Introduction

Indigenous Peoples continued to be severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. In many countries where IWGIA works, partners struggled with the health situation and government restrictions that impacted their freedom of movement and further exacerbated the encroachment on Indigenous Peoples’ rights and shrinking civic space (see also last year’s annual report). In 2021, we provided information on how Indigenous Peoples have been impacted by COVID-19, but also about their resilience and innovative ways of coping with the situation by devoting our 35th annual edition of *The Indigenous World* to this thematic area, presenting extensive information on the pandemic in an Indigenous Peoples’ context.

2021 was the first year in the implementation of our Institutional Strategy 2021-2025, which has the overall ambition of ensuring that Indigenous Peoples’ rights to land, territories and resources and to self-determined development are promoted, respected and protected. Together with partners, who are at the very heart of our work, we implement our Triangle of Change through 4 programmes and 3 cross-cutting areas. We have an ambition to expand our strength as a knowledge centre and provide strong, professional and trustworthy analysis of Indigenous issues. We will focus on harnessing the ingenuity and energy of Indigenous youth. We will deepen and increase our engagement with Nordic countries and continue to build cooperation with Indigenous Peoples in the Arctic region. At the organisational level, we will shape and adapt our procedures to ensure that we are an agile and flexible organisational that can adjust and respond to changing circumstances and realities.

We also used the year to further develop our Key Implementation Plan (KIP) and ensure we use our cross-cutting methodologies in all our work. For example, the Indigenous Navigator is our main tool in Data Generation and Analysis and we have ensured the application of this methodology as part of all our thematic programmes.

Furthermore, we embarked on an elaborate process to develop our gender strategy through consultations internally and with our partners in 4 continents. The Gender Strategy 2021-2025 was approved by IWGIA’s Board in October 2021. We will seek funding for the implementation of the strategy to be able to support Indigenous women through this cross-cutting methodology.

In 2021, IWGIA, together with 49 partners, achieved important results under our 4 programmes and crosscutting areas in 19 countries, which you can read about in the programmatic sections further in this report.

At the global level, meetings continued to take place virtually where IWGIA extensively engaged in online meetings and events organized by the United Nations and other international mechanisms and agencies, as well as by our partner organisations. IWGIA engaged with a total of 24 UN and other international mechanisms.

We documented the situation of Indigenous Peoples’ rights through 58 publications, podcasts and videos/streams and in our monthly magazine *Indigenous Debates*, many of which are described in this report.

It is clear there are shortcomings of only being able to meet virtually and that governments in particular could be far more engaged in these forums. However, IWGIA will take the positive elements of these experiences forward in post-COVID times and use more virtual/hybrid means to ensure participation and be more flexible and connected, as well as to mitigate the climate impact of our travel.
Throughout 2021 our members were invited to a number of virtual meetings hosted by IWGIA. In September, the Board and Secretariat held the 2021 biennial member meeting, which was very well attended. We started the meeting with a thematic session on “The worsening situation of Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights Defenders and IWGIA’s support” with IWGIA partners and Human Rights Defenders from Colombia and Myanmar who shared their stories. This was followed by a discussion on our organisational setup and suggested changes to IWGIA’s Statutes, which were all adopted in December 2021, the most significant of which was to hold the member meeting annually rather than biennially.

IWGIA decided to engage more extensively with a wider audience in Denmark, as, being based in Denmark, we can get support to and solidarity with Indigenous Peoples here. IWGIA therefore established the new position of a Danish engagement and policy advisor until the end of the year. We would like to thank Karl Johnsen for his short but great engagement with IWGIA and wish him all the best in his new position.

In 2021, we have been able to increase our visibility in Danish social media and to ensure the award of a grant from CISU’s (Civil Society in Development, an independent civil society association) engagement fund, focusing on educating Copenhagen Business School students on Indigenous Peoples’ rights and due diligence. IWGIA won the Operation Day’s Work annual competition, a Danish high school initiative explained further in our Climate Change programme section. In February 2022 we welcomed Helle Levstø Severinsen on our team to continue our Danish engagement efforts.

Katja Kvaale, who had been an elected IWGIA Board member since 2019, ended her term on the Board by the end of 2021. During her time on the Board, Katja greatly contributed to our work, including giving a voice to those who actively support us by being a member. Dr. René Kuppe is our new elected Board member for the period 2022-2024. Dr. Kuppe is professor emeritus at the University of Vienna, Austria. He is involved in international law practice and legal policy work related to Indigenous Peoples’ rights, with a focus on Latin America. Based on his legal background and working relationships with Indigenous organisations he is doing campaign work, most recently involved in the successful campaign for the ratification of ILO Convention 169 in Germany and now a similar campaign in Austria.

As we return to a more “normal” way of working, resuming travel to partner and international meetings, we strive to always be aware that the situation for many Indigenous Peoples is still impacted by the pandemic and that we continue to ensure that our increased presence and eagerness to finally meet our partners again will not jeopardize their situation. Nevertheless, we look forward to a year where we will once again be able to engage closely with our constituency – Indigenous Peoples all over the world – and to work in solidarity towards our goal that Indigenous Peoples’ rights to land, territories and resources and to self-determined development are promoted, respected and protected.

Recognising that Indigenous Peoples are strongly affected by dire political situations in their countries, we want to pay tribute to the Indigenous Peoples in Myanmar who in 2021 had to survive the military coup and its consequences. Since the military (Tatmadaw) coup on 1 February 2021, hundreds of people have been killed; thousands have been arbitrarily detained, with arrest warrants out for countless more; and hundreds of thousands have been displaced, with millions in need of humanitarian assistance.

IWGIA stands in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and those in other authoritarian countries, particularly with our partner organisations. We do our best to support Indigenous Peoples in countries where challenges are huge and change cannot be expected in the short term but where support and alliance is therefore even more crucial. In a world where civic space is shrinking at an alarming rate, we intend to be the strong partner for Indigenous Peoples who are particularly affected. This is also reflected in our institutional principles and strategy.

Indigenous Peoples are at the heart of the struggle for self-determination and a more sustainable and just world. IWGIA is proud to stand by and behind Indigenous Peoples. We thank all those who support us to do so.
Who we are; How we work

IWGIA is a non-governmental human rights organisation promoting, protecting and defending Indigenous Peoples’ collective and individual rights.

We believe that Indigenous Peoples as rights holders are powerful agents of change. Our partnership with Indigenous Peoples and their organisations and institutions is at the centre of all our work.

Indigenous Peoples today, in all parts of the world, are still fighting discrimination and targeted violence, struggling against a shrinking civic space, lacking recognition of their rights as peoples, and suffering from land dispossession, evictions and the negative consequences of climate change and conservation efforts. Further, Indigenous women disproportionately face intersectional discrimination and multiple expressions of violence. Therefore, it is urgent to challenge the discriminatory attitudes and stereotyping based on gender, ethnicity and Indigenous identity that lead to harassment and violence.

It is important, now more than ever, to work in solidarity with and support of Indigenous Peoples and to fight for the respect, promotion and effective implementation of Indigenous Peoples’ internationally recognised rights at national and local levels.
Our Triangle of Change is our key instrument for fostering change by:

- **Documenting** the situation of Indigenous Peoples and the human rights violations they experience
- **Advocating** for change at local, national and international levels
- **Empowering** Indigenous Peoples to claim and exercise their rights

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**Our core ambition**

Indigenous Peoples’ rights to land, territories and resources and to self-determined development are promoted, respected and protected.

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**Our vision**

A world where Indigenous Peoples everywhere fully enjoy their internationally recognised rights.

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**Our partners**

Documenting, Advocating, Empowering

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**CREDIT:** Pablo Lasansky / IWGIA
The Indigenous World

IWGIA published *The Indigenous World 2021* in English and Spanish. This yearly overview serves to document and report on the developments Indigenous Peoples have experienced throughout 2020. The Indigenous World annual series is the unique result of a collaborative effort between Indigenous and non-Indigenous activists and scholars who voluntarily document and report on the situation of Indigenous Peoples’ rights. We thank them and celebrate the bonds and sense of community that result from the close cooperation needed to make this one-of-a-kind documentation tool available. IWGIA has published The Indigenous World in collaboration with this community of authors for 36 consecutive years since 1986.

It is internationally recognised as a unique monitoring tool and widely used by Indigenous Peoples, multilateral organisations, governments, development practitioners, academics and donors, serving as a quick and easy reference point for policy input to State officials, diplomatic missions, and officials of international institutions concerned with Indigenous Peoples’ rights and challenges.

The 2021 edition includes 82 articles (62 countries and 20 processes) with a focus on the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous Peoples around the world and the resilience they exhibited in responding to the pandemic. Since its launch, the 2021 edition has been downloaded more than 23,000 times in English and 11,000 times in Spanish. The book was launched virtually in three separate events in English, Spanish and Danish.

I draw valuable information from The Indigenous World to prepare my interventions at national, regional as well as international level. The book both helps me master the topic and compare or elucidate in a case I wish to illustrate and gives me relevant and general information of the global advancements to argue my interventions. – Hawe Hamman Bouba, Commissioner at the Cameroon Human Rights Commission; expert member of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights; and Executive President of the African Indigenous Women’s Organisation Central African Network (AIWO-CAN)

The Indigenous community of Kawemhakan, Suriname, blocked its airstrip to prevent outsiders from arriving into their villages and bringing the virus with them.

**CREDIT** Mulokot Foundation / Kawemhakan
Indigenous Peoples in 2021*

476 million Indigenous people worldwide
90+ countries
4,000+ languages
6% of the world’s population
19% of the world’s poor

* Data from International Labour Organization
Our work in 2021

19 COUNTRIES

49 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

24 INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES

9 UNIVERSITIES

7 ALLIANCES

58 PUBLICATIONS, PODCASTS AND VIDEOS
Climate Change

Despite being recognised for their environmental stewardship, Indigenous Peoples are not only disproportionately affected by climate change, they are also increasingly negatively impacted by top-down mitigation and adaptation efforts on their lands and territories. IWGIA’s Climate Change programme strives to ensure that the impact of climate change and climate action on Indigenous Peoples’ rights is promptly addressed and remedied, while simultaneously guaranteeing that Indigenous Peoples themselves are acknowledged and consulted as key actors in realising their rights and contributors to climate change solutions through their knowledge.

Our work in 2021

International climate advocacy has been significantly affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic. For most of the year, the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), which is the Caucus representing Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, was unable to hold in-person meetings and many of its members were preoccupied with the heavy impact of the pandemic in their communities. Throughout this period, IWGIA supported the organisation of virtual Caucus meetings, interpretation and coordination. The IIPFCC was thus still able to coordinate statements and advocacy in different forums despite the challenging setting. In November 2021, COP26 was held in person and despite the partial exclusion of observers, the IIPFCC and IWGIA succeeded in ensuring effective advocacy.

At the Green Climate Fund (GCF), with support from IWGIA, Indigenous Peoples also faced the challenging virtual setting, but succeeded in pushing their agenda forward. The GCF had a pending task of institutionalising its Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG), as stipulated by the Indigenous Peoples Policy, which led to a call for IPAG member nominations. IWGIA, Indigenous Peoples and civil society also contributed input and calls to the GCF for a rights-based focus in the development of its Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS).

Further to this, IWGIA supported Indigenous Peoples’ organisations to empower Indigenous women, men and youth to engage in and advocate for the recognition and respect of their rights in climate policy and action at local, national and international levels. In 2021, IWGIA supported the empowerment of PINGO’s Forum in Tanzania, NEFIN in Nepal as well as ONAMIAP and Servindi in Peru, to engage in national and international climate advocacy.

In 2021, IWGIA won the Operation Day’s Work annual competition, a Danish initiative where Danish high school students select a project that they want to provide funding for by campaigning for it and then working for one day and providing the earnings to the organisation that manages the project. IWGIA’s winning project is on climate youth activists and forest defenders in Thailand and Malaysia and will be implemented with our partners, AIIPP (Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact), PACOS Trust (Partners of Community Organisations in Sabah) and IMPECT (Inter-Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association).
Challenges and lessons learned

Indigenous Peoples are at the forefront of climate talks. They are visible, and the importance of their involvement in climate governance has become evident. However, despite this visibility and the importance of their contribution, support to Indigenous Peoples is too often lacking the human rights angle. UNFCCC outcome documents and national climate policies may make reference to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, but effective implementation of such safeguards on Indigenous lands and territories remain a challenge. Whether it being conservation initiatives, renewable energy projects, carbon trading schemes or large-scale adaptation projects, without Indigenous Peoples’ Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), such initiatives are not only leading to rights violations; they are also failing to meet their climate rationale. This is the case in many of the countries where IWGIA works. IWGIA and our partners are monitoring the situation closely and engaging in dialogue with governments to ensure that climate action takes a consistent rights-based approach at all levels of implementation.

Engagement highlights

The consequences of climate change are often felt most acutely by Indigenous Peoples and have gendered impacts. Forced migration as a result of climate change and water scarcity make Indigenous women and girls more susceptible and vulnerable to human rights abuses. To emphasise the particular situation of Indigenous women and girls, IWGIA prepared a written submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women: “IWGIA inputs to the Report on violence against women and girls in the context of the climate crisis”. The submission will inform the Special Rapporteur’s report to be presented at the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2022. It outlines the impacts of climate change, as well as the main challenges and opportunities in relation to the climate crisis, facing Indigenous women and girls, who make up roughly 2.5% of the global population, and who are among those contributing the least to climate change but are, conversely, suffering the most from the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.
2021 in numbers

17
IWGIA’s partners promoted 17 Indigenous-led proposals for national climate policy.

22
IWGIA’s partners promoted 22 Indigenous-led proposals for international climate policy.

27%
By the end of 2021, 27% of approved GCF projects complied with the GCF Indigenous Peoples’ Policy in Nepal, Peru and Tanzania.

Programme highlights

IWGIA’s and our Indigenous partners’ advocacy efforts at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) proved effective. Indigenous Peoples succeeded in securing important rights safeguards in the mechanisms under Article 6, albeit failing to refer to the principle of FPIC. The carbon market mechanisms are controversial as they allow countries or companies to “reduce” their own emissions by buying offsets from projects built elsewhere, potentially having a negative impact for Indigenous Peoples. Likewise, increasing recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ role in climate solutions became evident with a collective pledge of USD 1.7 billion by a group of donors for the land tenure of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Further, the mandate of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) – a constituted body under the UNFCCC with equal representation between Indigenous Peoples and States – was renewed and a workplan adopted.
At COP26, IWGIA facilitated the participation of Indigenous representatives from four socio-cultural regions to Glasgow, supported the organisation of a two-day preparatory meeting of the IIPFCC and supported the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion, which quickly became a hub for Indigenous Peoples during the conference, containing both an office space for Caucus coordination and a live-streamed theatre room. Over two weeks, 67 events by Indigenous women, men and youth, representing hundreds of Indigenous Peoples from over 20 countries, shared presentations, panel discussions, film screenings and songs to showcase their initiatives on climate change adaptation and mitigation with a focus on Indigenous knowledge systems. IWGIA also made statements, engaged with the press and held a number of dialogues with decision-makers.

A key component of IWGIA’s Climate Change programme is to empower Indigenous Peoples’ own organisations to effectively engage in climate actions in their community, country and at the international level. IWGIA has been supporting initiatives in Nepal, Tanzania and Peru.

In Nepal, IWGIA joined forces with the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), helping it become a well-known and recognised organisation on Indigenous Peoples, climate change and environmental issues. With IWGIA’s support, NEFIN engagement resulted in the Prime Minister of Nepal making reference to the engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the country in his remark during the World Leaders Summit at COP26. Key points in his statement came directly from NEFIN’s contributions to the Nepal Country Status Paper for COP26, which included a sub section on Indigenous Peoples. The Ministry of Forest and Environment even invited NEFIN to participate as a Thematic Working Group Member for the formulation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

“Consistent advocacy through the NEFIN-IWGIA partnership for more than a decade has made Indigenous Peoples’ voice louder in the climate discourse. The term “Indigenous Peoples” is now pronounced more often in national, regional and global platforms and policies. This is indeed a gesture of recognising Indigenous Peoples’ existence, distinct worldviews, lifeways and contributions in saving nature. However, the struggle remains to get Indigenous Peoples’ rights fully respected.”

TUNGA BHADRA RAI, DIRECTOR OF THE NEFIN CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
In Tanzania, IWGIA partnered with the Pastoralists Indigenous Non Governmental Organization’s Forum (PINGO’s Forum) to actively engage in climate change processes, culminating in influencing the Government of Tanzania in its policies and engagement with Indigenous Peoples. With IWGIA’s support, PINGO’s Forum participated in and organised pre-COP26 coordination meetings in Tanzania and contributed to developing a country’s joint position paper with civil society organisations and the government. This created an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to work with the Office of the Vice President on climate change issues. PINGO’s Forum and Indigenous Peoples were also consulted during the development of the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2021-2026), which led to the inclusion of references to pastoralists concerning adaptation action and their knowledge on climate change. The challenge of ensuring that these policy decisions are reflected in government action on the ground remains. Indeed, Indigenous Peoples in Tanzania live under constant threat of being forcibly evicted as a result of top-down conservation and climate action.

In Peru, IWGIA and Servindi supported the virtual interactive learning platform – "Aprendo con Servindi" (Learning with Servindi) – which is tailormade for participants who do not have reliable and strong internet connection. The training course focuses on climate change and bolsters communities to confront external territorial threats, whether from natural resource extraction activities, top-down conservation initiatives or so-called “Carbon Pirates” that offer unfavourable and fraudulent contractual agreements for ecosystem services. Students are equipped with advocacy tools and knowledge for engagement in climate policy. The success of the platform and learning model has been met with significant interest, giving us reason to believe that the reach and impact of this learning initiative can grow even further.
“The climate project supported by IWGIA has been an important link between the community and the decision makers through climate dialogues that inform policy decisions. This resulted in the National Climate Change Response Strategy having references to Indigenous Peoples adaptation and traditional knowledge.”

GIDEON SANAGO, COORDINATOR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, PINGO’S FORUM
Land Defence and Defenders

Indigenous Peoples are losing their lands every day, which has particularly devastating effects on Indigenous women. Indigenous Peoples are being criminalised, harassed or even killed for attempting to protect their territories. IWGIA’s Land Defence and Defenders programme leverages Indigenous Peoples’ efforts to safely and securely claim and exercise their rights to land, territories and natural resources at national, regional and international levels.

Our work in 2021

IWGIA and 17 partners from 9 countries – Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Myanmar, Kenya, Tanzania, Colombia and Russia – monitored the human rights situation of Indigenous communities and produced a variety of high-quality documentation products used for effective advocacy, litigation and protest. Together with our partners, we contributed to human rights monitoring training for Indigenous communities and produced and disseminated human rights reports, legal documentation/communications, urgent appeals, statements, campaign materials, factsheets, articles, position papers, data analyses, podcasts and strategies, which we extensively used in advocating for Indigenous Peoples’ rights to their lands, territories and resources.

It is key for IWGIA that our partners are empowered to implement their own strategies to advocate for the change they want. IWGIA has therefore supported its partners to raise land and human rights awareness among Indigenous communities, empower Indigenous Peoples’ leaders, including women leaders and make space for constructive dialogues between groups, such as between youth and elders, and pastoralists and farmers. With IWGIA’s support, our partners were also able to conduct fact finding-missions and hold dialogues with national park authorities, ministries, local and provincial authorities and parliamentarians – as well as with potential allies like journalists, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations.

When relevant, IWGIA also supported partners in their fight for justice through court cases and reconciliation processes, also joining efforts in engaging in international advocacy actions. And in all 9 countries, IWGIA has supported, in various ways, Indigenous women to play a key role in protesting the abuses they themselves and their community as a whole experience.

Indigenous human rights defenders and our partners are still facing high risks of attacks and killings while fighting to protect their lands, and for exposing and fighting against the human rights violations they face. IWGIA engaged in international advocacy processes and campaigns, as well as supported Indigenous human rights defenders with relocation, protection, psycho-social support, and other preventative measures. We were also active in a number of alliances such as the Zero Tolerance Initiative and the Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders (ALLIED).

In 2021, IWGIA worked with the Ogiek Peoples’ Development Programme (OPDP) to push for the implementation of the African Court ruling.

“The Decision of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the 26th of May 2017 has had a significant impact on the Ogiek community in Kenya and other Indigenous communities across the world, particularly in Africa. The Ogiek ancestral land takes center stage in the judgment, and the frequency of evictions of Ogiek from their ancestral land has lessened, since the judgment preserves our territory from external aggression. IWGIA has stood by our side before the judgment, they have continued to walk with us through the corridors of justice and in preparation for the implementation of the Ogiek case. Despite the delays for implementation, IWGIA has never abandoned us and has remained a fundamental reference to the Ogiek land struggle for justice.” – Daniel Kobei, Director, OPDP
Challenges and lessons learned

The most pronounced and continuing challenge for Indigenous Peoples is land grabbing and the ongoing loss of land, which they are facing, as well as the brutal human rights violations they face when fighting for their rights. Indigenous Peoples lack land tenure security, especially in Africa and Asia, where there is very limited recognition of Indigenous Peoples and basically no legal protection of their land rights. Some gains have been made via protests and positive court rulings but securing the gains from these few victories is extremely difficult. Democratic and civic space is shrinking in many of the countries in which IWGIA and its partners work. Intimidation and persecution of Indigenous Peoples in general and Indigenous Peoples’ human rights defenders in particular, including those who defend the environment, is rampant. Indigenous women human rights defenders face additional risks. The context in which IWGIA and its partners work often deals with different levels of political instability, fragility and conflict. In February 2021, we woke up to the military in Myanmar having taken over power in the country. IWGIA has since then extensively worked on closely monitoring the situation and helping our partners to cope (see further below). IWGIA’s flexibility and ability to react quickly to crisis is a core added-value we bring to the Indigenous struggle.

There is no quick fix for any of the challenges described above. The only way to support the Indigenous movement’s struggle is through long-lasting, committed engagement from IWGIA and our partners, which builds on positive results and strengthens empowerment and awareness, with Indigenous organizations and communities being in the driving seat. This sustained engagement, alongside the global movement building and experience sharing that IWGIA helps to facilitate is lasting and gives fruit in the long term.

Engagement highlights

Following the February 2021 military coup in Myanmar, IWGIA joined forces with its partners in the country to give the world an inside look and feel into the abrupt deterioration of the human rights situation, with special emphasis on the situation of Indigenous Peoples. As a part of this campaign IWGIA produced a documentary: The Myanmar Military Coup in the Words of Indigenous Activists in English and Spanish, wrote articles and opinion pieces, gave interviews to various media, and organized a meeting between the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples with a group of indigenous activists from Myanmar.

IWGIA produced a podcast series for The Zero Tolerance Initiative – a global coalition led by Indigenous Peoples and supportive NGOs working collectively to address the root causes of killings and violence against human rights defenders linked to business activities. Through this series, we gave a voice to Indigenous communities and Indigenous human rights defenders, who are the very people risking everything on the frontlines of holding companies and investors accountable for the extractive industries that are damaging their cultures and livelihood, threatening their very existence. You can listen to the first episode on Lake Turkana Wind Power Project in northern Kenya, a giant windmill farm that has brought green energy to the country but has also left generations-old, Indigenous cultures damaged and in darkness.
33

IWGIA and our partners protested 33 land rights violations and violations against Indigenous Peoples Human Rights Defenders in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Philippines, Myanmar, Kenya, Tanzania and Colombia.

33

Through our support, Indigenous communities took important steps in the direction of land tenure security in 3 countries: Nepal, Bangladesh and Kenya.

7

IWGIA actively engaged in 7 international and Danish alliances focusing on land rights and Indigenous human rights defenders: ZTI (Zero Tolerance Initiative), ALLIED (Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders), ILC (International Land Coalition), CELEP (Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism), 92 Group, Global Focus Claim Your Space, DIEH (Danish Ethical Trading Initiative).
Programme highlights

In the Philippines, IWGIA and our long-term partner, The Cordillera Peoples’ Alliance (CPA), after months of concerted efforts, were able to get a false murder charge dismissed against CPA chairperson Windel Bolinget.

In December 2020, after an arrest warrant was issued against him, Windel went into hiding due to the fear that he wouldn’t receive proper legal protection because of the lack of independence of the country’s judicial system as well as the impunity in the country. One month later, a “shoot-to-kill” order was issued against him with posters of him plastered in his neighborhood offering a USD 2,000 reward for information on his whereabouts.

Windel along with many other Indigenous leaders and defenders in the country, have increasingly faced harassment and targeting by government-led smear campaigns, painting their image as “terrorists” and “Communists”, due to their activism.

On 21 January 2021, due to the ‘shot to kill order’ issued against him, Windel turned himself in to the National Bureau of Investigation as a security measure and the process to prove his innocence began. IWGIA issued an urgent alert to support him, and organised a dialogue between Indigenous human rights defenders from The Philippines, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Peoples. IWGIA and CPA submitted a communique to the Special Rapporteurs who followed up by officially reaching out to the Philippine government, which was also used in Windel’s defense. The organisations also coordinated an online campaign to raise awareness on the case and the overall horrible situation of Indigenous Peoples’ defenders in the country. The trumped-up murder case was finally dismissed by the court on July 12, 2021 for lack of probable cause (and on May 17, 2022 the same court issued a Certificate of Finality stating that the dismissal has become final and executory considering that the parties on this case did not file an appeal within the prescriptive periods). These coordinated and constant efforts were instrumental in Windel being freed and proven innocent, but the general struggle continues; online and offline harassment persists and the leaders of local CPA chapters are still targeted.

“The support of IWGIA has contributed in saving the life of one Indigenous Peoples human rights defender in the Philippines. The strong solidarity and support of IWGIA has demonstrated to the world that we are not alone in this struggle. Long live international solidarity!”

WINDEL BOLINGET, CPA CHAIRPERSON
Land tenure security of grazing lands in Tanzania has been a clear focus in 2021 for Indigenous Peoples, which led to IWGIA supporting the Parakuiyo Pastoralists Indigenous Community Development Organisation (PAICODEO) to conduct extensive awareness meetings on this.

With IWGIA’s support, PAICODEO was able to facilitate discussions on the situation of land grabbing and land-related conflicts between farmers and pastoralists. More than 1,000 people participated, half of whom were women, in 10 villages in Kilosa, Mvomero, Morogoro, Chalinze, Handeni and Kilindi districts. Protests and other actions taken by pastoralists to protect their lands increased as they became more aware of these land issues. Moreover, indigenous women are now confidently supporting land and natural resources security, as for instance in the Mbarali district where they fought back a village land certificate that had been irregularly confiscated.

In the village of Elerai in the Kilindi District, for example, pastoralists protested against farmers who had bought land from corrupt village leaders, demanding them to leave. The conflict led to violent clashes between farmers and pastoralists. The District Commissioner (DC) subsequently banned the sale of land by these village leaders and arrested three people who had been involved in the irregular sales. The DC further directed that anyone who wishes to sell or buy land will first have to seek approval from the district land officer who will provide such approval based on proof of land ownership. This decision has not only increased the land tenure security of the pastoralists who use and live on the land but will also eventually reduce conflicts with farmers in the district. IWGIA has been financially supporting and empowering PAICODEO since its establishment in 2003, and the organisation has become an important actor for conflict resolution between pastoralists and farmers in the southern part of Tanzania.
The Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia (JEP), a traditional justice mechanism set up to try members of FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), public force and others for the crimes committed during the five-decade-long armed conflict, organised a first hearing to discuss the findings of a report produced and presented by the Colombia Centre for Indigenous Cooperation (CECOIN) and IWGIA. The report focused on the violence committed by armed groups against Indigenous Peoples in the department of Risaralda from 1985-2019, and included a dedicated chapter on violence against women. IWGIA acted as a sparring partner in drafting the report.

In Nepal, a local court ruling in Kirtipur Municipality recognized Newa Indigenous Peoples’ traditional lands by legislating the “Act on the Cultural Protected Areas”. In addition, the local government in Barbarida Municipality has legally recognized the traditional governance system/institution of the Tharu Indigenous Peoples. They also secured their right to self-manage their land through their traditional customary law system. The support of IWGIA and our long-term partner, the Lawyers’ Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP) have made significant contributions for this achievement. These landmark rulings, which have been an inspiration for more Indigenous communities in Nepal, were made possible through the use of articles from the country’s Constitution. Also in 2021, the Magar initiated the process of claiming their land as an autonomous region and the local government formed a taskforce to proceed with this declaration. This is a very significant process as it is the first time this has been achieved in Nepal.

“The government of Nepal is reluctant to fully recognize the Indigenous Peoples’ right to lands and self-determination, however the court ruling on establishing a special, protected and autonomous region for Indigenous Peoples has led to the recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ lands in some municipalities, which is somewhat encouraging.”

ADVOCATE SHANKAR LIMBU, SECRETARY OF LAHURNIP PHOTO CREDIT: LAHURNIP
Global Governance

Indigenous Peoples’ rights have been recognised at the international level. However, for Indigenous Peoples’ rights to be respected and protected, they must be recognised and operationalised at national and local levels. IWGIA’s Global Governance programme strengthens global-to-local linkages between national and international processes across all its thematic programmes.

Knowledge of international processes and legal instruments for redress of human rights violations helps strengthen the position and demands of Indigenous Peoples towards states, enabling them to seek redress. This programme also strengthens Indigenous Peoples’ participation in and contribution to relevant global decision-making processes, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Our work in 2021

IWGIA, alongside Indigenous representatives from all around the world, actively engaged in a wide range of international and regional mechanisms and processes. We made statements on Indigenous Peoples’ specific situations, developed substantive stakeholder reports, conducted and participated in side events, held dialogues and submitted valuable inputs to policies and publications. We engaged with, among others, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee (WHC), the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Committees on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), on Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) as well as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). We also continued our long-term collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

IWGIA provided documentation on human rights violations to the United Nations Special Rapporteurs on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNSRIP) and on Human Rights Defenders (UNSRHRD). The sustained and strong engagement of IWGIA and its partners led to the adoption of multiple recommendations and policies for Indigenous Peoples by international and regional mechanisms. For example, we submitted a contribution to CEDAW for the preparation of their general comment on Indigenous Women and girls, and the draft general comment makes specific references to IWGIA’s submission. Finally, we supported partners from, among others, Peru, Bolivia, Tanzania, Nepal, India and Russia, to develop their own strategies for advocacy and engage in relevant global processes according to their key issues and priorities. With our support, they were able to use the recommendations made by international and regional mechanisms to advance their rights and achieve stronger alliances with relevant stakeholders at national level.

Through the Indigenous Navigator, IWGIA supported capacity strengthening activities, training sessions on Indigenous Peoples’ rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the implementation of 44 pilot projects in 10 countries. These projects were developed and carried out by the Indigenous communities based on their visions for their self-determined development. The Indigenous Navigator is a framework and set of tools for and by Indigenous Peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. By using the Indigenous Navigator, Indigenous organisations and communities, duty bearers, NGOs and journalists can access free tools and resources based on community-generated data.
IWGIA facilitated and often engaged as lecturers in trainings for Indigenous Peoples on how to use international human rights mechanisms. This included the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) fellowship programme for Latin American Indigenous leaders and youth at Deusto University in Bilbao, a high level training on Indigenous Peoples’ rights at the Human Rights Center of the University of Pretoria in South Africa in collaboration with the ACHPR, an Expert Degree on Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and International Cooperation at the University Carlos III in Madrid, and a diploma course on Indigenous Peoples’ Rights with a specific focus on environmental issues at the University Santa Cruz in Bolivia. As a result, trainees produced communications to the UNSRIP and shadow reports to the CERD, engaged in virtual sessions of EMRIP and UNPFII and actively took part in International Indigenous Youth Caucus activities.

“IWGIA’s contribution to the Fellowship on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, which has been carried out by the Human Rights Institute of the University of Deusto for more than 22 years, is fundamental for training on Indigenous Peoples’ rights and for political strategy for a better implementation of Indigenous Peoples’ rights, because IWGIA has deep knowledge and extensive experience in the protection, defense and development of the rights of Indigenous Peoples throughout the global village.”

DR. ASIER MARTÍNEZ DE BRINGAS, PROFESSOR IN CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, FACULTY OF LAW, COORDINATOR OF THE OHCHR INDIGENOUS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DEUSTO

Challenges and lessons learned

IWGIA focused on lobbying international mechanisms to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples and recognise their rights. But sometimes our joint efforts were in vain. For example, at the 44th session of the WHC, IWGIA advocated for deferring the Committee’s decision to list the Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (KKFC) in Thailand as a World Heritage site until the human rights concerns documented by the Karen communities affected had been resolved. The request was supported by IWGIA, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the OHCHR. Unfortunately, the WHC ignored the pleas of Indigenous Peoples, IWGIA, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international institutions and the KKFC site was added to the list despite well documented human rights violations. We will of course keep on monitoring the situation and sustain our efforts towards the WHC so they take into account Indigenous Peoples’ Rights in all their decisions.
Engagement highlights

The IACHR adopted the IACHR-IWGIA joint thematic report, “Right to Self-Determination of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples”. The report highlights that Indigenous Peoples of the Americas have the fundamental right to self-determination, which encompasses the right to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. In preparation of the report, IWGIA provided technical support for the legal research and coordinated the organisation of 16 virtual dialogues attended by 260 Indigenous representatives from all over Latin America who fed into the content of the report. In addition, States, Indigenous organisations and civil society organisations sent information on the subject through a questionnaire. The report is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

“The IACHR thematic report on the Right to Self-Determination of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples is an important milestone as it marks the first time the IACHR comprehensively addresses that content and scope of this right. The report underscores the fundamental importance of this right to the enjoyment of individual and collective rights of Indigenous and tribal peoples. The report is part of the strategic plan of the IACHR Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which includes making visible the practices, experiences and challenges these peoples face in the recognition and exercise of this right. With this report, the right of self-determination will be an important framework to analyze cases and situations affecting Indigenous Peoples.”

LEONARDO ALVARADO, LAWYER AND EXPERT IN INTERNATIONAL LAW ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
2021 in numbers

186 Indigenous representatives and activists attended trainings supported by IWGIA on how to use international human rights mechanisms.

865 Indigenous representatives and supportive experts, including members of international and regional mechanisms, engaged with international and regional mechanisms processes by participating in sessions, dialogues and side events organized by IWGIA and/or submitting communication and statements with the support of IWGIA.

Through the Indigenous Navigator, 44 pilot projects were carried out in 10 countries. These projects were based on community-generated data and with a focus on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level.
**Programme highlights**

The Government of India halted a discriminatory draft development regulation as a result of interventions by IWGIA and the Indigenous Lawyers Association of India (ILAI). IWGIA and ILAI wrote an urgent request to the CERD to intervene against the Indian government to immediately withdraw the illegal and arbitrary “Draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation (LDAR) 2021”. This regulation would have given the Administrator of the Union Territory of India – the representative of the Central Government – sweeping, arbitrary and unchecked powers to grab the lands of the Lakshadweep Scheduled Tribes (Indigenous Peoples), thus having the potential to destroy the Indigenous community and the ecology of the archipelago. The LDAR proposed changes in existing land ownership and usage legislation which would have directly interfered with the islanders’ right to possess and retain their property. It would have empowered the government to select any land for development activities including the building and infrastructure of large buildings and allowing extractive operations.

As a follow-up to the IWGIA-ILAI urgent request, the CERD made an official communication to the Government of India requesting them to provide information on the measures they would adopt to fully and adequately guarantee the right to consultation and to fulfil the requirement of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of the Scheduled Tribes, as well as on any steps taken to consider suspending the adoption of the LDAR or withdrawing it until such consultations take place and consent is obtained.

IWGIA, through the global Indigenous Navigator project, supported numerous pilot projects developed and carried out by Indigenous communities based on their visions for their self-determined development. One such project, the “Maji Moto Community Integrated Well-being and Tenure Security Project” project, aimed at improving access and quality of maternity health care services to the Maji Moto community through the construction of a maternity ward and training on birth attendance, reproductive health with a focus on reducing the rate of maternal and newborn mortality. The project, carried out by the Maasai people in Maji Moto community in Narok county, Kenya with the Indigenous Livelihood Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), triggered interest from the County Government and it is currently fully operational after the community has willingly fully handed over the facility to the County Government, which now supports the facility with basic medical supplies and a nurse. There have been over 45 successful deliveries in the facilities so far. The project has contributed to strengthening the partnership between the sub-county health department, the community and ILEPA.

“The LDAR has the potential to threaten the survival of Indigenous Peoples in Lakshadweep and this is a successful example of cooperation between local (ILAI) and international organisations (IWGIA) to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

Santosh Chakma, Director, Indigenous Lawyers Association of India (ILAI)
Through this project, the community exercised its right to self-determination and there was a robust consultative process where the community identified and developed the project based on their own priorities and solutions. Community members engaged in every step, from problem identification to actual implementation, contributing to the community’s ownership of the project. Indigenous Navigator projects aim at promoting Indigenous Peoples’ human development and social inclusion in the context of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

IWGIA organized two virtual workshops where Indigenous representatives discussed and agreed on the development of an Indigenous Peoples’ Roadmap for the next 10 years of the UN Guiding Principles (UNGP). As a direct contribution to the work of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights on the UNGP+10, IWGIA also organized a dialogue between 4 members of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (UNWGBHR) and 78 Indigenous representatives to discuss the draft roadmap. The workshops and dialogue were an opportunity for IWGIA to also present its publication: “The UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples: Progress achieved, the implementation gap and challenges for the next Decade”. One of the key findings of the publication is that that there is a vast gap between policies and declarations, on the one hand, and practice on the ground, on the other. Crucially, the publication highlights that Indigenous Peoples themselves have been the key drivers of change over the last decade. They have achieved this positive change through the development and implementation of their own autonomous governments and protocols for Free, Prior Informed Consent processes. IWGIA’s publication and the draft Indigenous Peoples’ Roadmap has been used by the UNWGBHR in the development of the overall UNGP10+ Roadmap, setting out key action areas for the road ahead and for progressively getting closer to fulfilling the realisation of the UNGP.
Territorial Governance

Indigenous territorial self-government or autonomy is an exercise in self-determination. IWGIA’s Territorial Governance programme reinforces the creation and consolidation of Indigenous self-governance and autonomy. It promotes dialogue with national authorities and international human rights mechanisms for the recognition of Indigenous governments and supports their articulation of diverse autonomous experiences.

Our work in 2021

IWGIA worked directly with Indigenous authorities and organisations in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, helping them with technical expertise in developing and managing territorial management plans for the territories under their control. We also supported Indigenous authorities and organisations in Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Malaysia and Indonesia in organising self-determined consultation processes and developing protocols for projects affecting their territories.

We maintained our cooperation with already established autonomies, such as the Territorial Government of the Wampis in Peru, the Autonomous Government of the Charagua in Bolivia, and the Indigenous Government of the Arhuaco and the Wayuu in Colombia; and worked towards the development of new Indigenous autonomies with the Territorial Government of the Awajún in Peru, the Harakambut community in Peru and the Indigenous Multi-ethnic Territory in Bolivia. We also initiated partnerships with Indigenous organisations in Malaysia and Indonesia to develop management protocols for communal resources, such as water, forests and hunting grounds.

IWGIA is replicating its experiences and knowledge acquired in the Latin America region to Asia and Africa, organising exchanges and dialogues between our Asia regional partner, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the Wampis nation from Peru, for example. IWGIA also supported community-based initiatives in Malaysia and Indonesia to develop their own protocols providing external actors with a framework to meet the communities on a respectful and constructive platform. Finally, IWGIA facilitated a series of dialogues on experiences around Free, Prior and Informed Consent in North Africa, Central Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa in collaboration with expert members of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa. The findings will be published in 2022.

Challenges and lessons learned

Outmigration (or a desire to migrate), particularly among youth, is an important challenge. Limited opportunities for education and employment, together with more attractive activities and opportunities in cities, means that a growing number of Indigenous youth find it difficult to stay or return to their communities. Moreover, lack of attention to the value of Indigenous territory in the state-funded education system further corrodes the connection between Indigenous youth and their communities and ancestral territories. IWGIA places special emphasis on the inclusion of Indigenous youth in all possible activities especially through communication initiatives and by involving them in autonomous processes.
Engagement highlights

IWGIA supports Radio Wampis in Peru. Radio is an essential tool for nation-building in the Wampis nation as its approximately 15,000 inhabitants are spread over a vast territory of 1.3 million hectares that has no roads and is divided by a river. Radio therefore connects all the Wampis nation communities, keeping the whole nation informed about the most important decisions of its government. Youth are highly involved in the radio programme as producers and communicators, giving them an important role in Wampis nation-building.

IWGIA published the book Perú: Las esterilizaciones forzadas, en la década del terror acompañaando la batalla de las mujeres por la verdad, la justicia y las reparaciones in Spanish edited by anthropologist Alberto Chirif. More than 270,000 women and 22,000 men are recorded as having been sterilized as part of a reproductive health programme under Alberto Fujimori’s government (1996-2000). The book analyzes the national and international context in which the forced sterilizations were carried out and brings forward testimonies from women from various part of Peru. You can also see IWGIA’s film “Forced sterilizations: A path to justice” and listen to Radio Encuentro’s podcast: Esterilizaciones Forzadas: Un paso hacia la justicia y reparación on this issue.
IWGIA supports the process of consolidation of 5 already-established Indigenous autonomies.

IWGIA is engaged in 7 ongoing initiatives towards Indigenous autonomy.

IWGIA supports 11 partners /communities that are in the process of developing or implementing strategies for the recognition and management of their territories.

Programme highlights

In Bolivia, in the Charagua region, 20 Guarani students graduated from the Indigenous school of journalism in 2021. IWGIA facilitated the training of Indigenous Guarani youth in media at the journalism school where students are trained in audiovisual production and the methodology of media production. This important education has brought Indigenous youth up to speed with modern technologies and helps them acquire recognition before Indigenous authorities, hence opening up the path for their participation in decision-making processes. The project received full endorsement from local and national authorities and has been featured in national media. Graduates receive official certificates approved by the Ministry of Education. IWGIA also signed an inter-institutional agreement with the Agro-Environmental Court of Bolivia and facilitated training for judges in Indigenous Peoples’ rights. Through this agreement the court, which is involved in environmental and land conflicts affecting Indigenous communities, was able to address 69 cases of land invasions, specifically in the autonomous territory of Charagua, by collecting relevant information, building up the cases and bringing it to the attention of the court.
IWGIA also supported the development of the natural resource management plan for Bolivia’s Indigenous Multi-ethnic Territory (TIM territory). The development of the plan, which includes comprehensive environmental research and a plan of action, is an important step required by the formal process towards the achievement of Indigenous autonomy, fully recognized by the government. The community will start implementing the plan in 2022 and full recognition of the autonomy by the government is expected by the end of 2022.

In Peru, IWGIA supported the launch of the autonomy process of the Awajún people, who have prepared a draft of their autonomy statutes (constitution) as a first step towards the formal establishment of the Indigenous government. The Awajún government represents a people of approximately 70,000 members with roots in four departments: Amazonas, San Martin, Loreto and Cajamarca. In December 2021, the Awajún people held a large assembly to form the Awajún Autonomous Territorial Government (GTAA). The Awajún government elected Gil Inoach Shawit as its first leader, a well-known leader and lawyer with a long history in the Peruvian Indigenous movement who served two terms as president of the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDESEP). IWGIA facilitated experience sharing with the Autonomous Territorial Government of the Wampis Nations and linked Awajún leaders to a broader network of technical specialists on the autonomy process.

“IWGIA’s support has been crucial for the titling of indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon and in the current process of consolidating the autonomy of the Awajún people.”

GIL INOACH, PRESIDENT OF THE AWAJÚN AUTONOMOUS TERRITORY
### 2021 Finance

#### Where did the funds come from?*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>DKK ('000)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Danish public funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>International public funds</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Donations, memberships, other</td>
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* Cash income only

#### What did we spend the funds on?

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Land Defence and Defenders</td>
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<td>Territorial Governance</td>
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<td>Global Governance</td>
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<td>Cross cutting activities</td>
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<td>Operating expenses</td>
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#### Where did the funds go?**

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<th>Region</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>International activities**</td>
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<td>Asia</td>
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<td>Africa</td>
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<td>Latin America</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** International activities include projects and work with partners on the ground in multiple countries, linking up to global processes, such as our work with the Indigenous Navigator.
Support us; Get involved

Indigenous Peoples are exposed to gross human rights violations every day. By supporting us you are choosing to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples all over the world through our work.

No matter whether you donate, become an IWGIA member, subscribe to our newsletter or follow us on and spread our messages on social media, we are grateful for your support.
Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge all the valuable individuals and groups who have made our work in 2021 possible through their various ways of support.

We thank:

• our partners for their continued commitment and integral support;
• our members for their financial and operational support;
• our volunteers and students for their dedication and time;
• The Indigenous World authors, who year-after-year voluntarily contribute their expertise into this one-of-a-kind documentation tool;
• our network and alliances for their invaluable resources, time and energy;
• international institutions and mechanisms for their support and creating a platform for change;
• academics and experts for their knowledge and insights;
• our individual donors for their generous donations; and
• our project and institutional donors listed below for their financial support.