

# Listening to beneficiaries to improve development effectiveness

- ✦ Indigenous consultations since 98
- ✦ WDR00
- ✦ Portfolio reviews on empowerment
- ✦ In Peru after years of high growth, poverty decreased but indigenous groups at higher risk



# Culture on the way to empowerment

- ✦ These consultations pointed to culture as central if we wanted to improve development effectiveness with indigenous groups
- ✦ Three indigenous projects



# Why is Culture Important?

- ✦ “It is our wealth”
- ✦ Culture is perceived as an instrument for exclusion
- ✦ Working with existing cultures is essential for sustainability (beneficiaries need to identify with the projects)
- ✦ Mirror me so I know I am there



# Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru

- ✦ Birthplace of one of the most advanced pre-Hispanic civilizations
- ✦ Has nearly half of the total indigenous population in Latin-American (20 million)
- ✦ It is a culturally diverse region representing almost 100 different populations



# Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru

- ✦ Indigenous groups are closely tied through social values and very complex cultural values
- ✦ Highly organized at the communal level and through regional networks going beyond one country
- ✦ The constitutions of the 3 countries recognize cultural diversity



# Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru

- ✦ Opportunity: Declaration of Machu Pichu
  - signed by 5 Presidents (including Venezuela and Colombia)
- ✦ Agrees on formulating strategies to revalue multiculturalism to promote full participation of indigenous population



# Indigenous Portfolio Review

✦ Council of Indigenous Advisors

✦ Field visits and questions sent to project units

- How has the project improved the quality of life?
- How many workers come from the project area?
- Is the project supporting poverty alleviation or creating more needs?
- Is the project strengthening local organizations?
- How is the project promoting indigenous cultural identity in a holistic way?



# Culture and our Projects

- ✖ Culture is central for ashanikas, quechuas and aymaras. Projects need to adapt to holistic view **nature / man / community / biodiversity**
- ✖ Our project interventions undermine this integration
- ✖ They deplete social structures which are based on the collective



# Project Recommendations

- ✿ Important to carry out this “inter-cultural” dialogue.
  - It’s a LT process, needs to be done continuously
  - it is not enough to interact with leaders
- ✿ Project staff needs to be trained on the indigenous vision of the world
- ✿ “Most projects do not have cultural components, nor art, which is very important for our people”
- ✿ Projects have to shift “from being prepared in a vertical way to involving beneficiaries and taking into account their view of the world. That is the only way to get participation in indigenous areas”.



# Project Recommendations

- ✦ None of WB projects has a vision of development with cultural identity
- ✦ The cultural gap affects indigenous population
- ✦ Balance between nature, social and spiritual is key for development
- ✦ Indigenous people can adapt to modernity with its own organization forms and culture



# Project Recommendations

- “The indigenous community is our natural unit. But projects relate to individuals, not to communal authorities”
- “The IC is a powerful tool for development. We used it defensively for 500 years and it has allowed us to survive. It also helped us win over terrorism (rondas) lets use it to fight poverty”



# Rural Roads

- ✂ Local population needs to participate in the work
- ✂ Rituals to avoid disequilibria will help ownership
- ✂ Maintenance through communal work
- ✂ Contracts with communities, not individuals
- ✂ “Minka caminera”



# Agriculture Research and Extension

- ✦ Andean technology needs to be included. It has been around for 500 years and “we have knowledge about sustainable agriculture”
- ✦ “Research is needed for what we produce most: local cattle and local crops”
- ✦ Through land and collective work, indigenous peasants relate to the community. The one who shares most is the most important
- ✦ Culture is seen as an external factor to the project



# Agriculture Research and Extension

“Indigenous people are reduced to their role as producers but not as a group with its own culture. The indigenous culture is agro-centric and its life philosophy is dictated by it. Projects that work with a producer fail because cultural continuity is not taken care off”



# Sierra Natural Resources

- ✖ Irrigation committees have been des-integrating traditional forms of collective work
- ✖ Ministry acts as if they have the knowledge
- ✖ The word can be a domination instrument -when we worry that peasants don't participate, "learn how to interpret silence and work with it"
- ✖ Natural Resources can be managed with inter-cultural participation



# Sierra Natural Resources

“Projects instead of constituting an aggression, could strengthen traditions”

“Dance, song, rituals help improve production”

“Institutional strengthening needs to be done in a collective way”

“A beautiful potato with no worms, is bad for our health because pesticides even killed the worm. A worm is a sign of life”



# Health Project

- ✦ **Essential to adapt services to existing culture and for people to be treated with respect**
- ✦ **Health workers need to learn about indigenous values**
- ✦ **Project needs participatory activities to include the vision of the world and knowledge of communities in service delivery**
- ✦ **A woman does not go to a health post because the doctor will not speak her language and tell her to undress**
- ✦ **Birth attendance: complement western medicine with traditional knowledge**



# Conclusions

- ✦ Culture makes us realize how complex the work of development is and why poverty alleviation is so difficult to achieve
- ✦ For ownership and sustainability we need to take into account the culture of our beneficiaries when we are trying to make a difference for indigenous populations
- ✦ Including indigenous communities and culture in projects should increase efficiency and equity