forest Peoples Programme in collaboration with partners in Bangladesh, Guyana, Panama, Suriname, Thailand. The programme is funded by SwedBio and various other donors.

GIZ, Paper on participation in the context of FCPF/UN-REDD (2013)

- Paper on consultation standards, guidelines, and country experience for REDD+ and natural resource governance, GIZ. Review of national experiences with consultation, participation and consent of forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples in the context of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank and the UN-REDD programme.

UN-REDD, investigation and mid-term evaluation (2013)

- Independent investigation of the complaints against the UN-REDD national program in Panama for human rights violations, followed by a full mid-term evaluation of the UN-REDD national program.

IFAD, Guidelines on consultation and consent (2013)

- Guidelines on consultation and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the process of obtaining free, prior and informed consent in IFAD-funded projects

International Land Coalition, indigenous peoples' land rights (2013)

- Publication indigenous peoples' land rights and scoping study on the opportunities for the (ILC) and its broad and diverse membership to address indigenous peoples' right to lands, territories and resources in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, resource guide (2012)

- Resource Guide on Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights. The Guide is based on Professor Anaya's academic work as well as his reports as a mandate-holder under the UN Human Rights Council.

OHCHR - Guidance Note on consultation and consent (2012)

- Guidance Note on indigenous peoples' right to consultation and to free, prior and informed consent. The Note provides legal and operational guidance to OHCHR staff of the on the scope, contents and implications of indigenous peoples' right to consultation as well as operational entry points for OHCHR to assist the implementation of this right in country-level operations.

World Bank, climate change adaptation (2012)

- Analysis of indigenous peoples' adaptation to climate change in Africa. Case studies in Kenya, Namibia, Congo Brazzaville on indigenous peoples and climate change adaptation. Participatory research was undertaken over a 10 months period with indigenous communities to document how traditional knowledge shapes indigenous peoples' adaptation strategies in the context of climate change. The research concluded with the publication of a regional report, aimed at informing international policy processes

Rainforest Foundation UK, evaluation (2012)

- Final evaluation of the project to protect the rainforest in the Selva Central area of the Peruvian Amazon, inhabited by Asháninka communities.

SELECTED ASSIGNMENTS AND CONSULTANCIES

UNDP, support to indigenous peoples (2011)

- Global review of UNDP support to indigenous peoples over the last decade and elaboration of an analytical report to identify key results, challenges, opportunities and recommendations to further strengthen mainstreaming within UNDP as well as interventions in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

IWGIA/SSNC, evaluation (2011)

- Evaluation of the land rights and natural resource management programme of Partners of Community Organisations (PACOS), Sabah, Malaysia. The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of the joint donors of the programme.

Norad, mid-term review (2011)

- Mid-term review of the Maya Program to support implementation of indigenous peoples' human rights in Guatemala. The program has 3 components 1) strategic litigation, implemented by OHCHR; 2) intercultural bilingual education, implemented by UNICEF, and; 3) political participation, implemented by UNDP.

Danida, review (2010 - 2011)

- Review of implementation of the Strategy for Danish Support to Indigenous Peoples, comprising extensive desk studies, interviews and field visits in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Kenya, Nepal.

AIPP, evaluation (2010)

- Evaluation of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP): the regional network of indigenous peoples' organisations and movements from 15 Asian countries. AIPP is involved in all major negotiations and policy processes relating to indigenous peoples' rights, it brings members' local and national concerns to the international level and builds solidarity and capacity among its members within the fields of human rights, environment and climate, indigenous women, youth and development. The evaluation comprised desk review and extensive consultations with AIPP members, including country visits to Indonesia, North-East India and Thailand.

Norad, hydropower (2010)

- Comparative analysis of the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol, the IFC Performance Standard no. 7 on indigenous peoples, ILO Convention No. 169 and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The assignment included facilitation of a case analysis and group discussion comprising representatives of the private sector, government and NGOs.

Danida, sector programming (2004)

- Team leader. Finalisation of Sector Programme to Support Indigenous Peoples, including its 3 Components: Mainstreaming of ILO Convention No. 169 in governance structures; Titling of community land, and; Territorial management

Danida, best practices (2003 - 2004)

- Study of best practices and elaboration of tool kit for inclusion of indigenous peoples' rights in sector programme support, Danida. The study was undertaken in four countries receiving Danish bilateral assistance. It comprised country-specific reports and recommendations as well as the development of a tool kit, providing general guidelines for the inclusion of indigenous peoples' rights in sector programming.

UNDP, indigenous peoples in Russia (2003)

- Preparatory Assistance Project, development of an integrated capacity program for minority groups in the Russian North, Siberia and Far East

SSNC, evaluation (2003)

- Evaluation of the project 'Community Forest Management by Van Gujjars', Uttaranchal, India, implemented by the 'Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra'.

Danida, review (2001 - 2002)

- Review of implementation of the *Strategy for Danish Support to Indigenous Peoples*. The team was comprised of indigenous experts from 4 different regions and implied review of bilateral programs in Bolivia, Kenya, South Africa and Bangladesh as well as extensive consultations with NGOs, multilateral agencies, UN human rights bodies and indigenous peoples.

IWGIA - World Summit on Sustainable Development (2001)

- Facilitation of indigenous peoples' participation in the WSSD process. Position included liaison with indigenous peoples' organizations at a global scale, preparation of background material and participation in the UN Summit

Danida, ILO, Government of India; evaluation (1999)

- Tripartite evaluation of the India component of the Interregional INDISCO-programme to develop sustainable models for community development.

International Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Tropical Forest (1998)

- Capacity assessment of the International Alliance, comprising indigenous organizations from Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS (AUTHOR/CO-AUTHOR)

Sustainable recovery: building on human rights and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

DIHR, 2021

COVID-19 response and recovery must build on human rights and SDGs

DIHR, 2020

Leveraging Human Rights Mechanisms to Improve SDG Follow-up and Review

DIHR, 2020

Realising human rights and the 2030 Agenda through Comprehensive Impact assessments: Lessons Learned from addressing Indigenous Peoples' rights in the Energy Sector

In Götzmann: Human Rights Impact Assessments, Edward Elgar, 2019

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS (AUTHOR/CO-AUTHOR)

Indicators and Data for Human Rights and Sustainable Development: A Practical Approach to Leaving No One Behind

DIHR, 2019

National Human Rights Institutions - Accelerators, Guarantors and Indicators of Sustainable Development

DIHR, 2019

Human rights in follow-up and review of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development

DIHR, 2017

United Nations and Indigenous Peoples in Developing Countries – an Evolving Partnership

Tebtebba Foundation and AIPP, 2014

Findings, conclusions and recommendations - Independent team for the investigation and evaluation of the UN-REDD Panama Programme

UN-REDD, 2013

Indigenous Peoples' Rights to Land, Territories and Resources

International Land Coalition Study: ILC, 2013

Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Rights in Practice – a Guide to ILO Convention No. 169

ILO, 2009

Elimination of discrimination against indigenous and tribal peoples in employment and occupations – a Guide to ILO Convention No. 111

ILO, 2007

Tool kit: Best Practices for Including Indigenous Peoples in Sector Programme Support

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2005

Schizophrenia in Development: Balancing epistemological, moral and political concerns, in "Development"

Palgrave Macmillan, 2000

Respecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Due Diligence Checklist for Companies

DIHR, 2019

Human rights and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development - lessons learned and next steps

DIHR, 2018

Leaving no one behind - a Practice Guide for Indigenous Peoples

AIPP, 2017

Human Rights and Data

DIHR, 2017

Participation and Consultation Standards, Guidelines and Country Experiences

UN-REDD, FCPC and BMZ, Joint Expert Workshop, Weilburg Castle, September 2013

Mid-Term Evaluation Report UN-REDD National Joint Programme in Panama -Independent Investigation and Evaluation Team

UN-REDD 2013

Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change in Africa: traditional knowledge and adaptation strategies

World Bank, 2012

Including indigenous peoples in Poverty Reduction Strategies: A Practice Guide Based on experiences from Cambodia, Cameroon and Nepal

ILO, 2008

Combating child labour among indigenous peoples

(ed.), ILO, 2005

Indigenous Peoples and Poverty

Minority Rights Group, 2003