

NEW ERA ACTIONS FOR THE ERA POLICY AGENDA 2025-2027
TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS

This template follows up on the debate in the ERA Forum on 25 May, in which Forum representatives agreed on a coordinated approach towards the definition of new actions for the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027. It builds on a gap analysis exercise in which the ERA Forum assessed, which parts of the [Pact for Research and Innovation](#) are already covered by the [Policy Agenda 2022-2024](#) and where there should be additions.

Forum representatives are invited to distribute this template among actors at national level to collect input for potential new actions for the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027. The priority areas of the Pact for Research and Innovation and content of the Policy Agenda 2022-2024 should be taken into account when filling in this template.

The results of the national process should be then fed into the gap analysis document by Forum representatives by **18 August 2023**. This will help to prepare the overall assessment for the ERA Forum meeting of September.

Action title: <i>(Please use as a maximum two lines.)</i>	Indigenous plant knowledge revival
Description of the action <i>(Please explain the proposed action in a simple, clear and communicable narrative).</i>	Collaborate with indigenous communities to document and preserve traditional plant knowledge. Incorporate this knowledge into modern conservation efforts and sustainable land management practices.
Actors <i>(Please explain who would take part in the action and who would benefit from it).</i>	<p>Academic and research institutions: Universities, research organizations, and ethnobotanical institutes can contribute to the documentation and study of indigenous plant knowledge. They can assist in recording traditional practices, conducting scientific research, and validating the efficacy of traditional plant uses.</p> <p>Indigenous Communities: Indigenous peoples are at the heart of this initiative. Their knowledge and expertise are essential for preserving and sharing traditional plant knowledge. Their active involvement, leadership, and consent are crucial for the success of any project related to their cultural heritage.</p> <p>Government agencies: Government agencies responsible for cultural heritage preservation, environmental conservation, and indigenous affairs can provide funding, resources, and legal support for initiatives aimed at documenting and revitalizing indigenous plant knowledge.</p> <p>Non-governmental organisations (NGOs): NGOs specialising in indigenous rights, cultural heritage preservation, and environmental conservation can play a supportive role. They can provide expertise, resources, and connections to facilitate collaboration between indigenous communities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Cultural experts and elders: Indigenous elders and cultural experts within the communities hold valuable knowledge. Their involvement is essential for accurate representation and interpretation of traditional plant knowledge and practices.</p> <p>Legal Advisors: Lawyers and legal experts can help ensure that the rights of indigenous communities are respected, and that any documentation or sharing of knowledge is done in accordance with legal frameworks and protocols, such as free, prior, and informed consent.</p> <p>Media and communications specialists: Communication professionals can help amplify the voices of indigenous communities, raise awareness about the importance of their plant knowledge, and facilitate the sharing of information through various media channels.</p> <p>Local authorities: Local governments and authorities in the regions where indigenous communities reside can provide logistical support, infrastructure, and collaboration for successful initiatives.</p>

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	<p>International organizations: Organizations like the United Nations, UNESCO, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) can provide support, guidance, and global platforms for showcasing successful indigenous plant knowledge revival initiatives.</p>
<p>Expected impact</p> <p><i>(Please describe the expected impact of the action (including outside the scientific community), paying attention to the fact that it needs to focus on <u>concrete results</u> and <u>reachable deliverables</u>).</i></p>	<p>The action can have several positive and impactful outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate change resilience Indigenous plant knowledge often includes information about climate patterns, local adaptations, and the resilience of certain plant species. Incorporating this knowledge can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies by identifying plant species that can thrive in changing conditions. 2. Biodiversity conservation Indigenous communities often possess extensive knowledge about local ecosystems, including plant species, their uses, and interactions. Incorporating this knowledge into conservation efforts can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics, leading to better-informed conservation strategies. 3. Sustainable land management Traditional plant knowledge often includes sustainable land management practices that have been refined over generations. Integrating these practices can contribute to the restoration of degraded lands, soil health improvement, and the creation of resilient ecosystems that can better withstand environmental changes. 4. Economic and health benefits Many indigenous plants have medicinal, nutritional, and economic value. Documenting and utilizing this knowledge can lead to the development of locally-sourced products, traditional medicines, and food sources that can benefit both indigenous communities and wider society. 5. Education and knowledge transfer Collaborating with indigenous communities in documenting their plant knowledge provides an opportunity for intergenerational knowledge transfer. Younger members of the community can learn from elders, fostering a deeper connection to their culture and natural surroundings. 6. Community engagement and collaboration Involving indigenous communities in conservation efforts fosters a sense of ownership and participation. Collaborative approaches promote mutual respect and understanding between indigenous and non-indigenous groups, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes. 7. Global knowledge exchange Sharing indigenous plant knowledge and the success of its incorporation into modern conservation efforts can inspire similar initiatives globally, fostering cross-cultural learning and collaboration.
<p>Why do we need this action?</p> <p><i>(Please indicate the need for this action in view of implementing the <u>Pact for R&I and achieving the ERA objectives</u> and explain why its <u>objective cannot be reached through existing programmes/ activities</u>. What is the action's <u>added value</u> at national and European level as well as for stakeholders? How does it <u>make a change</u> and how is <u>co-creation</u> ensured?)</i></p>	<p><u>NEED FOR THE ACTION</u></p> <p>Cultural diversity and inclusion - The Pact for R&I and ERA emphasize the importance of fostering diverse and inclusive research environments. The indigenous plant knowledge revival aligns with this by recognizing and valuing the unique knowledge systems of indigenous communities, contributing to a more diverse and culturally rich research landscape.</p> <p>Holistic biodiversity conservation - While existing programs may focus on biodiversity conservation, they might not fully tap into the rich traditional ecological knowledge of indigenous communities. This action can enhance conservation efforts by integrating indigenous knowledge, thereby achieving a more holistic understanding of ecosystems and their dynamics.</p>

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	<p>Sustainable land management - Existing programs might lack the comprehensive understanding of sustainable land management practices embedded in indigenous knowledge. Reviving this knowledge can complement existing efforts by providing time-tested strategies for managing and restoring lands sustainably.</p> <p>Interdisciplinary collaboration - The Pact for R&I encourages interdisciplinary collaboration. The action in question promotes collaboration between researchers, indigenous communities, conservationists, and policymakers, fostering a multidisciplinary approach that combines traditional wisdom with modern science.</p> <p>ADDED VALUE AT NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVELS Knowledge enrichment - Reviving indigenous plant knowledge enriches the collective knowledge base, adding depth to existing research endeavors and policy discussions.</p> <p>Innovation and adaptation - Integrating indigenous knowledge can inspire innovative solutions and adaptations for sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation.</p> <p>Policy and practice impact - Indigenous plant knowledge can inform policy-making, leading to more effective conservation and sustainable development policies at national and European levels.</p> <p><u>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND CHANGE</u></p> <p>Researchers - Collaboration fosters mutual learning, bridging traditional and scientific knowledge systems, which can enhance research methodologies and findings.</p> <p>Indigenous communities - Co-creation ensures that indigenous communities are active participants, rather than passive subjects. Their input and knowledge shape the direction of the action, leading to more equitable outcomes that empower the communities.</p> <p>Conservationists and policymakers - Integrating indigenous knowledge offers fresh perspectives, leading to more contextually relevant and effective conservation and management strategies.</p> <p>Community engagement - Indigenous communities are involved from the outset, ensuring their perspectives, needs, and priorities are integrated into the action design and implementation.</p> <p>Collaborative decision-making - Indigenous communities, researchers, and relevant stakeholders collaborate on decisions, fostering ownership, transparency, and accountability.</p> <p>Knowledge sharing - Co-creation involves sharing knowledge between indigenous communities and researchers, creating a dynamic exchange that supports the action goals.</p> <p>Capacity building - Indigenous communities can build capacity through the action, allowing them to take a more active role in managing and preserving their traditional plant knowledge.</p> <p>In summary, the action aligns with the goals of the Pact for R&I and ERA by recognizing the value of indigenous knowledge for sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation. Its added value lies in its potential to enrich research, policy, and practice with traditional wisdom, while co-creation ensures equitable partnerships and meaningful change. This approach not only benefits indigenous communities but also</p>
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	contributes to a more comprehensive and effective approach to research and innovation in Europe.
Additional information <i>(For example, timing and milestones, which already could be envisaged, can be indicated.)</i>	<p>The suggested timeline and milestones are approximate and can vary depending on the complexity of the project, the number of indigenous communities involved, available resources, and other contextual factors.</p> <p>Phase 1: Pre-engagement and planning (6-12 months) Stakeholder Identification and Engagement: Identify key stakeholders, including indigenous communities, researchers, conservation organizations, policymakers, and funding bodies. Initiate preliminary discussions to gauge interest and willingness to collaborate.</p> <p>Needs assessment and objectives: Collaboratively define the objectives of the action with indigenous communities, ensuring their needs and aspirations are central. Identify specific knowledge gaps, conservation challenges, and opportunities for incorporating indigenous plant knowledge.</p> <p>Ethical guidelines and protocols: Develop ethical guidelines and protocols for engaging with indigenous communities, respecting their cultural norms, intellectual property rights, and informed consent.</p> <p>Phase 2: Collaborative Knowledge Gathering (12-24 months) Community workshops and knowledge sharing: Organize workshops within indigenous communities to facilitate intergenerational knowledge sharing. Document traditional plant knowledge, including species identification, uses, cultivation techniques, and ecological significance.</p> <p>Validation and integration: Collaborate with researchers to validate and cross-reference traditional knowledge with modern ecological understanding. Identify synergies and areas of alignment between indigenous and scientific knowledge.</p> <p>Mapping and documentation: Create comprehensive databases and maps showcasing indigenous plant knowledge, localized practices, and historical context. Develop accessible formats for both indigenous communities and the broader public.</p> <p>Phase 3: Knowledge Integration and Application (24-36 months) Collaborative research and innovation: Initiate joint research projects that combine indigenous knowledge with scientific research, focusing on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and ecosystem restoration.</p> <p>Policy engagement: Collaborate with policymakers and government agencies to incorporate indigenous plant knowledge into conservation policies, sustainable development strategies, and land management regulations.</p> <p>Community-based initiatives: Support the development of community-led initiatives that use indigenous plant knowledge for economic empowerment, traditional medicine production, and cultural revitalization.</p> <p>Phase 4: Evaluation and Sustainability (36-48 months) Impact assessment: Evaluate the impact of the action by assessing changes in conservation outcomes, land management practices, and community well-being.</p> <p>Long-term sustainability: Develop mechanisms for the continued preservation and transmission of indigenous plant knowledge beyond the project duration. Foster ongoing collaboration between indigenous communities, researchers, and stakeholders.</p> <p>Dissemination and knowledge sharing: Organize conferences, workshops, and publications to share the experiences, successes, and challenges of the project with a wider audience.</p>

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	<p>Phase 5: Reflection and Scaling (48+ months)</p> <p>Reflection and learning: Engage in reflective processes with researchers, indigenous communities, and stakeholders to identify lessons learned and areas for improvement.</p> <p>Scaling and replication: Explore opportunities to replicate the model in other regions or with other indigenous communities, adapting the approach to different contexts.</p> <p>Policy influence and long-term change: Monitor the long-term influence of the action on policy frameworks, research approaches, and cultural recognition.</p>
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