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EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS YOUTH AND THEIR COMMUNITIES
TO DEFEND AND PROMOTE THEIR FOOD HERITAGE

Report of the Case Study on the IFAD-Supported Slow Food Presidia



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Acronyms and Abbreviations			
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	RMS	Red Maasai Sheep
ITM	Indigenous Terra Madre	SF	Slow Food
PGS	Participatory Guarantee System	ToRs	Terms of Reference

Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

ES 1. In 2017, after several years of **partnership between IFAD and Slow Food (SF)** on themes related to food security, indigenous peoples and youth, IFAD approved a large grant project, with title **“Empowering Indigenous Youth and their Communities to Defend and Promote their Food Heritage,”** to be implemented by Slow Food over three years. Total project costs amounted to US\$1.16 million, through a co-financing scheme whereby IFAD provided US\$900,000 and Slow Food the balance.

ES 2. The overall goal of the project was to empower indigenous youth and their communities, improve the livelihoods of beneficiaries by protecting and upholding the sustainability and resilience of their practice.

ES 3. Within Component 1, the Grant aimed at strengthening five existing Slow Food Presidia and establishing five new ones. The Slow Food Presidia were launched in 1999 to safeguard native livestock breeds, edible plant varieties and artisanal food products that may be at risk of extinction by strengthening producer organizations, preserving traditional techniques and knowledge and encouraging sustainable practices. Over the years the Slow Food Presidia project has become one of the most effective tools to put into practice the movement’s vision of food production and biodiversity. As of August 2020, there were 588 active Presidia in 78 countries in all regions of the world, involving more than 15,000 producers.

ES 4. The IFAD Grant carried out a thorough selection process that led to the identification of eight Presidia in five Latin American countries

and two Presidia in Kenya. Their key features are as follows:

Three Presidia, in **Argentina, Kenya and Mexico**, focus on **honey** produced by wild or semi-domesticated bees; the Presidia contribute to the biodiversity and environmental conservation of the forest formations where the bees forage and aim at improving food safety practices during honey gathering, processing and marketing to enhance its value on national and international markets.

- The two Presidia in Brazil are very diverse: a unique indigenous semi-domesticated fruit, **the waraná of the Sateré-Mawé** in the Amazonas region, used to combat fatigue and stimulate cognitive functions and memory, and the processing of **manioc**, a global staple crop, by **the Kirirí people** in the semi-arid areas of Bahia state. In both Presidia, the focus was on organizing young and adult producers to improve production, processing hygiene and marketing. In the case of the Kirirí, the establishment of a flour-processing facility through the IFAD project Gente de Valor represented a major technological innovation that created jobs and innovation and introduced the diversification of products.
- **The Colombian and Ecuadorean Presidia** produce **crabs**, sold live or as packaged meat on the local and national markets. In Colombia, the Presidium is increasingly concerned with the protection and sustainable consumption of the Black crab species that is highly appreciated by locals and tourists but at risk of extinction; in Ecuador, the Presidium focuses on improving food safety and marketing for the Blue crab species.
- **The Argentina Gran Chaco Wild Fruits**

Presidium covers the picking of wild fruits from the Gran Chaco forest formation to produce preserves and dried fruits, while **the Oaxaca Mixteca Agave Presidium in Mexico** protects an indigenous agave species whose sap (aguamiel) is used to produce a traditional drink, pulque, and other culinary ingredients. In both cases, the Presidia contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable environmental management and to improving food safety during processing. Moreover, both Presidia are largely managed by rural indigenous women, both young and adult.

- **The Kenyan Presidium** promotes the re-introduction of the indigenous **Red Maasai sheep (RMS)**, which had been displaced by imported breeds, more productive but less resistant to the local environment. The Presidium has a strong focus on biodiversity conservation and strengthening the resilience of Maasai communities to local socio-economic dynamics and the effects of climate change.

ES 5. The Presidia case studies analyzed in depth the Wichí Wild Honey Presidium in Argentina and the Red Maasai Sheep Presidium in Kenya, both newly established. The work was carried out between November 2019 and October 2020. Meetings were held in Kenya with the two groups of Maasai people who are members of the Red Maasai Sheep Presidium and in Argentina with the members of the Wichí Wild Honey Presidium and women from the same community. During the research, a total of 23 women and 25 men (members and non-members of the two Presidia) and four stakeholders were interviewed. The report also drew



relevant evidence from the T1 data of eight other Presidia, collected in August and September 2020.

ES 6. A caveat in the RMS Presidium case study was that the marketing phase of the sheep will start in mid-2021, due to the challenges linked to finding and purchasing the RMS flocks and the time required for sheep reproduction and flock increase. This means that no information was yet available about market prices, consumer interest, relationships with chefs and other buyers, division of income, etc.

KEY FINDINGS

ES 7. The available evidence shows that the work carried out through the Grant has been effective in supporting all eight Presidia, which achieved most if not all of their established objectives. Among the retained indicators for effectiveness, the expansion of the marketing options for all Presidia was the most successful, which may have also contributed to increased revenue for Presidia's members.

ES 8. With respect to sustainability, the prospects are reasonable to good for all Presidia on all pillars, in particular for institutional and environmental aspects. The only Presidium that appeared weak on institutional sustainability was the RMS. Presidium members should strive to establish a good collaboration with county-level governmental departments, to ensure access to animal health and other technical services whenever the need arises. Economic sustainability also appeared good in general, but this remains an open question mark considering the major disruption to economic systems, including at the local level, caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

ES 9. The Grant also significantly contributed to empowering the indigenous communities where the Presidia were established and offered the invaluable opportunity to many youth to develop a sustainable livelihood in the places they come from. Capacity building and exposure to the external world seem to be the most effective tools in this regard, together with a recognition of the value of their own tradition and culture.

ES 10. Gender equality and women's empowerment are key criteria for IFAD and Slow Food and were closely assessed in the case studies. The Wichí Wild Honey Presidium presented the unsurmountable challenge that

honey gathering is a strictly male activity for the Wichí. SF decided to respect the traditional gender-based division of labor and engaged with the women in the Larguero community, exploring the possibility of a link with the Gran Chaco Wild Fruits Presidium. It also organized a number of discussions and workshops in the community on gender issues.

Actual progress was little before the country imposed severe mobility restrictions linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.

ES 11. Among the Maasai, conversely, sheep management was traditionally women's responsibility. However, the establishment of the Presidium was the result of the commitment of male leaders in each community and drew in many adult men among its members. Women currently represent almost 50% of the members, both young and old. They are highly respected due to their skills in identifying the most productive animals. Some of them hold leadership positions and all of them engage in the daily management of the flocks. Women's view, confirmed also through direct observation, was that their participation in the training sessions on the RMS and their engagement in the management of the Presidium had all been crucial empowering factors.

ES 12. Among the other Presidia, three were successful in contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment, namely Grand Chaco Wild Fruits in Argentina, Ogiek Honey in Kenya and Oaxaca Mixteca Agave in Mexico. In other Presidia, women were involved and participated to a reasonable extent. However, overall, the performance of the Grant against this key criterion was lower than for all other criteria and indicators and fell somewhat short of expectations.

ES 13. The last criterion used by the case studies was participation. The information available suggests that all Grant-supported Presidia have set up mechanisms enabling a high level of participation of all members and transparency in decision-

making. The positive results achieved in terms of production, sales, stability of membership and empowerment are also a direct consequence of robust and sound governance mechanisms and adequate capacity building in this sense.

CONCLUSIONS AND AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

ES 14. The case studies show that overall, the Grant was implemented as planned and achieved most, if not all, its expected results. The approach—strengthening existing Presidia or establishing new ones—has proved to be highly relevant to engage with Indigenous People and youth in particular. The following features were visible in eight out of ten Presidia:

- All supported Presidia are managed by communities or groups of indigenous peoples.
- All Presidia deal with products that have a strong cultural relevance for the Indigenous Peoples involved, represent their territory and are a key element for the food security of the communities involved, directly and/or through income generation.
- All Presidia include a strong element of poverty alleviation for members by increasing marketing opportunities through better quality or improved food safety of the product and the volumes sold.
- All Presidia contributed, through extensive capacity building work, to empower youth and adults by valuing their traditional knowledge and enriching it with new skills and competences to better face the rapidly changing context around them; youth have become key players everywhere.
- All Presidia successfully address the

links between biodiversity, environmental conservation and economic development by generating additional income for their members while contributing to enhancing their natural resource base.

- Presidia membership is stable and there seems to be potential for expansion across all groups, thanks to the emerging visible benefits generated through the establishment of the Presidia.

ES 15. A few areas for improvement were also identified. First, although the complexities of working with indigenous women in traditional contexts are well acknowledged, the analysis of performance on gender equality and women's empowerment showed that an in-depth reflection is required on where and how improvements may be achieved, as well as suitable approaches and more appropriate indicators.

ES 16. In the area of marketing, the Covid-19 pandemic negatively affected the diversification of markets. This is also rather complex and may require more "aggressive" approaches. It is thus suggested that SF and Presidium coordinators thoroughly assess the cost/benefit of investing in more market diversification, depending on the specific context of each product.

ES 17. Finally, a new area where collaboration between IFAD and Slow Food could be interesting is renewable energy, which was understandably not part of the Grant. Nevertheless, the analysis of indicator performance suggests that supporting Presidia to power their infrastructure and equipment with renewable sources of energy could be highly useful and would further enhance the sustainability of most Presidia.

ES 18. In conclusion, the SF Presidium model is highly suited to pursuing objectives

of biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation when working with indigenous peoples and represents a valid option for sustainable livelihoods for indigenous youth. Slow Food’s knowledge of traditional products and processes through its Ark of Taste and its extended network world-wide represent key assets that should enable reaching out to other Indigenous Peoples to establish more Presidia and thus contribute to improving their socio-economic conditions while safeguarding the world’s natural and cultural diversity.



1. Introduction and background

1. In 2017, after several years of partnership between IFAD and Slow Food (SF) supporting innovative grassroots projects and the development of a strong indigenous peoples’ network with specific attention to the inclusion of youth, IFAD approved a large grant project, entitled “Empowering Indigenous Youth and their Communities to Defend and Promote their Food Heritage” (henceforth referred to as the Grant), to be implemented by Slow Food over three years. Total costs amount to US\$1.16 million, through a co-financing scheme whereby IFAD provides US\$900,000 and Slow Food the remainder.
2. The overall goal of the Grant was to empower indigenous youth and their communities, improve the livelihoods of beneficiaries by protecting and promoting their food heritage and upholding the sustainability and resilience of their practice. The Grant was fully anchored into the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025, and contributed to Strategic Objectives 1 and 2. It also met the four objectives established by the 2015 IFAD Policy for Grant Financing.²
3. The Grant was structured into three components, each with its own outcome and outputs:
 - 1) Valorization of food heritage products through the Presidium model
 - 2) Institutional support and capacity building for the Indigenous Terra Madre (ITM) network
 - 3) Knowledge management
4. Within Component 1, the Grant supported two Slow Food Presidia each—one already existing and one new—in Argentina, Brazil, Kenya and Mexico. Only one Slow Food Presidium was supported in Colombia and one in Ecuador, an already existing one and a new one respectively. Table 1 below shows the product and the year of establishment of each of the IFAD-supported SF Presidia.

Box 1. Slow Food Presidia supported through the IFAD Grant

Indigenous group or area of origin and country	Presidium product	Year Presidium established
Wichí people, Argentina	Honey	2018
Women of the Wichí, Qom, Qomle’ec and Pilagá people in the Formosa, Salta and Chaco provinces, Argentina	Wild fruits, carob	2008
Kirirí people, Brazil	Manioc	2018
Sateré-Mawé people, Brazil	Waraná	2007
Raizal Providence Island community, Colombia	Black crab	2014
Esmeraldas Province Afro-descendant women’s groups, Ecuador	Blue crab	2018
Maasai people, Kenya	Red Maasai sheep	2018
Ogiek people, Kenya	Honey	2014
Mixteca people, Oaxaca, Mexico	Agave (maguey)	2018
Nahua people, Puebla, Mexico	Honey	2012

1. The case study adopted the definition of indigenous youth provided in the project document, i.e. persons aged between 15 and 34 who live in indigenous communities. IFAD defines youth as any person in the 18 to 24 age range ([link](#), visited on May 4, 2020) while the Slow Food Youth Network uses the age range of 18 to 32 years.

2. See [this link](#).

5. This is the draft report of two case studies that focused on the process and results generated by the establishment of two new SF Presidia, the Wichí Wild Honey in Argentina and the Red Maasai Sheep in Kenya. With the aim of strengthening its findings and conclusions, the report drew relevant evidence from the T1 data of eight other Presidia collected between August and September 2020.³

Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the project's closing date was postponed to December 2020. The draft report was finalized in October 2020 and took into account activities implemented by the Grant-supported Presidia as of August-September 2020. A draft version of this report was shared with IFAD for comments and suggestions that were integrated in this report.

2. Conceptual Framework for All Case Studies

6. IFAD and Slow Food agreed that all case studies would refer to the same conceptual framework and criteria. The IFAD Policy for Grant Financing was selected for this purpose, based on the close match between the Grant's objectives and the approach to the Policy's principles, as shown in Box 2.

Box 2. Principles of the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing and the case studies

Principle	Grant component	Case study
i) Promote innovative, pro-poor approaches and technologies with the potential to be scaled up for greater impact	Component 1, through the establishment of five new Presidia, the strengthening of five existing Presidia and the launching and testing of the Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS) for two Presidia	Two Presidia case studies and PGS case study
ii) Strengthen partners' institutional and policy capacities	Component 2 of the Grant, through the institutional strengthening of the ITM network which also includes the Presidia's youth members, as a means for social empowerment, exchanges and South-South triangular cooperation	Capacity-building case study
iii) Enhance advocacy and policy engagement	Component 2, which foresees the participation of the ITM network in international events and platforms, and pursues communication, advocacy and policy engagement	Capacity-building case study
iv) Generate and share knowledge for development impact	Component 3, through provisions for knowledge exchanges through local, regional and international events and workshops	All case studies

3. Slow Food established a monitoring system comprising more than 50 indicators depending on the product that pertain to the three pillars of sustainability—socio-cultural, environmental and economic—to assess, together with Presidium members, the status of the Presidium at its establishment (T0) and every two or more years (T1 T2, etc.). The T1 for the Satéré-Mawé Warana Presidium in Brazil and the Nahuatl Honey Presidium in Puebla, Mexico, were not carried out for varying reasons.
4. Ibid.

7. Using the same conceptual framework also entailed that all case studies would contribute to the same goals, respond to the same overarching questions and adopt the same criteria and cross-cutting issues as analytical domains, as shown in Boxes 3 and 4 below.

Box. 3 Overarching goals and questions

Goals
To learn lessons on the enabling factors and the challenges that affected the implementation process and the achievement of results and impacts.
To assess how the engagement of participants with the Grant (process) has led to results (outcomes) and to significant changes (impacts), positive or negative, in their lives and in their communities, as well as the prospects for these changes to be sustained over time.
Questions
What have been the main enabling factors in the achievement of positive changes, can they be replicated elsewhere and under which conditions?
What were the challenges and related lessons generated that need to be learned for future similar interventions?
What changes have there been in the lives of participants through the Grant and what are the prospects for the positive changes to be sustained over time?

Source: Case studies Terms of Reference, August 2019

Box.4 Core criteria and cross-cutting issues

Core criteria
Effectiveness: Through this criterion, the case studies analyzed the enabling and challenging factors in the process for the establishment and strengthening of the Presidia, as well as the degree of achievement of Grant results.
Impacts: The case studies analyzed what have been and are likely to be the long-term changes in the livelihoods of participants, positive and negative.
Sustainability: This included environmental, economic and social sustainability, providing insights into the prospects for long-term functioning of the Presidia.
Relevance: Unlike the traditional evaluation practice, ¹ here the criterion of relevance represents a synthesis of the overall performance of the selected Presidia.
Cross-cutting issues
Gender equality: This is a key principle for both IFAD and SF and should be mainstreamed in all activities; the case studies thus analyzed the extent to which the Grant took gender equality into consideration during implementation, as appropriate, and the specific results in this respect.
Empowerment: The Grant aimed for economic, socio-cultural and political empowerment. In its 2012 gender equality and women's empowerment policy, IFAD defines empowerment as “...the process of increasing the opportunity of people to take control of their own lives. It is about people living according to their own values and being able to express preferences, make choices and influence – both individually and collectively – the decisions that affect their lives...” ² The case studies analyzed any available objective evidence about the empowering process, along with the changes in the self-perception of participants in this regard as a result of the Grant.
Participation: The “who, how, when and for what” of participation was assessed in all case studies, as appropriate, with regards to the Grant implementation process and to its results.

Source: Case studies Terms of Reference, August 2019, slightly adapted.

5. In international evaluation practice (see OECD/DAC Evaluation Glossary at [this link](#)) the criterion of Relevance assesses “the extent to which the objectives of a development intervention are consistent with beneficiaries’ requirements, country needs, global priorities and partners’ and donors’ policies.”
6. See [this link](#), Annex I, Glossary of gender terms.

8. In all case studies, the approach was highly participatory, inclusive and transparent; as far as possible, Grant participants' views and opinions were thoroughly explored throughout the process and reflected in the report. Triangulation of the collected information and evidence strengthened the robustness of the findings. The process also contributed, to some degree, to the empowerment of Presidia members.

3. Methodology for the Presidia case study

9. In addition to the goals described above in Box 3, the Presidia case studies aimed at identifying findings and lessons learned that could also be applied elsewhere. Hence, the Presidia to be analyzed had to be representative, insofar as possible, of the entire set of Grant-supported Presidia. The selection was thus based on the following few parameters:
- Product type and Presidium profile: This included the relevance of the Presidium product in terms of contribution to food security and geographical diffusion, and those indicators measured at T0 for each Presidium that could be compared across Presidia.⁸
 - Regional representation: With eight of the Presidia located in the Latin America and Caribbean region and two in the Eastern and Southern Africa region,⁹ the regional location of the Presidia was considered important to learn lessons generated in different contexts of intervention.
 - Logistics, cost and time required to reach each Presidium, considering the available budget.
10. The SF team compared the values of several indicators assessed at T0 for eight Presidia.¹⁰ Ranking was based on the highest number of indicators with values closer to the within-indicator average. However, the small population number meant that the quantitative ranking results had to be balanced by qualitative parameters, namely regional representation, broader product relevance and travel costs.¹¹
11. This process led to the initial selection of the Red Maasai Sheep Presidium in Kenya and the Puebla Honey Presidium in Mexico. However, before the case study work started at country level, the Puebla Honey Presidium faced internal management issues that would not allow a proper work to be carried out. In consultation with IFAD, SF thus decided to substitute it for a Presidium that met, insofar as possible, the same criteria that had guided the first choice. Eventually, the two Presidia retained for the case studies were the following:
- a. Red Maasai Sheep (RMS) in Kenya:

7. Triangulation means gathering data from at least two different sources, possibly through different methods, and comparing and cross-validating the findings.

8. Not all indicators apply to all Presidia, for example specific features for crops do not apply to animal breeds.

9. These are two of IFAD's geographical divisions.

10. T0 data for the Providencia Black Crab Presidium in Colombia and the Esmeralda Blue Crab Presidium in Ecuador were not available at the time of the selection process.

11. The parameter "collaboration with IFAD-supported loans" was also considered, but this only directly applied to the Kiriri Manioc Flour Presidium in Brazil, and indirectly to the Wichí Wild Honey Presidium in Argentina, so the criterion was not retained for the final selection.

this new Presidium, located in East Africa, was one of the three with the highest score in the quantitative ranking exercise; the product, a native ovine breed, is highly relevant worldwide for poor women and youth. This choice also helped to balance regional representation among the Presidia.

b. Wichí Wild Honey in Argentina: This was also a new Presidium, which reached the third score in the quantitative ranking exercise; most importantly, it is one of the three honey Grant-supported Presidia, and honey is a nutritionally relevant product worldwide. This meant that lessons learned from this experience could be more easily applied elsewhere.

12. The criteria and cross-cutting issues listed above were applied during the analysis as follows:¹²
- Effectiveness: with regard to achievement of the stated objective of establishing a functioning Presidium, including with regards to prices and volume of production.
 - Sustainability: with regard to prospects for the sustained management of the Presidium in terms of economic capacity and social acceptability.
 - Empowerment: with regard to the self-perceived empowerment of Presidia members.
 - Gender equality: with regard to the gender balance of participants and the effects of the Presidium on gender roles and equity.
 - Participation: with regard to the type of participation and engagement of members in the Presidium.
 - Overall relevance of the introduction of a Presidium as a contribution to the sustainable development of the concerned communities.

12. Impact could not be assessed because the case study was carried out too early to make a credible assessment of the long-term effects of the Presidium on the lives of participants.

13. Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the visit to the Wichí Wild Honey Presidium and data gathering was conducted by a national consultant who was remotely supported in her work by the SF team.

14. See Annex 2, People Met.

13. The case studies included the following steps and tools:
- a. Consultation with the leaders and participants of the selected Presidia, to ensure their interest in being part of the process and availability.
 - b. Desk review of all available information about the two Presidia.
 - c. Mapping of direct and indirect stakeholders for each Presidium, locally, nationally and internationally.
 - d. Preparation of the interview protocols and checklists for each group of stakeholders.
 - e. Visits to the two selected Presidia, to carry out interviews/focus groups/meetings and direct observation of achievements and to canvass the views of direct and indirect stakeholders about strengths and weaknesses, areas for improvement and sustainability prospects. In Argentina, separate meetings were organized with younger and older women and men.¹³
 - f. At the end of the visit to the Maasai Red Sheep Presidium, the key findings of the data-gathering process were shared with the Presidium leadership, together with suggestions for the way forward.
14. The work was carried out between November 2019 and October 2020. Meetings were held in Kenya with the two groups of Maasai people who are members of the Red Maasai Sheep Presidium and in Argentina with the members of the Wichí Wild Honey Presidium and women from the same community. In total, during the case studies 23 women and 25 men members and non-members of the two Presidia and four stakeholders were interviewed.¹⁴

4. Overview of Slow Food Presidia¹⁵

15. After cataloguing the first hundred products at risk of extinction through the Ark of Taste project, in 1999 Slow Food launched the Presidia project to safeguard native livestock breeds, edible plant varieties and artisanal food products that may be at risk of extinction, by strengthening producer organizations, preserving traditional techniques and knowledge and encouraging sustainable practices. Presidia involve groups of small-scale producers who are willing to put into practice the Slow Food principles of “good, clean and fair” by working together to develop production and/or processing protocols and to promote their produce. The pillars of any Presidium are its socio-cultural, environmental and economic sustainability. Typically, Slow Food organizes training sessions for producers and experience exchanges among them and supports product promotion and marketing by bringing together producers and consumers through farmers’ markets, events and collective buying groups and encouraging chefs connected to the SF network to use Presidium products.

16. Over the years the Slow Food Presidia project has become one of the most

effective instruments to put into practice the movement’s vision on food production and biodiversity. In 2008, nine years after the creation of the project, in response to producers’ requests Slow Food Italy established the Slow Food Presidia label to identify, protect and promote Slow Food Presidium products. The “Slow Food Presidium” is now a registered trademark, including a graphic logo and guidelines to which producers must subscribe. In the SF statute, the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity has the main task of funding the Presidia, considering the key role played by Presidia in biodiversity conservation.

17. As of August 2020, 588 Presidia in 78 countries in all regions of the world were active, involving more than 15,000 producers. The guidelines for Presidium establishment are constantly updated to take into account the evolution of the concept and the variety of products they encompass. Each Presidium develops its own protocol, which defines in detail the steps—including as appropriate gathering/picking, fishing, selecting, planting, growing, harvesting, processing and marketing—that members must follow to be able to sell with the SF Presidium brand.

15. In addition to project documents, information in this section was also drawn from the Slow Food website, accessed on September 16, 2020, and the document “Do the Slow Food Presidia Represent an Opportunity for the Future of the Mountains?”, Slow Food, Bra, 2013.

5. Brief Description of the Presidia Analyzed

5.1 THE PRESIDIA SUPPORTED BY THE GRANT

18. The criteria for the selection of the five existing Presidia and the five new Presidia to be supported by the Grant included leadership by indigenous people, significant youth involvement, sustained engagement of the community with SF to manage an already existing Presidia and potential for improvement or interest in establishing a new Presidium for a product with marketing potential at the local, national or international level and geographical proximity or overlap with an IFAD Grant area of intervention. The existence of a SF national office or an organized local network of SF activists also played a role in the selection process, to enable closer engagement, monitoring and follow-up.

19. A thorough process of selection was carried out and resulted in the ten Presidia listed in Box 1 above. All supported Presidia are

managed by communities or groups of Indigenous Peoples and address products that represent their territory of origin and culture. Moreover, all Presidia have a strong element of poverty alleviation for members, by increasing marketing opportunities through better quality or improved food safety of the product and larger volumes sold. Other key features of each Presidium are summarized here below:

- Three Presidia, Wichí Wild Honey in Argentina, Ogiek Honey in Kenya and Puebla Sierra Norte Native Bees Honey in Mexico, focus on honey produced by wild or semi-domesticated bees; the three Presidia contribute to the biodiversity and environmental conservation of the forest formations where the bees forage and aim at improving food safety practices during honey gathering, processing and marketing to enhance its value on national and international markets.



16. In the three cases, the term “processing” entails the separation of honey from wax through a press and/or a filtering process, followed by storage in drums or direct packaging in jars for sale.

- The Presidia in Brazil address very diverse products: a unique indigenous semi-domesticated fruit, the waraná of the Sateré-Mawé in the Amazonas region, used to combat fatigue and stimulate cognitive functions and memory, and the processing of a global staple crop, manioc, of the Kirirí People of the semi-arid areas of Bahia State.. In both Presidia, the focus was on organizing young and adult producers to improve production, processing hygiene and marketing aspects; in the case of the Kirirí, the establishment of a flour-processing facility through the IFAD project Gente de Valor represented a major technological innovation that created jobs, innovation and diversification of products.
- The Colombian and Ecuadorean Presidia produce crabs, sold live or as packaged meat on the local and national markets. In Colombia, the Presidium is increasingly concerned with the protection and sustainable consumption of the Black Crab species that is highly appreciated by locals and tourists but at risk of extinction; in Ecuador, the Presidium focuses on improving food safety and marketing aspects of the Blue Crab species.
- Argentina's Gran Chaco Wild Fruits Presidium focuses on the picking of wild fruits from the Gran Chaco forest formation to produce preserves and dried fruits, while the Oaxaca Mixteca Agave Presidium addresses the plantation of an indigenous agave species whose sap (aguamiel) is used

to produce a traditional drink, pulque, and other culinary ingredients. In both cases, the Presidia contribute to biodiversity conservation, sustainable environmental management, and improving food safety during the process. Moreover, both Presidia are largely managed by rural indigenous young and adult women.

- The Kenyan Presidium promotes the re-introduction of the indigenous Red Maasai sheep (RMS), which had been displaced by imported breeds, more productive but less resistant to the local environment. The Presidium has a strong focus on biodiversity conservation and strengthening the resilience of Maasai communities to local socio-economic dynamics and the effects of climate change.

20. In addition to meeting the established criteria, the ten selected Presidia can generate lessons potentially relevant elsewhere, either because they deal with globally common products, like honey, manioc flour, sheep and crabs, or because the socio-economic context of intervention is similar to those of many other indigenous peoples, as is the case with Mixteca agave and Gran Chaco wild fruits.
21. The following sub-sections discuss in detail the performance of the two Presidia selected for the case studies, while Section 6 discusses the performance of all the supported Presidia against the chosen criteria.

17. The Latin name for manioc, also known in English as cassava, is *Manihot esculenta*.

5.2 ARGENTINA'S WICHÍ PEOPLE AND THE SLOW FOOD WICHÍ WILD HONEY PRESIDIUM¹⁸

22. The Wichí are the largest group of indigenous people in the Gran Chaco region; although some live in Bolivia, most Wichí communities live in the central area of the Chaco, between the Bermejo and Pilcomayo rivers in northeastern Argentina. The national 2010 census assessed the Wichí population in the country at slightly over 50,000. The Wichí have their own language, which is also one of the three official languages of Argentina's Chaco province.
23. Climate and precipitation in the Central Chaco are influenced by longitude, with the east wetter than the west, which is classified as semi-arid. This contributes to a high biodiversity, both in flora and fauna. In the western area, the dominant vegetative structure is a dry medium-sized forest, with species such as the white carob (*Prosopis alba* and *Prosopis chilensis*), the chañar (*Geoffroea decorticans*) and the mistol (*Ziziphus mistol*), trees that have forever been part of the indigenous food culture in the Gran Chaco plains.
24. Traditionally, the Wichí combine limited slash-and-burn agriculture with fishing, hunting and gathering wild foods. One of the most important products for the communities is honey gathered from wild bees, known in the indigenous language as Tsawotaj. The Wichí

collect the honey from hollow trees where wild bees build their hives, but they have no role in handling bee colonies, swarms or hives. Two months after the start of the flowering season in the middle of August, honey starts to accumulate in the natural hives. The best time for gathering is in November, when the rains start. Gatherers observe the bees' activity and identify the tree trunks or hollow branches where the honey can be found. When they extract it, they also leave a share, often containing pollen, for the bee colonies to feed on. Honey and wax are collected together and separated by pressing. Afterward, the honey is filtered three times through a cloth to remove impurities before being packaged for sale.

25. Among the Wichí, honey gathering is an exclusively male activity.¹⁹ Women do practice agriculture with men, though their tasks mostly concern sowing, weeding and harvesting; in addition, one of their gender-specific activities is gathering fruits from many different tree species which provide flowers for bees, fodder for animals and natural dyes for textiles. Wichí women are skilled at working the fiber obtained from chaguar, a plant from the Bromeliaceae family, turning it into textiles used to make typical bags called yicas, which are sold locally and used by the men to hold their fish catch

18. Information on the Wichí indigenous people in this section draws on the Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity website ([link](#)) accessed on September 2020 and Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gran_Chaco) accessed on September 22, 2020.

19. Reasons mentioned include the physical strength and agility required and the need to walk long distances from the community.

and to protect their faces when collecting the wild honey.

26. The Larguero community in the Salta province, where the Presidium was established, comprises approximately 50 Wichí people. The decision to include this community and this Presidium among those to be supported by the IFAD Grant was based on the fact that in Larguero a group of 13 honey gatherers, including nine young people, had already been working together for at least five years and were interested in progressing as an association and improving their performance. Furthermore, the community was linked to IFAD and the national Ministry of AgroIndustry and its Unit for Rural Change (UCAR) through the implementation of the IFAD-supported PRODERI project (“N’oWatsancheyaj”) in 2016, which, as mentioned above, was one of the criteria for the selection of Presidia to be

supported by the IFAD grant. An additional consideration was that once the Presidium was established in Larguero, it could be expanded to include other Wichí honey gatherers in neighboring communities.

27. The Presidium’s objective is to bring together in the same network producers, chefs, gastronomes, specialists and institutions who are interested in preserving and promoting the honey gathered by the Larguero community, as well as Wichí knowledge, culture and traditions. The main issues to be addressed included hygiene during gathering, pressing and filtering and market promotion.
28. The Grant provided protective and gathering equipment for all Presidium members, as well as an extraction room with a press and other extraction equipment. Individual equipment was of crucial importance to significantly increase the productivity of the nine youth



members of the group, who previously could only work when the older members’ equipment was available.

29. Traditionally, youth learn from adults and elders about where and how to gather honey in an environmentally sustainable manner. Through the Grant, training sessions were organized and equipment supplied, including clean dedicated bags, specific drums for collecting the honey and plastic jars for selling it. The Grant also supported the construction of the extraction space. This improved the hygiene level along the entire process, from gathering to packaging, so that the honey meets the official standards for selling it on national and international markets. As of 2020, the Presidium started selling the honey with a Slow Food label. In the framework of the capacity building activities, the Presidium Coordinator, on the occasion of attending Terra Madre 2018, where he also set up a honey stand for sales, visited Slow Food communities in Sicily working with the carob and honey value chains to exchange and learn about good practices.²⁰
30. Capacity-building sessions also addressed the development of an action plan and the achievement of legal status for the association. A decision made in 2019 by Presidium members to seek legal recognition as an Indigenous Community was more recently reversed due to economic

considerations, given that for the time being informal status will not affect the group’s capacity to market its honey. Regardless of status, members operate as if they were part of an association and decisions are taken jointly by all and formally endorsed by the community chief (Cacique). The group is also cautiously opening up to new members to increase production, based on the realization of marketing potential. This is a slow process, however, as there is no habit of working in larger groups.

31. In 2019, in order to establish commercial contacts, the Cacique, the Presidium Coordinator and a youth member travelled to Buenos Aires. This trip proved to be very useful and empowering for the group and led to the appointment of two youth members as responsible persons for marketing activities. The group has a revolving fund to pay gatherers on a weekly basis at the highest estimated price for that specific season. Once the honey is sold, if a higher price was achieved, the difference is either distributed to group members, re-invested in the revolving fund or in other production requirements. In a focus group interview, Presidium members stated that selling as a group was more convenient and that in this way they “could establish the price.” Box 5 below shows the increase in quantity and price of honey sold, quite remarkable considering the limited time since the Presidium formally started operations.

20. Another capacity-building initiative, though not explicitly linked to the honey process, was the participation of a Larguero youth Presidium member in the regional Slow Food Indigenous Terra Madre event ITM Pueblos de América in February 2020. Upon his return, he reportedly motivated the community to establish a SF garden.

Box.5 Wichí Wild Honey production and purchase/sale price over time

Milestone	Total honey purchased from Presidium members in kilos	Purchase price from gatherers in Argentinian pesos	Total quantity sold in kilos	Sales price in Argentinian pesos
2019 (establishment of the Presidium)	95	71.5	200*	200
August 2020	430	140	350	260

Source: T1 for the Wichí Wild Honey Presidium

*The difference of 105 kilos between honey purchased from Presidium members and sold was was a left-over stock of honey from the 2018 harvest.

32. Data show that from 2019 to 2020, the Presidium doubled the purchase price of honey from gatherers and increased the market price by 30%. Also, the quantity sold in 2020 before the end of the harvesting season had increased by 75%. The volume of honey available partly depends on the number of gatherers and their individual efforts but is also a factor of weather conditions and rainfall, which means it remains unpredictable from one year to the next. Evidence so far suggests that consumer demand for the wild honey is much higher than the Presidium’s supply capacity, hence marketing should not represent a problem. In 2019, with the support of Slow Food international headquarters and the Slow Food network in Argentina the Wichí honey producers signed an agreement with the Land Workers Union (Union de Trabajadores de la Tierra), which comprises 14,000 producers and controls an extensive network of marketing points in Buenos Aires. The Presidium also established a link with the Fundación Gran Chaco, and through the Slow Food network the visibility of the Presidium has increased significantly. This led to the shipping of a first batch of honey to a buyer in Switzerland in January 2020.

33. Presidium members expressed deep trust and confidence in Slow Food, which, in their words, “...helped us to continue in our culture” when “there are many people from other communities who no longer collect honey.” They recognized that they “have grown a lot” since the beginning and that their internal organization has significantly improved, despite the difficulties represented by occasional conflicts, the complexities linked to sales, contacting buyers and keeping accounts due to “so much math”! Members also pointed out that the honey self-purchase and packaging process were already well established. They showed a strong commitment to continue working as a group and becoming stronger and looked forward to sustained support from SF to further progress in their endeavor. They were aware of the need to complete the construction of the space where honey is processed, which they see as a significant step for group cohesion and visibility and to improve the quality of the final product. At the end of the meeting, a Presidium member stated: “Beyond the difficulties, we want to keep going, keep fighting because that is our custom. We are very grateful for this opportunity.”

34. Within the Larguero community, women could not benefit from the Presidium due to the traditional exclusion of Wichí women from the wild honey process. SF thus proposed exchanges and collaboration between the Larguero women and the Gran Chaco Wild Fruit Presidium (Frutos Silvestres del Gran Chaco) which was already operational thanks to the collaboration among Slow Food, the Fundación Gran Chaco and the Cooperativa de Mujeres Artesanas del Gran Chaco (CO.M.AR.). The latter was founded in 2000 and comprises eight associations, involving approximately 1,600 women from the Wichí, Qom and Comle’ec indigenous peoples. The Gran Chaco Wild Fruits Presidium promotes the consumption of traditional products from the local flora, with the aim of knowledge sharing and improving the nutritional status of the local population through the consumption of nutritionally rich fruits. Main Presidium activities include running training courses with chefs from the Slow Food network on picking, processing and transforming the wild fruits, including for medicinal purposes.

35. However, only limited progress had been made by August 2020 in associating Larguero women with the Gran Chaco Wild Fruit Presidium. In 2019, an exchange visit was organized to show Larguero women how to process carob flour. Although carob had been used for time immemorial as a fruit, processing it through drying, preserving, grinding and packaging was a completely new activity. The Grant provided additional support by purchasing some

picking tools and one mill for grinding the carob. More interaction was foreseen between the two groups to strengthen skills and competences and consolidate collaboration, but everything ground to a halt with the mobility restrictions linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. In August 2020, during a group interview, Larguero women expressed their enthusiasm about the carob flour processing they had learned in 2019 and stated that they were waiting for the carob harvesting season to resume flour production and start selling it. They acknowledged the challenges, including controlling a pest that attacks carobs, but were willing to test their product and address production and marketing issues. Group members also appreciated having a direct link with Slow Food and felt integrated in the work done at community level.



21. A gender expert supported the establishment of the SF Presidium and facilitated a number of discussions and workshops with the Larguero community on gender issues.

5.3 KENYA'S MAASAI PEOPLE AND THE SLOW FOOD RED MAASAI SHEEP PRESIDIUM²²

36. The Maasai people of East Africa live in southern Kenya and northern Tanzania along the Great Rift Valley on semi-arid and arid lands. The Maasai occupy a total land area of 160,000 square kilometers and their total population in Kenya is estimated to be 1.1 million.²³ Traditionally, the Maasai are a semi-nomadic people who lived under a communal land management system, with their livelihoods dependent on livestock, including cattle, goats and sheep.
37. The movement of livestock was typically based on seasonal rotation. Each section managed its own territory and under normal conditions, reserve pastures were fallowed and guarded. When the dry season became especially harsh, section boundaries were ignored, and people grazed animals across the land until the rainy season arrived. According to the Maasai's traditional land agreement, no one should be denied access to natural resources such as water and land.
38. 38. Individuals, families and clans established close ties through giving or exchanging cattle. Caring for bovine cattle is typically a male job, whereas sheep are looked after by women and children. Livestock was typically traded for other livestock, and milk for agricultural products. The concept of private ownership was, until recently, a foreign concept to the Maasai. However, in

the 1960s and 1980s, programs of livestock marketing were conducted, initially by the British and later by the Kenyan government, leading to the subdivision of their land into group and individual ranches and to the slow integration of the Maasai economy in the formal market economy. Currently, livestock heads and products are sold on the local markets for cash, often used to support children's education. Furthermore, the Maasai have lost large swaths of their land to national parks and reserves, which means that they are restricted from accessing critical water sources, pasture and salt licks. This, compounded by the increasingly severe droughts caused by global warming, has led to a significant reduction of the Maasai's traditional sources of livelihoods and to their dramatic impoverishment.

39. The Red Maasai sheep, named for their typical reddish-brown and occasionally pied shaggy coats, is an East African native breed, traditionally kept by the Maasai and other pastoralists and smallholder farmers in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Currently these sheep are mostly found in the semi-arid rangelands of southern Kenyan and northern Tanzania, especially in Kajiado District of Kenya and the neighboring districts. The breed features large fat deposits in the tail and hindquarters and is kept primarily for meat. Though less productive than

22. Information in this section on the Maasai people and Red Maasai sheep is based on [this link](#), visited on February 5, 2020.

23. Figure reported in the Kenya 2019 national census.

some other breeds raised in East Africa, the Red Maasai sheep is valued for its hardiness in arid conditions and relatively stronger resistance to internal parasites like *Haemonchus contortus* than imported breeds, such as the Dorper (28% mortality for the Red Maasai sheep under moderate to high nematode infection compared to 66% for the Dorper). Parasite resistance significantly reduces financial losses and health management costs. Other positive features of the Red Maasai sheep are the meat flavor, defined as "sweet" by the Maasai, and the quality and density of its milk, which, according to Maasai women, makes up for the lower production compared to the Dorper.

40. Although the Government of Kenya and FAO made some effort to keep Red Maasai sheep nucleus herds at several research stations in Kenya, results were mixed due to inadequate funding and expertise. Over time, Red Maasai sheep flocks thinned out and were substituted by flocks of Dorper sheep, which had been introduced in the country in 1950 at a British research station. Anecdotal information suggests that the breed achieved a large-scale presence in the 1970s and 1980s thanks in part to its high milk production. Since then it became the most common sheep breed among the Maasai.
41. Until 2016/2017, Slow Food Kenya had occasional contact with the Maasai communities in the districts close to Nakuru²⁴, and the Red Maasai sheep had joined the Ark of Taste in around 2010. No direct

engagement existed until the possibility emerged of establishing a new Presidium in the context of the IFAD-funded Grant. The SF Kenya team proposed the Red Maasai sheep because of the uniqueness of the breed, the dire situation of the Maasai people and the confluence of social, economic and environmental benefits that would be generated through the Presidium.

42. SF Kenya was aware that a long-term commitment would be necessary for a Red Maasai Sheep Presidium to become totally autonomous and self-sufficient, considering that economic returns would be slow to emerge. With this in mind, community leaders and SF Kenya took great care to ensure that only fully committed persons would become members of the Presidium. Grant resources limited the membership of the Presidium; two groups of breeders were identified, one with 15 members located in Nakuru County Satellite/Rosarian community, which is alongside a main transport axis and close to the town of Mai Mahiu, and one with 26 members in the more isolated and rural Olkeri community in Narok County. As of September 2020, the Presidium included 41 members, 20 of whom were in the youth category when they joined, and 19 women. One of the groups also established a credit and saving mechanism aimed at buying additional animals, stock management and internal loans to the members.
43. Youth involvement in the Presidium was a specific commitment in both groups and

24. The SF Kenya office is located in Nakuru town.

25. A young Maasai woman, who became a member of the Indigenous Terra Madre Advisory Board, played a key role in the establishment of the Presidium.

youth have worked alongside the older members to learn traditions and help bring them back. Their participation also included attending various seminars, workshops and meetings, and reporting back to the groups. As of mid 2020, some youth held leadership roles, for example secretary, vice-secretary, vice-chair, treasurer and group and Presidium coordinators. They appeared committed to continuing with the endeavor, for their own and their parents' benefit. Other young people also expressed an interest in joining the Presidium.

44. The Presidium also facilitated the participation of women, who are considered to be highly skilled at identifying the best animals. A few hold leadership roles, such as treasurer and secretary of the Presidium, and all contribute to the daily management of the flocks by cleaning the shed and milking. Furthermore, direct observation and comments from other stakeholders indicated that the Presidium became a platform through which women became more vocal, more visible and more influential in the community.

45. The two communities were assessed as "poor" overall and no further analysis of candidates' socio-economic profile and assets was carried out. The main criteria for inclusion among beneficiaries were interest in the initiative and personal trustworthiness. In early 2020, a mapping of livestock assets was carried out

for 40 Presidium members (22 women and 18 men); the aggregated results are shown in Box 3 below. Excluding four women who had no livestock and one man in the Satellite group who owned 66.6% more heads of livestock than the next largest owner, a woman in the same group (250 compared to 150), the other 35 Presidium members owned on average 16 goats, 16.8 cows and 28.3 sheep. The difference in ownership between men and women is evident when including all members (see orange rows in the Box). However, when the largest owner and those with no livestock are excluded from the average calculation, there was little difference between men's and women's ownership for cows and sheep, with men owning two more heads than women. Conversely, women owned on average 16.9 goats compared to 15.4 owned by men (see green rows). When all members and all livestock species were taken in consideration, the group in Satellite had a higher average number of heads per member, 25.6 compared to 16.5 in Olkeri, and comprised the eight livestock owners with the highest number of heads across both groups and the four women who owned no livestock. Thus, the data show that:

- The Olkeri group was economically more homogeneous than the Satellite group.
- The poorest members were women, and the largest owner was a man.
- Among other members, there was no significant gender-based difference in the size of livestock herds owned.

Ownership of livestock heads among members of the Red Maasai Sheep Presidium as of January 2020

Members	Cows	Sheep	Goats	All heads
Total for all members	639	1110	646	2,375
Average for all members	16.0	27.8	16.2	59.4
Average for all excluding members with no live-stock and largest owner	16.8	28.3	16.1	60.7
Average for all men	19.7	34.6	18.9	72.6
Average for men excluding largest owner	17.9	29.5	15.4	62.2
Average for all women	13.0	22.2	13.9	48.5
Average for women excluding members with no livestock	15.8	27.1	16.9	59.3
Average for Satellite members	22.6	36.1	18.2	77.0
Average for Olkeri members	12.0	22.7	14.9	48.8

Source: Red Maasai Sheep Presidium

46. A main challenge for the Presidium was obtaining the two small herds of Red Maasai sheep to serve as the first nuclei of breeders. Through the Narok County Agriculture Department, contact was made with a member of the Red Maasai Sheep Breeders' Association of Kenya, whose breeding farm is located a significant distance from Narok, close to the border with Tanzania. After complex negotiations, including a visit to the farm by representatives from each group, an agreement was reached, and the Grant was able to fund the purchase of two flocks of ten ewes and two rams each, 24 animals in total.

47. During the first year of Grant implementation, activities focused on group formation and registration and intensive training on topics ranging from leadership and

group organization to animal nutrition and husbandry, flock management, pasture improvement, the value chain and marketing. The Narok County Livestock Department actively participated by providing training on animal health and management and pasture. This could be the basis for the development of mutual trust and respect between Presidium members and technical officers, a key factor for the long-term sustainability of the Presidium. For this to be ensured, however, Presidia members will have to maintain on-going contact with the Livestock Department, by seeking its advice and support as appropriate and needed.

48. 1. The Baraka Agricultural College also provided technical training on value chain development. MarketA market research

was carried out by SF Kenya and Presidium members to identify butchers and other potential buyers of the Red Maasai sheep buyers. This led some members to start selling their Dorper and half-bred animals directly to butchers, thus avoiding a loss of income to middlemen and other intermediaries.

49. In August 2019, the two flocks were delivered. Both groups decided to keep the animals together for the time being, so as to ensure better management. As of December 2019, most animals were in good health and both communities had organized shifts for grazing, walking the animals to water sources and overnight guarding. The growth and reproduction rate of the Red Maasai sheep is such that for both groups the sheep will only begin to be sold as of late 2020 or early 2021. Information collected during T1 monitoring indicates that both flocks comprised 25 animals and a new round of lambing was expected soon.
50. The T1 monitoring questionnaire was administered in September 2020 and confirmed that both flocks comprised 25

animals, that a new round of lambing was expected soon and that no slaughtering or marketing had taken place yet. A few animals had been lost to heavy hail and wild animals and both groups had built night sheds for protection. The Satellite group also fenced and paddocked a five-acre field to serve as a grazing area for their flock. The groups have registered as a producers' association and established their internal rules and regulations. Meetings were held regularly and decisions made in consultation with the members by the President and fellow leaders. Election to leadership roles was carried out through secret ballot.

51. Overall, the Presidium is operational and its members are dedicating energy and efforts to ensure its viability, considering that tangible results for members will only emerge slowly and over time. The initial cautious approach, selecting only strongly committed members, was appropriate; it also means that Slow Food Kenya will have to ensure continued support and monitoring over the long term.



6. Analysis by Criteria and Cross-Cutting Issues

52. This section discusses the performance of the two case study Presidia against the selected criteria and cross-cutting issues and compares the performance over time of a number of indicators selected by SF, relevant to each specific criterion, across all Grant-supported Presidia. The data were collected at the establishment of each Presidium or when the Grant was launched (T0) and in August and September 2020 (T1).²⁶ In each table, the

percentage values indicate the extent of change of each indicator over this time span; when the value did not change over time, this is shown by the equals sign (=). A zero (0) means that the indicator scored at the lowest level or the response was negative.²⁷ Values in red correspond to the highest score for that indicator. Thus, a red = means that the Presidium had already scored at the highest level at its establishment for that indicator.

6.1 EFFECTIVENESS²⁸

53. The establishment of the Wichí Wild Honey Presidium in Argentina led to a larger than four-fold increase in the production of wild honey, thanks to a focus on strengthening the capacities of a group of young and adult honey gatherers, the supply of some basic equipment and the support to expand their marketing network. The honey is now also of better quality through improved food safety and hygiene practices. The enhanced visibility and marketability of the honey should contribute to improved incomes for Presidium members, empowerment of the community and an enhanced profile and greater strength for the Wichí indigenous people.

capacity development efforts have led to the formation of two solid groups of members in two different localities. The Presidium has participated in national and international events and is represented in the ITM Advisory Board. However, challenges in obtaining the initial herds and the sheep's life cycle mean that results in terms of increased flock size and income generations will only start to become tangible by mid-2021.

54. In Kenya, the Red Maasai Sheep Presidium was established. Extensive

55. Among the SF monitoring indicators, five appeared as particularly relevant to the effectiveness criterion. Table 7 shows the variation that occurred in these indicators between T0 and T1 for all Grant-supported Presidia.

26. For the Ogiek Honey Presidium, established in 2015, data were collected three times: at T0, when the Presidium was established in 2015; in 2018, when the Grant was launched (T1); and in August 2020 (T2). The report used the value changes between T1 and T2.

27. For example, in Table 7 the RMS indicator for "Relationship with consumers" is a zero (0) because the Presidium had not yet started to sell meat, and so had no relationship with consumers.

28. To limit repetitions, the analysis and discussion of gender issues are consolidated in Section 6.4 below.

Box 7. Variation in the values of selected

Presidium	Extent of consumption	Relationship with consumers	Number of producers	Production volume	Producers' training
Wichí Wild Honey, Argentina	+100%	+100%	=	+25%	=
Red Maasai Sheep, Kenya	=	0	=	0*	+100%
Gran Chaco Wild Fruits, Argentina	=	+100%	+50%	=	+50%
Kiriri Manioc Flour, Brazil	=	=	=	=	+50%
Providencia Black Crab, Colombia	=	+100%	-50%	-50%	+50%
Esmeralda Blue Crab, Ecuador	+25%	+100%	=	=	=
Ogiek Honey, Kenya	+50%	=	+100%	+25%	+50%
Oaxaca Mixteca Agave, Mexico	+100%	+100%	=	+25%	+50%

Source: Slow Food Presidia monitoring system
*In this case, the value zero (0) indicates that the number of ovine heads did not significantly increase (24 to 25 heads) since the flocks were purchased, which is taken as the “real” T0 of the Presidium, although the number of RMS heads owned by the Presidium members has changed from zero to 25 since the Presidium was formally established.

56. The Box shows that the establishment or further strengthening of each Presidium resulted in major changes regarding the relationship with consumers, typically thanks to the adoption of Slow Food narrative labels and the organization of events aimed at consumers’ information and awareness raising. In the cases of Kiriri Manioc Flour and Ogiek Honey, the relationship had been work-in-progress before the Grant started and was further strengthened through it, although the data do not capture the change. Stronger consumers’ interest was also confirmed through the “Extent of consumption” indicator, which showed a significant increase overall, including for two Presidia that doubled their value.
57. The data show that since 2018, the number of members in each Presidium tended to be stable, with two positive exceptions (Ogiek Honey and Gran Chaco Wild Fruits). There was a drop in members for the Providencia Black Crab Presidium due to reduced catches, confirmed by the “Production volumes” indicator, and consequently lower interest among traditional fishers.²⁹ Production volumes did not increase in four Presidia for various reasons: weather conditions (Kiriri Manioc Flour), reduced market demand due to Covid-19 restrictions (Esperanza Blue Crab), the natural cycle of reproduction (RMS) and a mix of factors for Gran Chaco Wild Fruits. Another relevant indicator, “Production techniques,” was not included in the table but the available data show that across all eight

29. Please refer to the sub-section on sustainability for the reasons for reduced catches in the Providencia Black Crab Presidium.

Presidia, changes were in the range of 7% of the values. This confirms that Presidium establishment led only to minor fine tuning while fully respecting the traditional production processes.

58. Capacity-building efforts were significant in all Presidia, as discussed in detail for the two case studies. The number of training events for the Wichí Wild Honey and the Esmeralda Blue Crab Presidia was high even before collaboration with SF began. The Grant-supported training events focused on Presidium-related topics for all eight Presidia, typically covering food safety and

hygiene, technical issues related to the specific Presidium product, group dynamics, leadership, association management and Indigenous People’s rights.

59. Overall, the available evidence shows that the work carried out through the Grant has been effective in supporting all eight Presidia that achieved most if not all of the established objectives. Among the retained indicators, the expansion of the marketing options of all Presidia has shown the most successful results, which in turn is likely to have also contributed to increasing the revenues of the Presidia members.

6.2 SUSTAINABILITY

60. Sustainability was analyzed from institutional, environmental and economic perspectives, the latter in terms of market diversification and prices.

61. The Wichí Wild Honey Presidium members, with the support of the coordination unit for the IFAD projects in Argentina (UCAR) and the Grant, established a solid collaboration with several national organizations, including non-governmental and civil society organizations. This should contribute to the sustainability of the initiative by enhancing visibility and allowing access to technical support, information and markets. This was not yet the case for the RMS, despite a good collaboration with the CountyLivestock Department during the capacity-building events on sheep health and nutrition.

62. From the perspective of environmental

sustainability, both case study Presidia contribute to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of their respective resource base. The Wichí Wild Honey Presidium protocol is highly respectful of the biodiversity and resource base of the Gran Chaco forest formations. Gatherers ensure that sufficient honey is left for the bees to feed on and the extraction does not destroy the hives. The re-introduction of the RMS among Maasai is by itself a contribution to the conservation of an indigenous breed at risk of extinction. Additionally, the hardiness of the breed means that it grazes well on local pastures, including at times of prolonged drought, does not require imported feed and is resilient to climate changes.

63. Economic sustainability could be assessed only for Wichí Wild Honey in Argentina, because the RMS has not reached the sales

phase yet. The honey unit price increased by 30% and the product started to be shipped to regional and national markets, including fair trade shops in the capital city of Buenos Aires. The diversification of sales outlets was achieved with the support of Slow Food Argentina and other partners and the engagement of Presidium youth members. Small quantities have also been sent to Europe, but for this market to grow, the gatherers will need to establish a formal association, a trade-off that will have to be

carefully assessed. In general, it appears that the wild honey has a small but secure market niche for the time being, which should also allow the higher market price to be maintained over time.

64. Among the SF monitoring indicators, five were identified as particularly relevant to environmental and economic sustainability. Table 8 shows the variation that occurred in these indicators between T0 and T1 for all Grant-supported Presidia.³⁰

Box 8. Variation in the values of selected indicators linked to Sustainability between T0 and T1

Presidium	Environmental protection	Biodiversity	Renewable energy	Market diversification	Market price
Wichí Wild Honey, Argentina	=	=	0	=	+100%
Red Maasai Sheep, Kenya	=	=	+25%	n/a*	n/a*
Gran Chaco Wild Fruits, Argentina	=	+20%	=	=	+100%
Kiriri Manioc Flour, Brazil	=	=	0	+50%	+50%
Providencia Black Crab, Colombia	Data to be revised	=	0	=	=
Esmeralda Blue Crab, Ecuador	Data to be revised	+20%	0	-50%	=
Ogiek Honey, Kenya	=	=	=	+25%	=
Oaxaca Mixteca Agave, Mexico	=	=	0	+25%	+100%

Source: Slow Food Presidia monitoring system
*Not applicable because the Presidium has not reached the sales phase yet.

30. It was not possible to compare the sub-indicators related to “Environmental protection” for the crab Presidia with the other Presidia.

65. Regarding environmental sustainability, the monitoring system shows that the “Environmental protection” indicator did not change over time, because the traditional practices for the management of the resource base were sustainable per se and contributed to safeguarding the environment even before the establishment of the Presidia. At the same time, the work with the Presidia through the Grant contributed to strengthening aspects of biodiversity conservation, including indigenous animal breeds and plant varieties, among others. In the case of the Providencia black crab, the SF Presidium aims to protect a species that is threatened by excessive capture and other factors.

66. The Grant did not foresee, however, any support for the use and/or introduction of renewable energy technologies to power Presidium activities. Only in the case of the RMS Presidium did members install solar panels during the period under assessment. Excluding the cases of the Gran Chaco Wild Fruits (rainwater harvesting) and the Ogiek Honey (solar panels) Presidia, where the equipment were already installed, no progress was made in this sector.

67. Regarding the performance of the “Marketing diversification” and “Price” indicators across all Presidia, better results were achieved in terms of price improvement than market diversification. For three products, Wichí Wild Honey, Gran Chaco Wild Fruits and Oaxaca Mixteca Agave, the price values doubled, and increased by 50% in the case of

Kiriri Manioc Flour. This may suggest that more attention will be required in future towards market diversification, whenever the production potential justifies the effort. However, since March 2020 marketing activities were severely hindered by the Covid-19 restrictions adopted in all countries. A few Presidia saw their sales volumes drop and virtually none could explore new market outlets.

68. A sixth relevant indicator, “Relationship with private and public institutions,” which was not included in the table, shows that all Presidia, except the RMS, had solid relationships with a range of partners before the Grant and saw no variation in this respect. This bodes well for the future, as it suggests that most Presidia have a good capacity to relate and collaborate with other organizations, including public authorities, civil society organizations and others.

69. Overall, therefore, the prospects are reasonable to good for all Presidia on all sustainability pillars, in particular the institutional and environmental aspects. The only weak Presidium in terms of institutional sustainability appeared to be the RMS, which should strive to establish a good collaboration with county-level government departments to ensure access to animal health and other technical services whenever the need arises. Economic sustainability also appeared good in general, but this remains an open question given the major disruption to economic systems, including at the local level, caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

6.3 EMPOWERMENT

70. The case study assessed empowerment both through the relevant self-evaluation of the Presidia members and through proxy indicators that were assumed to measure a change in attitudes and practices triggered by a process of empowerment.
71. In terms of self-assessment, both the Wichí honey gatherers and the Maasai RMS breeders expressed a sense of empowerment triggered by the activities carried out with the Grant. For both groups, the training events were instrumental to develop confidence in their own traditional knowledge and offered an opportunity to enrich and strengthen it by comparing it with knowledge proposed by outsiders. Other particularly effective training events were the international workshops conducted by Slow Food in the context of Indigenous Terra Madre, which were attended by one or two members of all supported Presidia
72. More broadly, a recurrent comment was the role played by the Presidia in the revival and strengthening of the traditional culture of all the Indigenous Peoples involved. The Presidia enabled linking their past and traditions with the future of the younger generations. This was an empowering element in itself. Moreover, interviews pointed out the strong empowerment generated when the key product of an Indigenous People is appreciated and valued by external stakeholders. These mechanisms of empowerment were also mentioned by members of all supported Presidia who were interviewed for other case studies within the framework of the same Grant.
73. Among the SF monitoring indicators, three were identified as particularly relevant to empowerment. Box 9 shows the variation that occurred in these indicators between T0 and T1 for all Grant-supported Presidia.

Box 9. Variation in the values of selected empowerment indicators between T0 and T1

Presidium	Role of youth	Relationship and communication with the media	Bargaining power
Wichí Wild Honey, Argentina	+50%	0	+100%
Red Maasai Sheep, Kenya	+50%	100%	n/a*
Gran Chaco Wild Fruits, Argentina	+25%	100%	=
Kiriri Manioc Flour, Brazil	+100%	=	0
Providencia Black Crab, Colombia	+25%	=	=
Esmeralda Blue Crab, Ecuador	+50%	=	0
Ogiek Honey, Kenya	+50%	=	=
Oaxaca Mixteca Agave, Mexico	+100%	100%	=

Source: Slow Food Presidia monitoring system
*Not applicable because the Presidium has not reached the sales phase yet.

74. From the beginning the Grant had a specific focus on the inclusion of youth in Presidium activities. This required at times significant efforts to gain the attention and interest of indigenous youth. The monitoring data show that the share of youth members increased in all Presidia, most frequently by 50% and doubling in two cases. Moreover, very often youth members took on leadership roles thanks to their education and skills and competences in terms of marketing and technical knowledge. This is an excellent result, that confirms the attractiveness of the Presidia as a credible and tangible path toward a sustainable livelihood for indigenous youth.
75. A second selected SF indicator is the extent to which each group has developed a relationship and communicates with the media. Achieving visibility in the national or even international media is, in the words of Presidia members, a source of enormous pride and satisfaction. Half of the Presidia already had a good relationship with the media at T0; three significantly changed their relationship and achieved the maximum rating; and only the Wichí Wild Honey Presidium did not succeed in this respect, probably due to the remoteness of its location.
76. The third selected indicator is directly related to empowerment and involves measuring the change in the Presidia's bargaining power on the market. Half of the Presidia had been able to negotiate the price of their product since their establishment and one, Wichí Wild Honey, developed this capacity thanks to the Grant support. Only two Presidia, Kiriri Manioc Flour and Esmeralda Blue Crab, still behave as 'market-price taker'. SF and the respective coordinators might consider possible options in this regard.
77. Overall, the Grant significantly contributed to empowering the indigenous communities where the Presidia were established and offered the invaluable opportunity to many youth to develop a sustainable livelihood in their native places. Capacity building and exposure to the external world seem to be the most effective tools in this regard, together with recognition of the value of their own tradition and culture.

6.4 GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

78. As mentioned above, the Wichí Wild Honey Presidium did not include women due to the rigid gender-based segregation of roles among the Wichí regarding honey gathering. SF thus decided to respect this traditional division of labor while engaging with the women in the Larguero community by exploring the possibility of linking them to the Gran Chaco Wild Fruit
- Presidium activities and launching, as mentioned earlier in the report, a number of discussions and workshops in the community on gender issues. Enthusiasm for participating in the Gran Chaco Wild Fruit Presidium among women was high but little actual progress was made before the country imposed severe restrictions on movement, bringing everything to a halt.

79. The approach was sound, as there were no prospects for breaking, in the short term, the traditional gender division of labor that governs honey-gathering. Through the Gran Chaco Wild Fruits Presidium, Wichí women may have access to economic benefits for themselves and start laying the groundwork for their empowerment. Reportedly, there is no risk that men would appropriate or control the incomes earned by women in this manner. It is nevertheless worth mentioning that that also among the Ogiek people, honey harvesting is a male activity wherein women have an ancillary role. Since the Ogiek Honey Presidium was established, however, women, and young women in particular, have become increasingly involved in the Presidium management and in beekeeping. Hopefully, some exchange between the two indigenous peoples may happen in future, to inspire change in this sense also within the Wichí community.

80. Among the Maasai, conversely, sheep management traditionally was women’s responsibility, although sheep ownership was

slightly higher among men in the two Presidium groups (see Box 6 above). The establishment of the Presidium was, reportedly, the result of the commitment to the initiative of male leaders in each community and drew in many adult men among members. Women currently represent almost 50% of the members, including both adult and young, some of them holding leadership positions and all of them engaging in the daily management of the flocks. Women’s view, confirmed also through direct observation, was that their participation in the training sessions on the RMS and their engagement in the management of the Presidium, had all been empowering factors. As already mentioned, it was too early to see how the distribution of the income from the sale of animals will happen, and whether it will take into account the contribution of each individual member to the group effort.

81. Among the SF monitoring indicators, the “Role of women” indicator measures the share of women among Presidium members; Table 10 shows its variation between T0 and T1 for all Grant-supported Presidia.³¹

Box 10. Variation in the values of the “Role of women” indicator between T0 and T1

Presidium	Role of women
Wichí Wild Honey, Argentina	n/a*
Red Maasai Sheep, Kenya	=
Gran Chaco Wild Fruits, Argentina	=
Kiriri Manioc Flour, Brazil	=
Providencia Black Crab, Colombia	=
Esmeralda Blue Crab, Ecuador	-25%
Ogiek Honey, Kenya	+100%
Oaxaca Mixteca Agave, Mexico	-25%

Source: Slow Food Presidia monitoring system
*Not applicable because women do not engage in the Presidium.

31. It was not possible to compare the sub-indicators related to “Environmental protection” for the crab Presidia with other Presidia.

82. The monitoring data show that only in the Gran Chaco Wild Fruits Presidium, the maximum score had been attained at establishment (T0). The percentage of women among the members doubled in the Ogiek Honey Presidium, remained the same in three Presidia and decreased in two. In the Oaxaca Mixteca Agave Presidium, several women left the group but no explanations were provided; in the Esmeralda Blue Crab Presidium, many women could no longer catch crabs in August 2020 due to the mobility restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic in the country.

83. The “Role of women” indicator was one of the two indicators among 35 analyzed in

6.5 PARTICIPATION

84. Differently from all other Grant-supported Presidia that built on some form of organization predating the collaboration with SF, the members of the two case study Presidia came together at the moment of establishing the Presidia. In the case of the Wichí, an informal group of honey gatherers had existed for some time before the Grant began providing support, while in the case of the RMS, members were carefully selected from among many candidates in the two communities, based on their commitment to the initiative and trustworthiness.

depth by the case studies that showed a negative difference at the aggregated level. The complexities of addressing gender equality while respecting the cultural traditions of Indigenous Peoples are well known. Still, experience from a few Grant-supported Presidia suggests that progress can be made in this respect as well. The decision to divert women in the Wichí community to benefit from a different Presidium was sensible and appropriate under the circumstances, but this should not become the “easy way out”, whereby discriminatory traditions against women get endorsed, or even reinforced, by external actors.

85. All groups were sufficiently small to enable direct interaction among members during meetings and on informal channels. All members also appeared to be fully involved in the decision-making process and in the daily management of Presidia activities, although formal hierarchies and responsibilities existed in both. Member motivation appeared high in both Presidia.

86. Among the SF monitoring indicators, three were identified as relevant to participation. Table 11 shows the variation between T0 and T1 for all Grant-supported Presidia.

32. The other indicator with a negative difference between T0 and T1 was “Architectural heritage,” which measures the restoration of buildings with cultural relevance through a Presidium.

Box 11. Variation in the values of selected participation indicators between T0 and T1

Presidium	Decision-making structure	Producer participation	Knowledge transmission
Wichí Wild Honey, Argentina	=	=	=
Red Maasai Sheep, Kenya	=	+100%	+100%
Gran Chaco Wild Fruits, Argentina	0	=	=
Kiriri Manioc Flour, Brazil	=	=	=
Providencia Black Crab, Colombia	=	=	=
Esmeralda Blue Crab, Ecuador	=	-50%	=
Ogiek Honey, Kenya	=	=	=
Oaxaca Mixteca Agave, Mexico	+100%	=	=

Source: Slow Food Presidia monitoring system

87. Each Presidium had developed its own decision-making structure at the time of canvassing data for T0, with the exception of the Oaxaca Mixteca Agave Presidium, which established one during the first year of operations, and the Gran Chaco Wild Fruits Presidium, which by T1 still operated without a formal structure. Therefore it appears that all groups are organized so as to be able to function and deliberate as necessary.
88. As of T0, most Presidia had also established consultation mechanisms with members as part of the decision-making structure. Typically, monthly meetings were held to discuss issues, solutions, proposals, etc., although interactions among members tended to be much more frequent. In some cases, when members’ houses were spread over a wide area, representatives may be delegated to attend meetings on behalf of all members in one location. The negative

- performance of the Esmeralda Blue Crab Presidium in terms of “Producer participation” was a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and related restrictions on mobility, which disproportionately affected women.
89. The “Knowledge transmission” indicator assesses whether decisions are shared and made in a transparent manner. All Presidia developed mechanisms to ensure this would happen, most at T0 and the RMS by T1.
90. Overall, the information available suggests that all Grant-supported Presidia have set up mechanisms enabling a high level of participation of all members and transparency in decision-making. The positive results achieved in terms of production, marketing, stability of membership and empowerment are also a direct consequence of robust and sound governance mechanisms and adequate capacity building in this regard.

7. Overall Relevance and Areas for Improvement

91. The data and discussion above clearly show that overall, the Grant was implemented as planned and has achieved most, if not all, of the expected results. The approach—strengthening existing Presidia or establishing new Presidia—has proved to be highly relevant to engage with Indigenous Peoples and youth in particular. The following results were achieved in eight out of ten Presidia:
- All Presidia are managed by Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Youth have become key players in all of them.
 - All Presidia products have an important cultural relevance for the communities concerned and represent a key element for the food security of the communities involved, directly and/or through income generation.



- All Presidia contributed, through extensive capacity building work, to empower youth and adults by valuing their traditional knowledge and enriching it with new skills and competences to better face the rapidly changing context around them.
 - All Presidia successfully address the link between biodiversity and environmental conservation and economic development by generating additional income for the members while contributing to enhancing their natural resource base.
 - Membership in the Presidia is stable and there seems to be potential for expansion across all groups, thanks to the emerging visible benefits generated through the establishment of the Presidia.
 - The prospects for institutional, environmental and economic sustainability are good for all Presidia, with two caveats at the time of writing this report: i) it was not yet possible to assess the results for the Red Maasai Sheep due to its longer implementation cycle; and ii) the medium- to long-term economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic are still unknown and could significantly modify, for better or worse, consumer interest in Presidia products.
92. At the same time, the case study identified one criterion that requires attention and two indicators where there may be scope for improvement, as follows.
93. The analysis of performance on “Gender equality and women’s empowerment” showed that three Presidia were successful in contributing to these objectives, namely

- the Gran Chaco Wild Fruits in Argentina, the Ogiek Honey in Kenya and the Oaxaca Mixteca Agave in Mexico. In other Presidia, women were involved and participated to a reasonable extent, and where no alternative existed for women’s engagement, a solution was found. At the same time, the performance of the Grant against this key criterion was lower than for all other criteria and indicators and fell somewhat short of expectations. Although the complexities of working with indigenous women in traditional contexts are well acknowledged, an in-depth reflection is required on where and how improvements may be achieved, as well as suitable approaches and more appropriate indicators.
94. The analysis of indicator performance showed that Presidia were successful in improving the unit price of their products, and in some cases at increasing the marketed volumes, but less so in diversifying markets. Undoubtedly, the Covid-19 pandemic negatively affected this area of work, which is also more complex and may require more “aggressive” approaches. It is thus suggested that SF and the Presidium coordinators thoroughly assess the cost/benefit of investing in more market diversification, depending on the specificities of each product.
95. Lastly, the Grant did not include any intervention in the area of renewable energy. This was likely an appropriate decision, so as not to overburden an already ambitious project. Still, through the analysis of indicator performance it emerged as an area of intervention where IFAD and Slow Food could easily collaborate in support of the Presidia, to equip their infrastructure and machineries with renewable sources of energy and strengthening their environmental and economic sustainability.
96. In conclusion, the SF Presidium model is highly suited to pursuing objectives of biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation when working with indigenous peoples and represents a valid option for sustainable livelihoods for indigenous youth. Slow Food’s knowledge of traditional products and processes through its Ark of Taste and its extended network world-wide represent key assets that should enable reaching out to other Indigenous Peoples to establish more Presidia and thus contribute to improving their socio-economic conditions while safeguarding the world’s natural and cultural diversity.

