

# PROJECT ACCESS



## Final Report: 2017 Session

Celebrating 13 Years! Project Access Global Capacity Building Workshop for Indigenous Peoples consists of a 3-day intensive training program and participation in a related international meeting or conference where decisions are being made that affect their rights, cultures, and livelihoods. The program assists in providing practical knowledge and skills to participants that can be used toward responses to the challenges that their communities face.

# Project Access Session 2017

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*Project Access 2017 Session Group Photo with Trainees, Trainers and mentors*

# Project Access Session 2017



*Andrea Carmen, lead trainer with trainees at the 2017 Session held in New York*

## A Summary...

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual session of **PROJECT ACCESS** facilitated the participation of 17 indigenous peoples' representatives from 15 countries within a 3-day intensive training workshop, as well as during the 16th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The purpose of the UNPFII is to provide a platform for Indigenous Peoples to raise the visibility of challenges faced by their communities; lobby their proposed solutions to representatives of governments and others; outreach to relevant UN Agencies for support; and raise further awareness about their cultures and work through special events.

To ensure more effective participation at the 2017 session of the UNPFII, Tribal Link organized the training program for program delegates preceding the Forum session held at UN Headquarters campus from 19-21 April 2017. The program also included an evaluation session with participants on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Due to the generosity of our funders, critical financial assistance was provided to facilitate delegate trainee participation. Additionally, selected trainees received personalized support and mentoring from the program coordinator, the instructors, and Tribal Link Staff. Three Project Access alumni returned as mentors for the new participants, further enhancing participant experience. Tribal Link also facilitated opportunities to engage with several UN agencies, departments, and programs.

The capacity building training sessions were led by some of the world's most experienced experts on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and were geared towards giving participants practical knowledge and skills that could be used immediately to forward their peoples' issues.



*Project Access Trainees sharing experiences during the program*

# Project Access Session 2017

## A Summary (continued)...



*Elsa Stamatopoulou of Columbia University  
address the 2017 Session of Project Access*

Special emphasis was given to participating effectively in the Permanent Forum, understanding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda, which included a significant focus on water issues, as well as an in-depth look at the issue of Climate Change. The 2017 Project Access program was coordinated in cooperation with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the United Nations Voluntary Fund, UNDP's Equator Initiative, and Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights (ISHR).

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As in previous years, Tribal Link is pleased to report that this year's Project Access participants shared with us that they arrived as individuals unfamiliar with each other, but they left as a family. To maintain this connection and further support each other's work beyond their time at the Forum, participants were also added to the Project Access Alumni Facebook group where they continue to communicate directly. This is also a helpful tool in Tribal Link's follow-up activities as it assists in highlighting how participants share what they learned during the workshop with their communities through interviews, presentation and workshops of their own. An ongoing goal is to receive briefs on these activities throughout the year.

## *Project Access 2017: The Participants...*

The selection of participants attending the Project Access training workshop and the PFII is achieved by outreaching to the members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the Secretariats of the Permanent Forum; the Convention on Biological Diversity; and the United Nations Voluntary Fund, as well as from recommendations received by indigenous organizations worldwide. A key guideline for selection is that their respective organizations and/or communities endorse said delegate's participation.

Contact Pamela Kraft: [pkraft@triballink.org](mailto:pkraft@triballink.org)

## 2017 Project Access Participants: A Close-Up...

### Africa



**Musa Usman Ndamba** (Mbororo), Cameroon: Mr. Usman Ndamba is a representative of the Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association (MBOSCUDA). The organization was created in 1992 to empower and de-marginalize Mbororo Indigenous peoples of Cameroon, through capacity building. The organization focuses human rights issue and advocates for land rights ownership and protection of the environment.

**Martha Lekitony Ntoipo** (Maasai), Tanzania: Ms. Ntoipo represents CORDS, LTD, which is an organization that focuses on four main program areas including Education, Gender and Women Empowerment, Land Rights and Governance and Building Resilience. She primarily works with the Maasai community in four Districts namely Monduli, Kiteto, Simanjiro and Longido



**Xukuri Xukuri** (San), Botswana: Mr. Xukuri represents the Kuru Development Trust. The organization is a nonprofit, which is a legally registered Trust mandated for the social and economic development of the San in D'kar village and other minority groups in Gantsi region. Kuru Development Trust provides a platform for social and economic development for the San/ Bushmen in general and other minority communities. Kuru Trust promotes the economic welfare of the San communities through their participation in community Based Resources Management projects in Ghanzi District.

**Eune Shaldon Ferris** (Khoi San), South Africa: Mr. Ferris works for Cultural Survival, which is a non-profit that works toward a future that respects and honors Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights and dynamic cultures, deeply and richly interwoven in lands, languages, spiritual traditions, and artistic expression, rooted in self-determination and self-governance. Mr. Ferris is an indigenous rights radio producer for the organization.



### Asia



**Pratima Gurung** (Gurung), Nepal: Ms. Gurung is a representative of the Nepal Indigenous Disabled Association (NIDA), National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN). She works for the protection and promotion of Indigenous people/ women with disabilities (IPWDs) since 2008 locally and globally. IPWDs are multiple times discriminated due to their identity being a woman first, indigenous second, disabled third that multiply with multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination at several layers that as to brought into discussion in several forums and discourse.



**Taggaoa Ronald Pagurayan** (Kalinga), Philippines: Mr. Pagurayan is representing the Montañosa Research and Development Center / Cordillera Peoples Alliance. The organization is actively engaged in advocacy campaigns for IP rights in the Cordilleras, north of Luzon, Philippines. His community is populated by internal migrants, mostly Sadanga and Kalinga, from the provinces of the Cordilleras who relocated due to economic difficulties. City life and cable TVs however, have put strains into the traditional indigenous cultures thereby resulting to weakening of indigenous practices and culture. As a college teacher, he is involved in popularizing UN instruments on IP rights in and out of the classroom. Mr. Pagurayan is active in the local community's attempt to keep - if not revive - indigenous culture in the young and children.

## Central and South America and the Caribbean

**Taily de Faria Marcos Terena** (Terena), Brazil: Ms. Terena is representing the Inter-Tribal Committee which is an organization that is focus on the protection of traditional indigenous knowledge, the promotion of socio-educational sport, the expression of cultures, citizenship and respect for original values. The organization believes that each people, each ethnicity, each culture has its own identity, peculiarities that resist the globalization of the economy and communication and generate forms of specific coexistence populations. At this session, she hopes to network with other indigenous youth from all around the world to share experiences and exchange knowledge.



**Pierre Andrews** (Lokono) Guyana: A second-year delegate, Mr. Andrews is a representative of the Parrot Protection Act Council of Pakuri Territory. As a former elected Chief & the youngest ever, he sits on the Council of Chiefs of Pakuri Territory, which advises the current elected Chief on best policies from previous administrations and to assist in the good governance of the present administration. Mr. Andrews also locally co-heads the Parrot Protection Act Council that my predecessor (and co-head) Chief David Simon signed into customary law on our Territory on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

**Sabantho Aderi Corrie** (Lokono), Barbados: At 18 years old, Ms. Corrie is the youngest delegate to participate in Project Access. Her organization is the Eagle Clan Lokono-Arawaks. She is a traditional visual artist on the Lokono Culture Council, where she teaches ceramics, painting, and drawing. She hope her participation in Project Access will expand her “mental horizons and achieve the level of inspiration” that her father obtained by becoming a graduate of the program. Ms. Corrie aspires to become better qualified to contribute to the good governance of her people.



**Mitchell Irvine Auguiste** (Kalinago-Carib), Dominica Lokono: Mr. Auguiste is a former Chief of the Kalinago Nation in Dominica. He is currently representing the Caribbean Amerindian Development Organization (CADO), which is involved in the networking of indigenous groups of the English and Spanish speaking Caribbean in the sharing of information and advocacy. His community is active in programs of higher education, cultural development, tourism as an income earner. Mr. Auguiste is presently organizing local farmers into a register non-government organization with the aim of directing our own agricultural development.



## North America



**Amanda Jean Vick** (Gitxsan), St. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada: Ms. Vick works with Gitxsan band in Hazelton BC in Canada. She is passionate about land claims and come from a long lineage of hereditary chiefs. Her family is *Wilps Delgamuux* of the Gitxsan nation and they are the only First Nation that has gone to the supreme court of Canada and won a ground-breaking land claim from the federal government, which is the largest land claim to be won in the world. Ms. Vick is also representing the Aboriginal Youth Internship Program of BC, which is an exclusive opportunity with the British Columbia government where 25 aboriginal youth are chosen across the province to conduct work in the public service.

**Arnold Blackstar** (Cree – Moosomin First Nation -Treaty Number 6), Saskatchewan - Canada: Mr. Blackstar is a representative of The Blackstar Better Community Living Initiative Inc., a non-profit organization that designs, implements and evaluates indigenous youth projects that contribute to employment and academic readiness and advancement. With his participation in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues he hopes to assist and find opportunities for Indigenous Canadian Youth to direct them for academic and career choices.



**Janene Natasha Yazzie** (Diné/Navajo), Arizona, U.S.: Ms. Yazzie represents the Sixth World Solutions and Little Colorado River Watershed Chapters Association. She co-founded Sixth World Solutions to nurture sustainable, eco-smart development using Traditional Ecological Knowledge as the primary planning framework. Ms. Yazzie also works as a Senior Planner for the Little Colorado River Watershed Chapters Association to advocate for policy development and program development in the areas of Water Security, Land restoration, Food Security, and Climate Change resiliency by exercising local autonomy. Her success in community organizing comes from utilizing human rights principles to articulate and codify tribal authorities in land and resource management and to address public health and environmental concerns of community stakeholders.





**Jazmine Elizabeth Alfaro** (Xicana Nahua), Canada: At this session, Ms. Alfaro is representing the United Confederation of Taíno People (UCTP), an indigenous representative institution that promotes the self-determination of Caribbean Indigenous Peoples and the recognition and protection of their human rights, culture, traditions, and sacred lands. She is trained as an academic to provide a network and knowledge of and to the academic platform, to assert Indigenous perspectives, desires, and influence into the academy providing a direct bridge through direct and collective story telling through research, mixed media, and social justice movements.

## Pacific

**Baya Ulaiasi Radoke** (Nautu'utu), Fiji: Mr. Radoke is a representative of the Mataqali Rogoua Development Trust is a representative entity for the members of the landowning unit, Rogoua. The extent of their traditional area including land and customary fishing grounds is well demarcated and formally recorded. provide advice on all matters regarding dealings with all resources ensuring the proposed use is fit for purpose, reap equitable returns and inter-generational equity.



**Rod Little** (Amangu and Wajuk peoples), Australia: Mr. Little is the Co-Chair at National Congress of Australia's First Peoples. The Congress was established in 2010, it's growing membership consists of over 180 organizations and progressing past 8,000 individuals. Congress advocates self-determination and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He has served as a Director with Congress since 2011 and up to 2015 he has been a participating member with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory group and CRC Ninti One – Remote Education Systems research advisory group.

## Russian Federation

**Varvara Korkina** (Kumandin people), Siberia, Russia: Ms. Korkina is a representative of the Center of Support Indigenous Peoples of North (CSIPN). The organization is a non-profit educational organization. CSIPN also supports the “Aborigen Forum”, which is the informal network of independent experts and leaders representing different indigenous organizations of the North, Siberia and Far East of the Russian Federation. The main goal of Aborigen Forum is to protect the indigenous peoples’ rights, making analysis and monitoring the situation, joint working with other institutions and appeals to authorities. Aborigen Forum is functioning based on principles of equity, voluntary, transparency and shared responsibility.



# Project Access Session 2017

## Project Access Participant Comments...

### Evaluation Session April 2017

- **Musa Usman Ndamba:** “This training gives us a deeper meaning. If tribal link had the possibility to train young people more it would be powerful because the future are the young ones. The future will be youth.”
- **Janene Yazzie:** “Part of what keeps us oppressed is to judge instead of figure things out. People get married to strategies. But I think people from different background can share that with each other. Thank you for the training, it was really helpful. The content was on point, intense, and I wish it went longer. It was invaluable.”
- **Pierre Andrews:** “With the training, I have gotten to know and see improvement. There is a lot of info I can dispense when I go back. This inspired me to actually take things in a different direction.”
- “Being able to speak is a great honor, so being given the skills to speak for your people is a also great honor. This experience is something I will take home with me, to my community, to grow with.”
- **Mitchell Irvin Auguiste:** “Biodiversity.. that subject has been very interesting. The biodiversity discussion in the training was very helpful to me because it’s important to my community.
- **Taggaoo Ronald Pagurayan:** “It always helps when we come together. It is a time to rediscover ourselves and feel acceptance. Back home we feel hopeless. It makes sense sometimes to come and see that there are people like you and feel renewed”
- **Pratima Gurung:** “We are not alone in our work. There are so many challenges in other communities and what can we learn from them. What I want to take back is commitment towards my own community. It has made me more proactive in my work, to go back to my community, and work with other Indigenous Peoples. No matter where we are, Nepal, China, the U.S., we are still connected.”

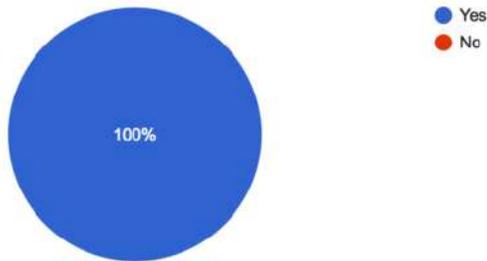


*Project Access trainees, mentors, trainers, and Project Access Alumni at the 2017 Evaluation Session*

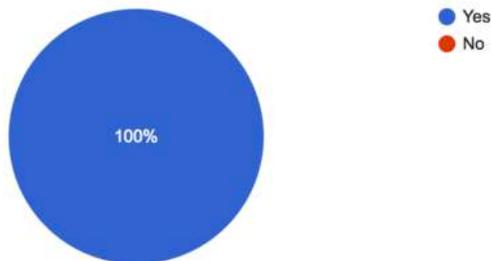
# Project Access Session 2017

## Evaluation Session 2017: Impact Measures

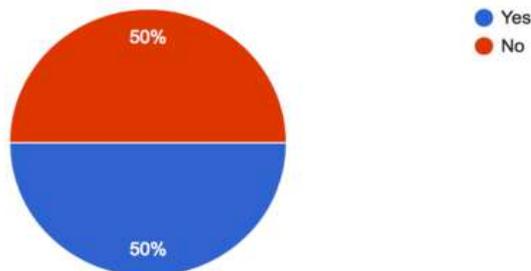
Did you find the training helpful for your advocacy efforts?



Would you recommend the training to others?



Were you interviewed by a media representative?



- 91% of the Project Access participants participated in a caucus or regional or thematic grouping at the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII).

- 58% of the Project Access participants met with and or shared information with representatives of their governments at the PFII.

- 91% of Project Access participants shared information with representatives of the PFII.

- 58% of Project Access participants met with representatives of UN agencies, programs, etc. outside the training.

- 100% participated in the development of statements read at the PFII.

- 58% of Project Access participants met with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- 100% of Project Access participants participated in side events at the PFII.

- 91% of Project Access participants felt the UN Permanent Forum met their expectations.



*Project Access trainees reading an intervention at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*

## Project Access 2017: Indigenous Peoples, Water, & Climate Change

*Water is the lifeblood of mother earth, which nourishes and sustains life.*

*For the Cree, the earth is our mother, which nourishes and sustains us.*

*- Arnold Blackstar, Canada*

The 2017 Session of Project Access dedicated a significant portion of its training agenda to update participants on the United Nations Post2030 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); as well as Climate Change and the Paris Climate Agreement. The Post2030 Agenda will determine the official international development agenda for the next 15 years and the Climate Conference seeks to come to an international agreement on combatting Climate Change as well as unleash actions and investment towards a low carbon, resilient and sustainable future. Crosscutting themes of these processes often link to the basic human right to water, including references to water use, management and the impacts of climate change.

In relation to the basic human right to water, Project Access participants learned that Article 25 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples affirms the right to “maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters, and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.” Article 26 also affirms Indigenous Peoples rights to and legal protection of “resources” that they have “traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.”

Additionally, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the body established by the United Nations to authoritatively interpret the meaning of the rights set forth in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), has declared that the "human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable physically and affordable water for personal and domestic uses." That right is available to all, including Indigenous Peoples without discrimination of any kind.

During the 2017 Project Access Session, the delegates affirmed that the basic human right to water and water consciousness plays a significant role in their lives. As a part of their assigned work, participants were given the task of completing a survey on water and climate change, which highlighted their perception of water’s importance in their lives, including identifying its cultural and spiritual relevance, the impacts of climate change on water resources and management, as well as its related impacts on their means of subsistence, etc.



*Amanda Vick at United Nations  
General Assembly Hall*

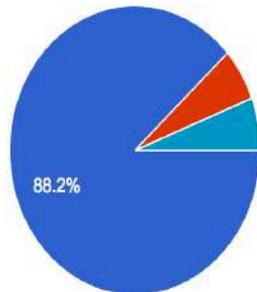
*“More investment needs to be made to empower first peoples to combat climate change and sustain their lands and waters, and native plants and animals they have traditionally enjoyed. Plus, more needs to be done/invested in/supported to counter the propaganda of non-believers of climate change, and urgent action is required to support nations of sinking islands affected by climate change and rising waters.”*

*- Amanda Vick, Canada*

# Project Access 2016 Participant Responses to Water and Climate Change Survey

## 1. How important is the issue of water to your community/Peoples/Tribe/Nation?

17 responses



- Very important
- Important
- Somewhat important
- Not important
- Don't know
- For my community it doesn't important. I'm from really clean state.



*“Our traditional territory is in swamp region. So, the rain and the floods means a lot to our way of life. The water and their processes is considered sacred to us...”*

*– Taily Terena, Brazil*

**88% responded that their community/Peoples/Tribe/Nation retains traditional stories and or spiritual traditions related to water.**

### Respondents identified specific climate change impacts affecting water including:

76.5% - Increased/decreased in rainfall or snowfall

0% - Melting sea ice affecting subsistence hunting and fishing

76.5% - Drying lakes, rivers, groundwater sources, or other waterways

70% - Significant decrease in growth and/or production levels of traditional food plants, trees and/or seeds.

52.9% - Decrease in numbers of fish, birds and animals used for food

47.1% - Significant changes in harvesting times (plants, fish, animals)

76.5% - Extreme weather events impacting food harvesting or production areas (hurricanes, storms, droughts)

17.6% - Rising sea levels, salinization of water sources

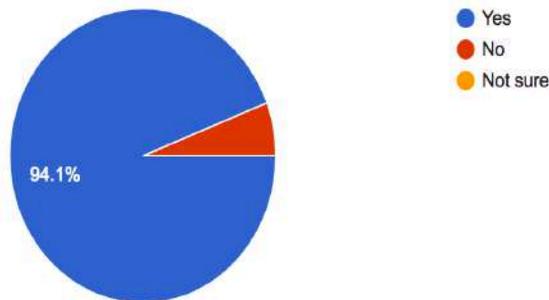
82.4% - Unpredictable weather affecting food planting, gathering, hunting patterns

### Respondents affirmed that climate change is a threat beyond water issues. Elaboration:

- U.S.A.: “...it affects cultural resiliency and survivability, public health.”
- Brazil: “...we have problems with weather changes that affect our harvest, the cultural behavior and is indirectly affecting our health special woman's and youth.
- Australia: “It affects the seasonal supply of bush-traditional foods including animals and their reproduction. Animals are migrating to other areas, e.g. urban areas.”
- Tanzania: “...it threatens the life of people and livestock.”
- Barbados: “...humans will eventually go to war over decreasing water resources.”

4. Have you seen impacts of climate change affect water issues related to local food systems, food resources or habitats?

17 responses



*“Our traditional knowledge and our traditional way of living was changed tragically by non-indigenous, so nowadays there is a lot of information about our culture that we are not familiar with, but even so, we didn’t lose connection with our land, our territory”*

**- Rod Little, Australia**

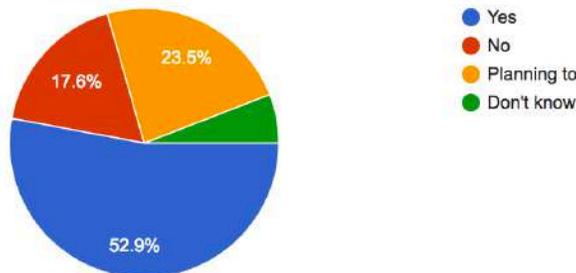
88% of respondents affirmed that traditional knowledge and practices can be useful in addressing or responding to water related impacts of climate change or development.

If funding was available, respondents felt that these would be the best place to apply funding to address their water or climate change related issues:

- Proper land use and resource audit to highlight areas best suited for water catchment areas; Local indigenous-run watershed initiatives, food security; water distribution and purification; education & public awareness raising; incentivized incentives for renewable energy, reforestation; drip irrigation for farmlands; forest management; health

7. Has your community/Tribe/Peoples/Nation had discussions about how to use, restore, transmit or share traditional knowledge and practices to address water issues and its effects on local food security/food sovereignty?

17 responses



**Respondents traditional means of subsistence in their community/People/Nation included:**

- 64% - fishing
- 64% - hunting
- 11% - marine mammals
- 64% - farming
- 12% - gathering
- 41% - herding/pastoralism
- 41% - trapping

“Raw materials for making handicrafts are getting scarce and while surveys have been made, the problem has not been addressed by government.” – **Mitchell Irvince Auguiste**

# Project Access Session 2017

## Project Access Follow Up Activities...

Tribal Link works with Project Access participants throughout the Permanent Forum session providing support for facilitating meetings, interviews and other interactions that are critical to their work and ability to lobby. Additionally, after the Project Access session concludes, Tribal Link conducts, on a case-by-case basis, follow up meetings with participants and relevant contacts to assist in facilitating future work. In some instances, Tribal Link is asked to do this on behalf of participants who have returned to their communities.

It is a requirement for all Project Access participants to share with their communities upon their return what they learned during the Project Access training and the UNPFII session. During the Fall of 2016, Tribal Link will seek to collect reports and or testimonials from the Project Access participants indicating what activities were carried out. Past activities have included radio interviews in their country, capacity building workshops in their communities and translation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their own languages. This year, some Project Access participants have informed us that they are continuing to engage in the United Nations system becoming involved with the Indigenous Peoples Major Group on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Convention on Climate Change.

## Project Access Staffing...

**Lead Trainer:** *Andrea Carmen* (Yaqui), United States/Mexico

**Project Access Program Coordinator; Trainer:** *Roberto Múkaro Borrero* (Taíno), Borikén (Puerto Rico)/U.S.

**Mentors:** *Ghazali Ohorella* (Alifuru), Maluku, Pacific region; *Migdalia "Tai Pelli" Pellicier* (Taino), Caribbean sub-region; *Damon Gerard Corrie* (Lokono Arawak), Caribbean sub-region; *Victor Carmen* (Yaqui, Lakota), North America



*Xukuri Xukuri, Taily Terena, Pamela Kraft, and Sabantho Corrie 2017*

**Tribal Link Associates:** *Heena Khan; Paula Kimper* • **Volunteers:** *Daniel Leguizamon; Heather Korb*

**Tribal Link Executive Director:** *Pamela Kraft*

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# Project Access Session 2017

More photos from the 2017 Project Access Training Session...



*Pratima Gurung making an intervention at the UNPFII 2017*



*John Scott of the Secretariat of UN Convention on Biological Diversity addresses the 2017 Session*



*Jazmine Alfaro (at right) makes an intervention at the UNPFII supported by Project Access Trainer Roberto Borrero and Trainee Janene Yazzie*



*Taily Terena Meets Evo Morales, the President of Bolivia at the Forum*

**“I wish that everyone coming to the Forum had this preparation because we would all better utilize the space”  
– Taily Terena**

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Project Access 2017 Report Photos: Roberto Borrero; Ghazali Oshorella;  
Paula Kimper; Heather Korb

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