**Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)**

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) refers to an Indigenous Peoples’ right to give or withhold consent for activities that affect their lands, territories, and resources. It must be given freely, in advance, with full information, and can be withdrawn at any time. Communities have the right to decide whether or not to participate based on complete information, without pressure or coercion, and in accordance with their own decision-making processes.

**Why is FPIC important?**

1. Power imbalances.

Researchers often have more resources and institutional backing than communities, making true consent difficult without proper safeguards in place.

1. Historical exploitation

Many communities, especially Indigenous ones, have been harmed by extractive research that took knowledge without giving back or misrepresented their perspectives.

1. Cultural protocols

Communities have their own ways of making decisions that researchers need to respect, which often involves collective rather than individual consent.

1. Ongoing consent

FPIC isn't just a one-time signature but an ongoing process where communities can withdraw consent if circumstances change

1. Legal and ethical compliance

Many funding bodies and institutions now require FPIC for research with Indigenous communities.

1. Better research outcomes

When communities truly drive the research process, the results are more valid, beneficial, and relevant.

**Acknowledgement:** This summary was adapted for educational purposes and acknowledges the longstanding work of Indigenous leaders and international bodies in establishing FPIC as a global standard.

**For More Information on FPIC:** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). (2016). Free, Prior and Informed Consent: An Indigenous Peoples’ right and a good practice for local communities. FAO. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/i6190e>