



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022



# Introduction

## *Focusing on gender and climate*

The world opened up in 2022 as the effects of COVID-19 abated and humanity's protection against the virus increased but it also began to grapple with a number of other factors that led to 2022 being, in many ways, a more difficult year than 2021. Russia's war on Ukraine and a food crisis of unprecedented proportions, alongside prolonged and deadly droughts and the other effects of climate change, as well as inflation affecting many national economies, have harmed marginalised groups of society the most, including Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous women and girls. This is why we decided to focus on gender and climate in our work in 2022.

In times of a global climate and biodiversity crisis, focusing on the protection of nature is crucial. Scientific studies show that Indigenous Peoples are among the most effective guardians of nature. This has fortunately been recognised by a number of international processes, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The actual implementation of conservation efforts globally tells a different story, however, one in which the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples are mostly ignored.

Some international processes have also recognised the unique role Indigenous women and girls play in their communities and the world. After nearly 20 years of collective actions and advocacy across the 7 socio-cultural regions of the world, the Indigenous women's movement succeeded in getting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to develop and adopt a specific recommendation on Indigenous women and girls in 2022: General Recommendation 39 (GR39).

GR39 promotes the voices of Indigenous women and girls as agents of change and leaders both inside and outside their communities and addresses the different forms of intersectional discrimination frequently committed by State and non-State actors. It furthermore recognises Indigenous women's key role as leaders, knowledge holders and transformers of culture within their families, villages and communities. GR39 comes at a time when Indigenous women



The Indigenous Peoples delegation from Asia, many of whom are IWGIA partners, at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) COP 15 in Montreal, Canada. CREDIT: Kathrin Wessendorf / IWGIA

and girls need as much protection as possible as they continue to suffer from intersectional violence and discrimination at the hands of aggressors.

## *Supporting the Indigenous movement in 2022*

In 2022, alongside 44 partners, IWGIA achieved important results under its 4 programme areas in 21 countries aimed at promoting, protecting and defending Indigenous Peoples' rights. These achievements include:

- engaging with climate change policies in 3 countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa, as well as at the international level with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and COP 27, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and COP 15, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) (Read more in our Climate Change section on page 10);
- reporting on, monitoring and protesting against Indigenous Peoples' human rights violations in 18 countries of the Arctic, Africa, Asia and Latin America (read more in our Land Defence and Defenders section on page 14);
- advancing toward full recognition of Indigenous autonomies in 7 countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia and at the regional level in Latin America (read more in our Territorial Governance section on page 18);

- engaging, with partners, in 13 international and regional human rights mechanisms by organising sessions, dialogues and side events as well as submitting communications and inputs to reports (read more in our Global Governance section on page 23).

We documented Indigenous Peoples' rights through 79 publications, podcasts and videos/streams, including publication of the 36th edition of *The Indigenous World*, which was downloaded almost 23,000 times in English and 9,000 times in Spanish in 2022 alone. We also documented Indigenous Peoples' rights and struggles and IWGIA's activities in 144 articles, statements and appeals, including through our monthly magazine *Debates Indígenas* (Indigenous Debates) and continued our work with the academic world by engaging with 8 universities. Many of these materials are documented and linked throughout this report.

We also increased our media outreach in English, Spanish and Danish, as well as in other languages, and furthermore expanded into other regions, being featured in the press over 120 times in 2022. Key topics focused on our engagement, and that of Indigenous Peoples, in climate actions at both COP 27 and COP 15.

In Denmark, we worked with Operation Dagsværk on the fundraising campaign for the project that was selected by the high school students' organisation in the autumn of 2021. This fruitful cooperation not only provided us with a platform for good visibility of Indigenous Peoples' rights and role in climate actions but also inspired a number of young Danish activists to further engage with Indigenous Peoples and closely follow IWGIA's work.

## ***Solidifying funding, implementing strategies and adapting***

IWGIA continued to have a strong focus on fundraising and diversifying our sources of funding. In 2022, IWGIA collaborated with 13 different donors (governments, foundations and multilateral agencies) by means of 20 grants.

2022 marked the first year of implementation of *IWGIA's Gender Strategy 2021 - 2025*. We thus devoted the thematic focus of *The Indigenous World 2022* to the many examples of progress that Indigenous women and girls have accomplished, as well as the numerous challenges they continue to face (read more in our Indigenous Women section on page 28).

2022 also marked the second year of implementation of our *Institutional Strategy 2021 - 2025* and of our Key Implementation Plan (KIP). The KIP provides an overview of our main quantitative and qualitative results on a yearly basis. It is based on data collected through various sources of information, including the Indigenous Navigator, *The Indigenous World*, as well as reports from our monitoring visits and partners (read more in our Data Generation and Analysis section on page 32).

## ***Board and staff changes***

In the Secretariat, we were happy to welcome our new Head of Finance and Operations, Frank Lausten, who joined the team in November 2022. Frank has strengthened our finance and administration team considerably, coming from similar positions in NGOs and with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the end of 2022, we said goodbye to Cathal Doyle who had been an elected IWGIA Board member since 2019. Cathal greatly contributed to our work and ensured that IWGIA involves its members and gives a voice to those actively supporting us.

In the autumn of 2022, Dr Elifuraha Laltaika was elected as our new Board member for the 2023-2025 period. Dr Laltaika is Maasai, from Ngorongoro, Tanzania. He is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Tumaini University Makumira (Arusha, Tanzania).

We are looking forward to another year of engaging closely with Indigenous Peoples all over the world and with our partners, working in solidarity towards our goal of getting Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, territories and resources, and to self-determined development, promoted, respected and protected. 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 with Indigenous Peoples. We thank all those who support us to do so.



**Kathrin Wessendorf**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**Ida Theilade**  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

## Who we are; How we work

IWGIA is a **non-governmental human rights organisation**.

We **promote, protect and defend Indigenous Peoples' collective and individual rights, including the right to self-determination** by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their self-determined economic, social and cultural development.

To us, everything begins with **partnerships**.

We work through a **global network** of partners, first and foremost Indigenous Peoples' own organisations and networks but also support NGOs, academia, international human rights bodies and alliances. Over our more than **50-year history**, IWGIA has built and developed unique, long-standing partnerships with Indigenous Peoples' organisations and networks from all 7 Indigenous socio-cultural regions of the world.

Everything we do is **with and in support of Indigenous Peoples**.

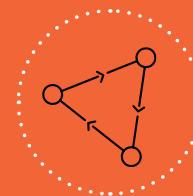
Through our engagement with the Indigenous Peoples' movement around the world, we have learned the importance of **local leadership** and **flexible and agile support**. In close cooperation with our partners, we coordinate, enhance and, when necessary, lead advocacy efforts at national, regional and international levels in pursuit of common objectives within a framework of dialogue, mutual trust, respect and cooperation.

In this way, IWGIA plays a **global, facilitative support role** for Indigenous Peoples and the advancement of their rights.

See our *Institutional Strategy 2021 - 2025* [here](#)



# WE PROMOTE, PROTECT AND DEFEND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS



*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.

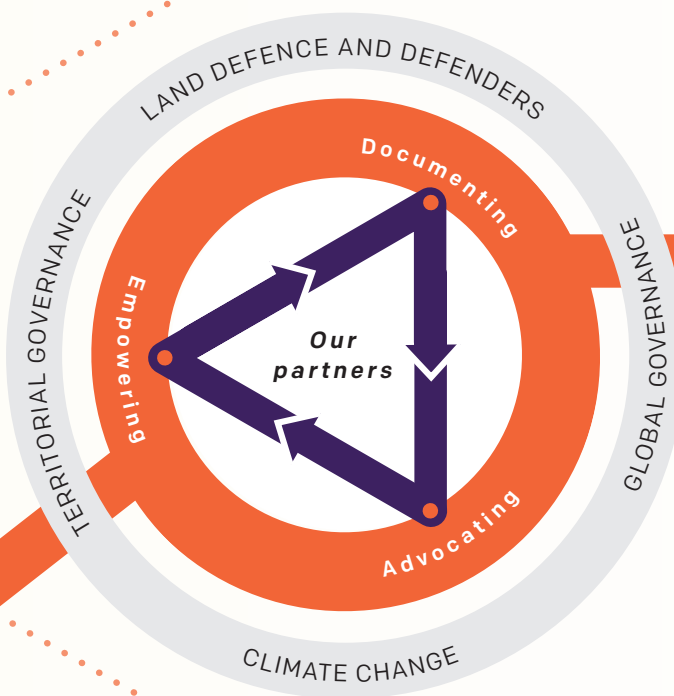


### Empowering

See how, after 2 years of support from IWGIA, the Indigenous authorities of the Multiethnic Indigenous Territory in Bolivia finalised their Plan for Natural Resource Management and Autonomous Control, a milestone to being recognised as an Indigenous autonomous government, page 19

### Documenting

See how documenting violations in Loliondo, Tanzania has contributed to the release of 24 Maasai community leaders and members who were facing murder charges, page 15



### Our vision

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



### Advocating

See how Indigenous Peoples' engagement in the APAC provided them with an outstanding opportunity to promote and advocate for respect and protection of their rights in the context of conservation laws, policies and programmes in Africa and to highlight their contribution to global biodiversity conservation, page 24

### Our core ambition

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

# The Indigenous World

IWGIA published *The Indigenous World 2022* in English and Spanish. This yearly overview serves to document and report on the developments Indigenous Peoples have experienced throughout 2021.

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 37 consecutive years since 1986.

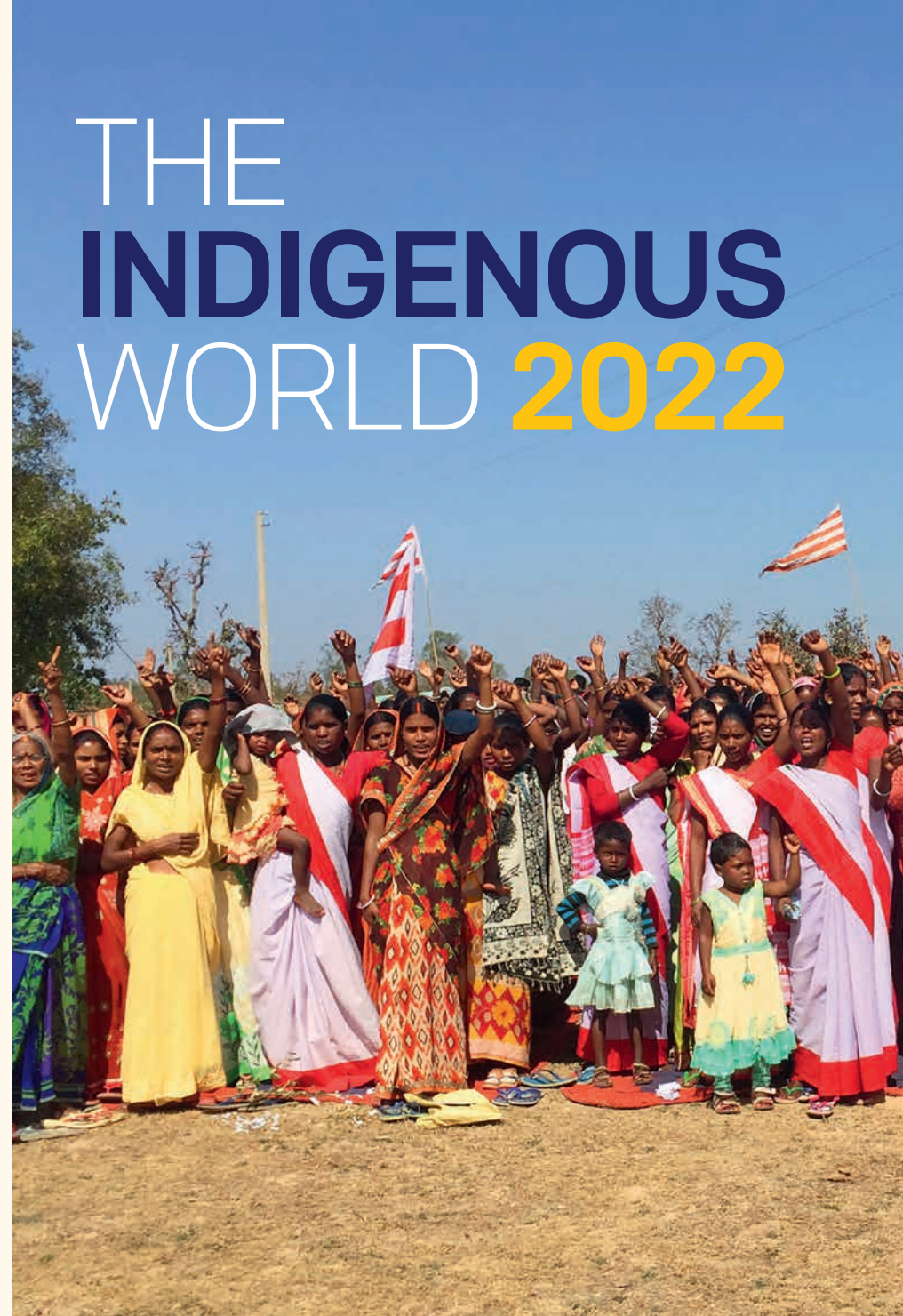
It is internationally recognised as a unique monitoring tool and widely used by Indigenous Peoples, multilateral organisations, governments, development practitioners, academics and donors, serving as a quick and easy reference point for policy input to State officials, diplomatic missions, and officials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

The 2022 edition includes 81 articles (60 countries and 21 processes) with a special focus on the contribution and situation of Indigenous women and the rights around the world. Since its launch, the 2022 edition has been downloaded more than 28,000 times in English and 10,000 times in Spanish. The book was launched at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York.



*"The Indigenous World is an invaluable resource on the state of Indigenous Peoples' rights around the world. I regularly use it to inform my own understanding as well as recommend it to my students." – Fleur Te Aho (Ngāti Mutunga), Senior Lecturer, Auckland Law School, University of Auckland*

# THE INDIGENOUS WORLD 2022



Indigenous Women stand up and take the lead in the land rights struggle of their community in Jharkhand, India. CREDIT: Signe Leth / IWGIA



*Indigenous Peoples in 2022\**

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 (ILO)



*Our work in 2022*

**21** COUNTRIES

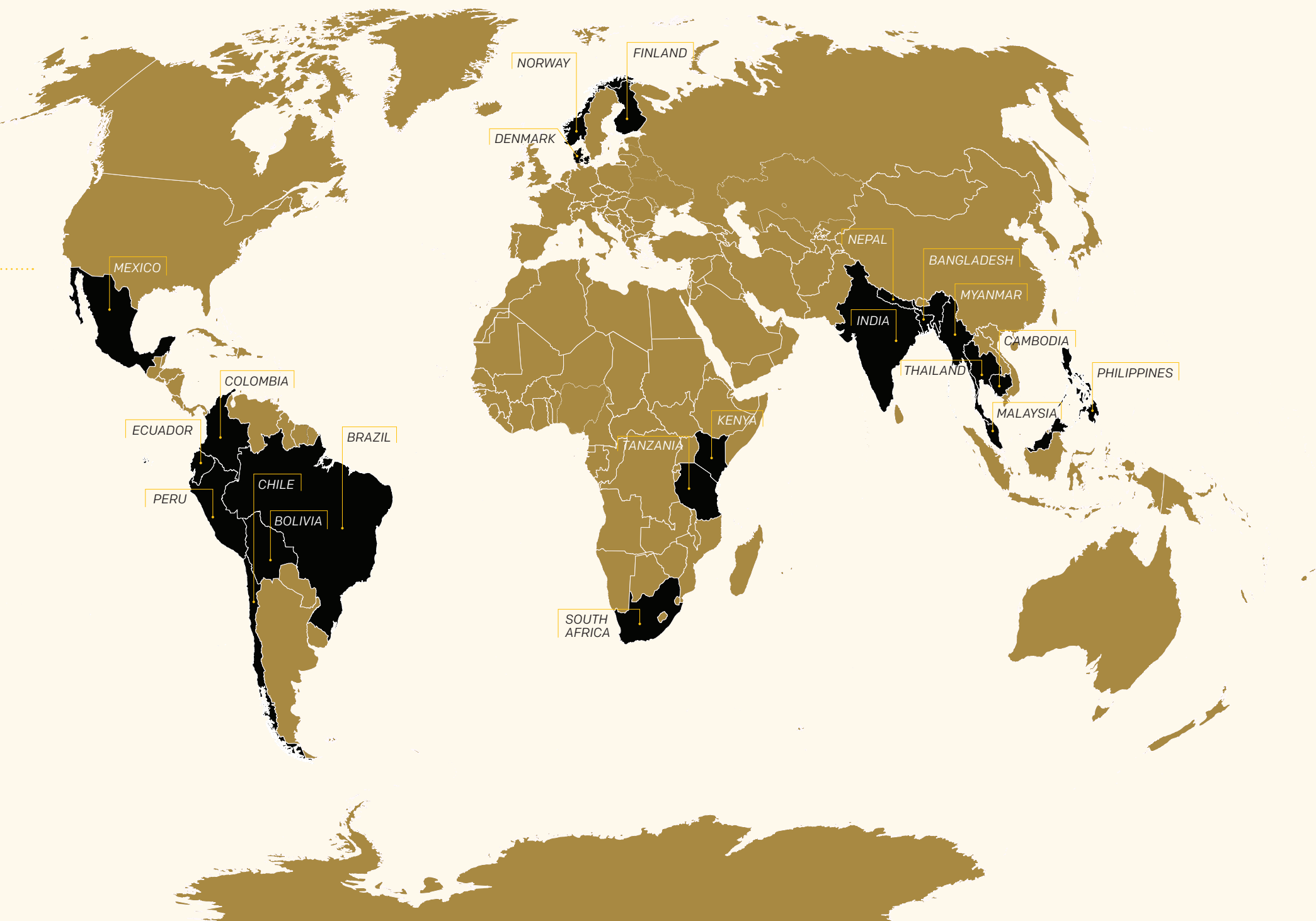
**44** PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

**17** INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES

**8** UNIVERSITIES

**7** ALLIANCES

**79** 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 of climate action, on Indigenous Peoples' rights is promptly addressed and remedied, while simultaneously guaranteeing that Indigenous Peoples themselves are recognised as key actors in climate governance.

## ***Monitoring recognition of Indigenous Peoples and their rights in climate policies and projects: Challenges and lessons learned***

Climate finance continues to grow, and many climate projects are being implemented on Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) established by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has been in operation since 2015 and is the world's largest dedicated multilateral climate fund. The GCF provides finance to projects in developing countries for climate adaptation and mitigation actions. As such, GCF projects have the potential to bring positive change provided that Indigenous Peoples are consulted and engaged in their design and implementation.



Preparatory meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus at COP 27 in Egypt. CREDIT: Stefan Thorsell / IWGIA

The reality, however, is that many projects that are financed by the GCF and other climate funds still fail to do so. Without obtaining the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the Indigenous Peoples affected, these projects risk violating their rights. This is not only a matter of preventing harm. This also places the very projects at risk because, without ensuring that Indigenous Peoples are on board and have ownership, these projects are likely to fail to meet their climate objectives. In 2022, IWGIA and the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), in cooperation with several Indigenous Peoples' organisations, drafted and submitted comprehensive inputs to the draft GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards.

It is crucial for IWGIA and our partners to continue monitoring climate finance flows – from green development projects, such as renewable energy, to carbon credit initiatives – as many of these investments are placing increasing pressure on Indigenous Peoples' land and resources and, paradoxically, do not address some of the root causes of the climate crisis, such as overproduction and consumption.

# 14

IWGIA and its partners promoted **14 Indigenous-led actions for national climate policy.**

# 26

IWGIA and its partners promoted **26 Indigenous-led actions for international climate policy.**

# 25%

By the end of 2022, **25% of approved GCF projects** in IWGIA's partner countries Nepal, Peru and Tanzania were complying with the GCF Indigenous Peoples' Policy.

Key international climate and biodiversity processes took place in 2022, namely: COP 27 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Egypt in November, and COP 15 under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) held in Canada in December.

While both COPs failed to result in the necessary ambition to rapidly and effectively reverse the climate and biodiversity crises, there were small wins that offer slim hopes for the future. A new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was agreed at UNCBD COP 15 in order to lead global efforts to address and reverse the biodiversity crisis through to 2030, and principles for a long-awaited fund for addressing loss and damage caused by the effects of climate change in the global south were agreed at UNFCCC COP 27. This leaves a lot of crucial room for IWGIA and our partners to monitor and influence how these efforts and principles will be operationalised in a way that respects Indigenous Peoples' rights while addressing climate risks.

It will be of particular importance to pay attention to key targets such as classifying 30% of lands and seas as "protected areas" by 2030, as stated in the new CBD Framework. While such targets show States' willingness to take necessary action to address the biodiversity crisis, and are important for future survival, they could also be used as excuses for governments to criminalise Indigenous Peoples and their lifeways and evict them from their territories in the name of conservation and protection. This is also why safeguarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples was key to 2022 negotiations, as you can read in further sections.

### ***Safeguarding rights in global climate and biodiversity negotiations***

In 2022, as COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, Indigenous Peoples and IWGIA engaged in global climate and biodiversity processes and negotiations to advocate for the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge.

At both the UNFCCC COP 27 and UNCBD COP 15, Indigenous Peoples' rights were, to a certain extent, recognised and protected in what was agreed.

It is indeed the result of successful advocacy by Indigenous Peoples that governments are now obliged to safeguard their rights in relevant biodiversity and climate policy formulation and implementation at the national and sub-



Preparatory meeting of Indigenous Peoples of Africa for COP 27 in Chad.  
CREDIT: Stefan Thorsell / IWGIA

national level. In both processes, although only States have decision-making power, Indigenous Peoples from all seven socio-cultural regions engaged actively in advocacy for the protection of their rights and recognition of their environmental stewardship in these agreements.

IWGIA supported these advocacy efforts through multiple analyses, publications and submissions co-authored by Indigenous Peoples' representatives. Jointly with Indigenous partner organisations, we organised side events that facilitated dialogues between Indigenous representatives, government officials and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Climate Change.

In preparation for COP 27, Indigenous Peoples from Africa organised a meeting in October in Chad to strategise on how to engage in the upcoming global climate talks in Egypt. The preparatory meeting was organised by the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT), with support from IWGIA who also attended the meeting.

In Egypt, at the COP, IWGIA further supported the organisation of the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) global preparatory meeting, in which more than 200 Indigenous representatives from around the world participated to ensure strategic engagement and advocacy of Indigenous voices at the COP. IWGIA also supported the travel arrangements of eight influential Indigenous representatives, including four Indigenous women activists, in order to attend the COP and engage in advocacy.



*“Those in power must listen to, care for and understand those who are the guardians of the planet and ecosystem engineers – the Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples’ way of living and our traditional knowledge are crucial to the profound change needed to overcome the climate and biodiversity crises. Partners like IWGIA, who are always available and loyal to support the Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus at the UNFCCC, help contribute to our effective advocacy at the global climate negotiations. We will continue to claim our rights and put forward our demands in climate governance as well as continue to act effectively on the ground.” Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Co-Chair of the IIPFCC and Director of AFPAT*

## **Impacting global climate finance processes**

The Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG) of the GCF was operationalised in 2022. This was the result of years of consistent advocacy by IWGIA and our partners, leading to the GCF Indigenous Peoples’ Policy in 2018 and now the operationalisation of the IPAG, which held its first meeting in September 2022.

IPAG membership includes close IWGIA partners, one of whom is Tunga Bhadra Rai of the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN), which plays an official advisory role at the GCF. NEFIN also continues to be a watchdog of GCF projects being implemented in Nepal and speaks out when accredited GCF entities design and implement projects on Indigenous land while failing to obtain the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples. In 2022, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, an accredited GCF entity, recognised NEFIN’s expertise and asked them to lead the consultation process with Indigenous Peoples for a new GCF project. This is a positive step but NEFIN will continue monitoring the project to ensure that it continues to engage with Indigenous Peoples.

In Peru, Indigenous Peoples developed recommendations and a set of minimum standards for their engagement in national GCF processes. The process was coordinated by Perú Equidad, the National Organisation of Andean and Amazonian Women in Peru (ONAMIAP), the Quechua Indigenous Federation of Pastaza (FEDIQUEP), the San Pablo de Tipishca Conservation Association (ACODECOSPAT), the Kichwa Organisation of Alto Tigre Peru-Ecuador Border (OPIKAFPE) and the Achuar Federation of Corrientes (FECONACOR), together with IWGIA. The recommendations were validated by the communities and published in a report: The Green Climate Fund in Peru:

Indigenous organisations’ recommendations for improving safeguards. They were further presented to the Ministry of Economy and Finance – the national designated authority for the GCF in Peru –, the Ministry of Environment, and relevant accredited GCF entities with the aim of institutionalising a formal permanent space for the coordination and consultation of Indigenous Peoples on the GCF. The advocacy efforts were championed by the Indigenous women leaders of ONAMIAP, exemplifying the important role of Indigenous women in climate governance.

The findings and recommendations from the Peru report have also been useful for the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) as they relate to how this key accountability facility can ensure effective reviews of cases such as that of GCF project FP001 in Peru: Building the Resilience of Wetlands in the Province of Datem del Marañón. The IRM has received some of the recommendations around case investigations, including the importance of the IRM conducting field visits and meeting with Indigenous Peoples.

## **Supporting youth climate activists in Malaysia and Thailand**

In 2022, IWGIA and Operation Dagsværk (OD) launched the project: Fight with the Forest Guardians. The project supports young climate activists and forest defenders in Malaysia and Thailand. OD is an initiative whereby Danish high school students select a project they want to support with fundraising and campaigning.

It was great to see a significant interest in Indigenous Peoples’ issues among Danish youth. In addition to the high school campaign, IWGIA produced 8 videos for social media. The campaign, which received wide media attention across various platforms in Denmark, focused on Indigenous youth fighting for their rights and their forest. The cooperation with the young secretariat in OD was mutually inspiring and resulted in the creation of a youth volunteer group in IWGIA comprising 15 young women and men. IWGIA’s winning project is being implemented with our partners, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), PACOS Trust in Malaysia and IMPECT in Thailand. Through the OD campaign, our partner in Malaysia had the opportunity to come to Denmark to present the work of PACOS Trust, as well as to talk about the lives, culture and experiences of her community to high school students around the country.



Indigenous youth from Thailand and Malaysia stage a protest during a workshop with young volunteers from Denmark. CREDIT: Signe Leth / IWGIA

*"I think what inspired me the most about working with the youth of OD and Denmark was the solidarity shown to us. I am very touched by how the volunteers were very enthusiastic in learning about our issues and they worked very hard to prepare the materials and go from school to school for the campaign. What was also interesting for me was how our Indigenous youth initially did not consider themselves as climate change activists as they do not go out and protest and such. But when they shared about their practices in their community and the local actions they have been doing, they realised that they are actually activists themselves. I hope the project will continue to inspire our Indigenous youth in Malaysia and in Thailand, and more people will support our movement." Junia Anilik, Pacos Trust*



## Enhancing participation in climate governance

In 2021-2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the global scientific body under the UNFCCC, published its long-awaited 6th Assessment Report to follow up on its previous assessment report published back in 2014. In February 2022, the IPCC published the Working Group 2 report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability to climate change and, in April 2022, the IPCC released the Working Group 3 report on Mitigation of Climate Change.



In response to both reports, IWGIA, the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), NEFIN and PINGO's Forum presented two joint briefing notes analysing the findings of the IPCC reports concerning Indigenous Peoples: Recognising the contributions of Indigenous Peoples in global climate action? An analysis of the IPCC report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability and A new paradigm of climate partnership with Indigenous Peoples: An analysis of the recognition of Indigenous Peoples in the IPCC report on mitigation. The briefing notes also propose a series of recommendations to government to enhance Indigenous Peoples' participation in national and international climate governance.

You can also read our article on the IPCC in The Indigenous World 2023.

## Mapping recognition of Indigenous Peoples in governments' climate commitments

In partnership with Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars, IWGIA published the policy paper "Recognition of Indigenous Peoples in Nationally Determined Contributions" which maps governments' climate commitments under the Paris Agreement, known as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and analyses the degree to which they recognise Indigenous Peoples' rights in climate governance. The policy paper serves as an input to the Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement, which must also take global stock of the level of recognition of Indigenous Peoples and their rights in global climate action. It is worth noting that, even though the number of references related to Indigenous Peoples in the NDCs are increasing, questions remain as to the standards of this recognition. Sufficient and appropriate mechanisms are not yet in place to operationalise this recognition. Parties must therefore make more significant efforts to ensure that the NDCs take a rights-based approach and contribute to strengthening Indigenous Peoples' role and say in climate governance.

# Land Defence and Defenders



Indigenous Peoples are losing their lands every day, and this 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.

## Defending Indigenous Peoples' land rights: Challenges and lessons learned

2022 was a very difficult year for many of our partners. They experienced intimidation and harassment from governments, military forces and companies. Some of them were arrested, others had to flee their countries, and far too many felt insecure while defending Indigenous Peoples' rights to land and natural resources.

In Tanzania, some of our partner organisations' staff had to leave the country for several months because they had been outspoken about the eviction in Loliondo and felt at risk. The overall tense situation in the northern part of the country made it difficult for them to carry out their activities as usual. Read more about the Loliondo evictions in our first programme highlight on the next page: Fighting evictions in Tanzania.



Indigenous Peoples protest in front of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) in Kalinga, Philippines. CREDIT: Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA)

In the Philippines, Indigenous Human Rights Defenders are coping with huge psychological and emotional consequences from human rights violations. Their families and organisations are dealing with fear and anxiety as a result of attacks by the State and its forces. They are experiencing threats to their safety and security through abduction, red-tagging, surveillance and trumped-up charges. In 2022, one member of our partner organisation, the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), was abducted and only released after being forced to sign a document stating that he would cooperate with Philippine security agents.

19

IWGIA provided direct support to **19 Indigenous Peoples' organisations** in claiming their rights to lands, territories and natural resources at national and local levels.

27

IWGIA and our partners **protested 27 land rights violations** and violations against Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines and Tanzania.

5

With our support, Indigenous communities took important steps to ensure land tenure security **in 5 countries:** Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal and Tanzania.

7

IWGIA actively engaged in **7 international and Danish alliances** focusing on land rights and Indigenous human rights defenders.

IWGIA is doing all it can to be there for its partners in these terrible situations. With our support, they have been able to further build their leadership and movements at local, national and international levels and to document and advocate on land rights' violations. For our partners who are in immediate danger, as in the Philippines, our support also includes emergency funding for the provision of legal assistance, counselling, accommodation and food during their temporary relocation, as well as for their transport and communication expenses, and some of their medical needs. This emergency assistance provided them with immediate relief and helped to prevent even worse cases of human rights violations that could have happened to them. Having this flexibility of funding is key in the fight for Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, territories and natural resources, and is increasingly needed while Indigenous Peoples face further losses as the world grapples with simultaneous, multiple crises.

## ***Fighting evictions in Tanzania***

Forced evictions of Indigenous Peoples in Tanzania in the name of conservation, often carried out violently and with little to no notice, continued in 2022. IWGIA and our partners joined forces to protest these violent evictions of Maasai pastoralists in Loliondo where land was taken to establish a Game Reserve. The concerted efforts of IWGIA, partners and other allies contributed to increased international attention on the situation, solidarity and sustained national and international level advocacy, despite government efforts to silence any media from reporting on the evictions.

One of the major results achieved from the continuous joint advocacy was that the High Court of Arusha ordered the release of 24 Maasai community leaders and members who were facing murder charges for the death of a police officer on 15 June 2022 during a protest against land dispossession. Unfortunately, the evictions continued, leaving hundreds displaced without any adequate government plan for their relocation.

With IWGIA's support, our partner PINGO's Forum conducted fact-finding missions related to the Loliondo evictions where they gathered information on land and human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples. This information was shared with and used by media and key institutions in Tanzania and at the international level. PINGO's Forum also facilitated visits by journalists to talk with affected communities, resulting in the production of numerous TV and



Maasai pastoralists from Loliondo.

radio programmes and newspaper articles. PINGO's Forum and IWGIA produced policy briefs, petitions and urgent alerts focusing on the situation of Indigenous Peoples in Loliondo. PINGO's Forum further met with 10 embassies in Dar es Salaam, including the embassies of Sweden, Canada and the UK, as well as with religious leaders and members of Parliament to discuss their findings. Moreover, communities were trained on how to use smartphones to take photos with GPS coordinates of the forced evictions and human rights violations they witnessed taking place in Loliondo, and how to post them on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp as a form of "citizen journalism". The information and numerous photos captured by community members were widely shared and led to widespread national and international attention and visibility.

These actions were taken in response to an eviction exercise in June 2022 that was initiated by village executive officers on the orders of the District Executive Director's office with the purpose of establishing a Game Reserve in a 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> area of village land in Loliondo. Several military camps were established in the area with orders to remove the Maasai pastoralists who are the Indigenous inhabitants of the area. The land the Maasai people have been evicted from is legally registered village land. The land dispossession and forced evictions are thus in violation of international law as well as land legislation in Tanzania. Human

rights violations have been committed, including illegal imprisonment, shooting and wounding of people, killing and maiming of livestock, destruction of property, and forced evictions and land dispossession, despite vocal condemnation from the international community and numerous civil society organisations and coalitions.

IWGIA produced two urgent alerts, one in January 2022 and one in June 2022, which have been downloaded over 2,250 times, and wrote one article in July 2022 on the situation in Loliondo. They were widely distributed to UN bodies, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to several embassies in Tanzania.



## Securing Indigenous land in Tanzania

In 2022, IWGIA began a new partnership with the Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) to obtain land tenure security for Indigenous Peoples in Tanzania.

Already in its first year of implementation, two pastoralist villages in Longido district, Elang'ata Dapash and Sokon villages, comprising a total of 9,013 pastoralists (4,651 women and 4,362 men), have secured greater access to and control over 9,333.85 hectares of their land and other related natural resources. Of significant importance is the fact that UCRT provided training to 376 women on policies and laws governing land in Tanzania, and women have been fully participating in the land tenure security process in both villages. IWGIA's partner also supported the 2 villages in establishing land-use management committees and rangeland management committees, and also trained committee members on their roles and responsibilities.

The villages demarcated their boundaries in collaboration with Longido District Council and two village land certificates were prepared and submitted to the office of the Assistant Commissioner of Lands for registration. UCRT, which has good collaboration with Longido District Council and the Ministry of Land and Ministry of Livestock at both the local and national level, facilitated participatory village land-use planning and, alongside community



Presentation and discussion of village land use planning maps in Elang'ata Dapash village. CREDIT: Pi Bjerregaard / IWGIA

members, developed two village land-use planning maps. Both villages drafted a communal Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCROs) and submitted them to the district land officer for registration. This project, which will run until the end of 2023, builds on the provisions of national land legislation in Tanzania, namely the Village Land Act.

It is crucial for Indigenous Peoples in Tanzania to increase their land tenure security as they are increasingly being evicted from their traditional lands due to the establishment and enlargement of conservation areas, sometimes against their own national legislation, as evidenced by the previous programme highlight concerning Loliondo. Their livestock are being seized by park rangers when grazing in their traditional grazing lands and returned to them only if they pay high fines, resulting in increased poverty, insecurity and fear among Indigenous communities. This is coupled with a prolonged and severe drought that has left Indigenous Peoples in a very precarious situation.



*"This land rights and rangeland management project, supported by IWGIA, is crucial for strengthening the land tenure security of Indigenous Peoples in Northern Tanzania. By empowering Indigenous communities with knowledge and tools to manage their rangelands and assert their land rights, this project helps ensure their access to and control over the resources essential to their livelihoods and cultural heritage. IWGIA has been key in increasing land size under communal tenure in Northern Tanzania."* Paine Mako, Director, UCRT

## Protesting land-grabbing in Bangladesh

IWGIA's support of the Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum (BIPF) led to the Forest Department halting its land grab of Indigenous Peoples' land in the districts of Sylhet, Modhupur, Mymensingh and Sitakhundu. This is just one of several major achievements BIPF was able to facilitate in 2022.

BIPF helped strengthen the Indigenous youth movement in Bangladesh through their training of 194 students, youth and women on Indigenous Peoples' rights. The training increased their knowledge and skills in campaigning, lobbying and advocacy. As a result of these new skills, they have built a sturdy communication network among students, youth and women from different regions across the country, demonstrating the active role that Indigenous youth can play in raising voices against the violation of Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh.

More practically, the training participants organised more than 10 demonstrations and rallies, and 3 visits to affected Indigenous Peoples' areas to stand in solidarity with victims of violations.

BIPF also organised 11 meetings with other human rights-based organisations to raise the visibility of Indigenous Peoples' issues and organised 10 human chains and mass gatherings at the local and national level.

Major efforts were also undertaken to stop the land-grabbing of the Mro people's land in Bandarban District in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) for the construction of a five-star luxury resort.

BIPF and IWGIA produced and published articles on the eviction threat and land-grabbing of Indigenous Mro land for tourism development projects. Based on information received through these efforts, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, together with other UN special procedures, sent official communications to the Government of Bangladesh and the companies involved in order to stop the human rights violations against the Mro people.

One of the companies responded to the official communication from the UN special rapporteurs stating that they had not yet decided whether or not to invest

in the hotel construction. The Government of Bangladesh and other companies involved have, however, never responded to the communication. The land has not been given back and it is still fenced off, thus denying the Mro access to their ancestral land, which is not only their home but is intrinsically linked to their culture and identity and provides for their livelihood. There have been no further evictions since these interventions. Plans for the hotel construction were made public in late 2020 and the Mro have been facing violations related to this tourism infrastructure project, because of their opposition to it, ever since.

## Documenting human rights abuses

IWGIA and the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) published a report on the human rights violations that took place in Mindat Township, Chin State in Myanmar between April and December 2021. The report documents violations of international humanitarian law, such as the bombing of civilian infrastructure,

including hospitals, use of civilians as human shields, arrests and torture of peaceful protestors, looting and pillaging of rural villages, livelihood destruction and obstruction of aid. The report was produced with the use of eye-witness testimonies as well as photographic, audio/visual and geospatial information. The information collected will be used in various international initiatives seeking to bring the Myanmar junta to court for the violence and countless human rights violations against the civilian and Indigenous population.



*"Human security is extremely in danger because of the massive escalation of political violence and armed conflicts in all Indigenous territories as the consequences of the military coup d'état in Myanmar. Therefore, AIPP & IWGIA have coordinated actions and put utmost efforts into garnering international solidarity to protect the lives of Indigenous Peoples in Myanmar."* Gam Shimray, Secretary General, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

# 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 and models.

## ***Building Indigenous Peoples' autonomies: Challenges and lessons learned***

2022 was an important year for building and strengthening Indigenous territorial governments and autonomies. IWGIA organised a regional seminar in Bolivia to exchange experiences on the challenges related to autonomy-building processes.

The seminar focused on the Latin America region and brought together 22 Indigenous leaders from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Participants highlighted that there was a need to build new capacities and technical skills: for example, on how to become effective governments for their own peoples and continue developing the features of their autonomy. When identifying the way forward, participants stressed the importance of not becoming demoralised given the obstacles they have faced in recent years, and the lack of implementation of an advanced regulatory framework within which to build their autonomies in the region. It is crucial that Indigenous Peoples continue developing their own strategies and models to exercise their autonomy and self-government models, learning from their own and other peoples' experiences.

There are two models of how Indigenous Peoples' autonomies are being built and each one has a number of associated challenges that IWGIA and our partners need to address.

The first model – as is being carried out in Bolivia and Colombia – is when autonomy processes and autonomies are established by means of State regulations, leading to full and official State recognition of the autonomy. The main challenge here is that receiving such recognition takes many years due to its numerous bureaucratic barriers and technically complex and costly process. IWGIA needs to ensure it can remain at its partners' side, providing support in the long-term.

The second model – as is being carried out in Ecuador and Peru – is when autonomies are self-proclaimed by Indigenous Peoples, implementing their own autonomous processes from a perspective based on their own rights and

7

IWGIA supported **7 established Indigenous self-governed territories.**

4

IWGIA was engaged in **4 ongoing initiatives towards Indigenous autonomy.**

11

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

aspirations to govern themselves. In this model, they do not wait or expect the consent of the State to exercise their right to govern themselves. This process is more accessible to Indigenous Peoples but is not officially recognised by the State and, as such, these autonomies do not have the same status as those in Bolivia and Colombia. This has its own different challenges, of course: first and foremost ensuring that these types of autonomies can operate safely, as well as working on the long-term process of gaining broader legitimacy, and building diplomatic bridges with the State, where and as necessary. This, as in the first model, is a long-term challenge that requires concerted and continued support from us.

In Africa and Asia, the self-governance process is in its early stages but very promising in many countries. For example, in Nepal, many communities have started to make demands of their local governments, who have the power to bring laws to promote cultural autonomy by recognising the customary system of government. In Kenya and Tanzania, the self-governance process is rooted in community-driven processes that draw on existing laws providing for community land management. This nevertheless requires a tremendous amount of work to implement and to hold governments accountable to the laws that allow for such processes to develop. IWGIA and our partners are dealing with various models of self-governance, giving us an opportunity to continue to share experiences and technical capacity across regions, as was the case in 2019 in Mexico, in support of autonomy building in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

### ***Moving closer to autonomy in Bolivia***

In 2022, after 2 years of support from IWGIA, the Indigenous authorities of the Multiethnic Indigenous Territory (TIM) in Bolivia finalised and approved their Plan for Natural Resource Management and Autonomous Control (Management Plan); a prerequisite and important step in the long process of becoming officially recognised as an Indigenous autonomous government in Bolivia. The TIM has been in the process of establishing an autonomous Indigenous government since 2010.

Located in an area of high biological and cultural diversity, the TIM comprises five Indigenous Peoples: the Mojeño Trinitario, Mojeño Ignaciano, Yuracaré, T'simane and Movima. The Management Plan was published by IWGIA's partner Oré, with our support.

The Management Plan has had several important effects. The Sub-Central Organisation of Indigenous Councils and Oré were also able to secure the creation of the Loma Santa Conservation Area, an area within the TIM that is being set aside for specific conservation efforts, through a proposal presented to the communal authorities. This was made possible on the basis of the mapping and zoning efforts of the TIM Management Plan, which gives a comprehensive analysis of the environmental, social, economic, political and organisational issues facing the TIM. The plan also divides the territory into six land-use areas and sets out proposed priority actions to be carried out over the next 5 years.



Working on the Management Plan for the natural resources in the Multiethnic Indigenous Territory (TIM) in Bolivia. CREDIT: Andrés Unterladstaetter / IWGIA

A local technical office was set up in San Ignacio de Moxos in order to closely support territorial governance and natural resource management in the TIM. The constant presence of a technical support team enables the territorial authorities and community leaders to request and receive technical support from a team of experts and environmental monitors who will, according to



the plan, eventually become an environmental monitoring unit for the TIM Indigenous Government. For example, a technical inspection was requested in December 2022 in the remote community of Jorori, following allegations of illegal logging. They provided support with technical field data, satellite images, information processing and the preparation of a report that was sent to the Indigenous authorities and State environmental control agencies, leading to the initiation of dialogue between the Indigenous authorities and the State on possible solutions.

“The alliance we have built with IWGIA and Oré has helped us to develop a strong organisational structure in a complex political scenario. With their support, we are striving to consolidate our autonomous government.”

*Reinaldo Guaji Moyé, President, Sub-Central Organisation of Indigenous Councils of the Multiethnic Indigenous Territory (TIM)*

## **Monitoring and managing natural resources in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru**

In Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, Indigenous organisations have increased their capacity to develop monitoring systems with which to manage the natural resources of Indigenous Peoples’ territories, including the documentation of ongoing illegal activities for the purposes of taking legal action and building advocacy. They have also strengthened their political engagement, established a socio-environmental information system on territorial and natural resources and developed mechanisms for the dissemination and use of geospatial information systems (GIS) for forest control, territorial governance and decision-making.

In Bolivia, with IWGIA’s support, the TIM was able to create a geospatial database with satellite images and geographic information, produce technical reports on deforestation and wildland fire mapping, and conduct illegal logging inspections, as well as begin to design a control and surveillance system to monitor illegal activities. They produced eight maps that were handed over to the authorities for further investigation. The authorities and community leaders were also trained in the use of GIS technology, GPS applications and drones.

Preparing a drone to monitor the territory in Multiethnic Indigenous Territory (TIM) in Bolivia. CREDIT: Andrés Unterladstaetter / IWGIA



In Peru, IWGIA supported the Autonomous Territorial Government of the Wampis Nation (GTANW) to produce a geospatial and cartographic database linked to territorial zoning and identified six monitoring focal points to become the communication team of the GTANW. The focal points generated a draft version of the Wampis Territory Surveillance, Control and Monitoring Plan. One of the key results was the identification of an area in the upper Ayambis that was affected by oil spills. This information was shared with the Wampis Nation authorities and presented to local Peruvian government authorities. The oil spill-affected area, pinpointed with satellite imagery from 9 September, was identified in order to provide accurate information to the Wampis authorities so that they could formally present their claims to the State offices and the company responsible: Petroperú. The communication team has also prepared early warning reports on illegal deforestation and gold mining to present to the Wampis authorities, something that is key to determining potentially necessary external action and advocacy.

In Ecuador, IWGIA supported the strengthening of the technical capacity of the Yanayaku community of the Kawsak Sacha Kichwa people for the implementation of their territorial management plans. They identified sensitive areas for restoration, management and community monitoring in the Kupal Pacha micro-watershed of the Gavilán del Anzu community (Anzu River) and in the Yana Jita lagoon of the Yanayaku community (Kawsak Sacha). They gathered the ancestral knowledge, practices and norms of ecosystem management and conservation from the Kawsak Sacha people in the communities of the Anzu River and this was used for the production of territorial management regulations.

### ***Establishing community governance in Kenya***

In Kenya, 5 community land management committees were established in 5 Samburu communities in 2022 in order to secure land rights, community governance and management of community lands. IWGIA supported its partner IMPACT in Samburu County of Northern Kenya in 5 target Samburu pastoralist communities, conducting assessments in each community where inclusion was key as women and youth were involved in the process.

IMPACT collected the relevant information needed to inform their strategy of securing the approval of land-use plans via the application of the Community Land Act. They also organised inception meetings with leaders from the

communities and with County government departments working on environment, water, natural resources and land-use planning issues. Additionally, they trained Community Land Management Committee (CLMC) members (50 men and 25 women) from the 5 communities on their roles in strengthening community land ownership rights and control, and governance of their land and natural resources.

There was a specific focus on strengthening women in land rights and land governance issues and, in 2022, a “Pastoralist Women’s Land Champion Forum” was formed. This forum is currently driven by 26 women champions from Samburu and Marsabit counties. Moreover, IMPACT trained 20 women on property rights, ownership, use and control of natural resources.



Community meetings with Samburu target communities.  
CREDIT: IMPACT



*“Historically, Indigenous communities in Kenya have not had the legal rights to determine how their communal land is used. They have been left vulnerable to exploitation without their consent, their land rented out to oppressive foreign investors or taken outright for a public infrastructure project without proper compensation. This project under the IWGIA grant aims at prioritising protection and recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ rights to land ownership and advocating for communities’ absolute autonomy in land-use planning.”* Mali Ole Kaunga, Director, IMPACT

*"From the great Kauka territory in Colombia, Ala Kusreik Ya- Misak University, we highlight and appreciate the support and accompaniment that IWGIA has given to our work to disseminate our own thoughts and to raise our voice against the violation of our rights. The podcasts and videos that were produced with the support of IWGIA have given a voice to our people and elders, inviting us to think, speak, be and exist like Misak." Lucy Elena TUNUBALA TOMBE, academic coordinator of Ala Kusreik Ya – Misak University*



## Empowering young voices

In Colombia, IWGIA supported Indigenous students from the Ala Kusreik Ya – Misak University and ARTE+ MasterPeace to produce a podcast on the story of the Ala Kusreik Ya – Misak University as a tool for the territorial defence and survival of the unique Misak culture. The podcast is almost entirely in Namtrik (the language of the Misak) and is being disseminated via community radio stations. The students also produced a short, animated video telling the story of the relationship of the Misak to their ancestral territory. The video is in Spanish and is used in Misak educational institutions – community schools. It was also featured at the temporary exhibition in the Medellín Museum of Modern Art.

## Analysing FPIC in Africa

In 2022, IWGIA published the Study on Consultation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with Indigenous Peoples in Africa which examines the human rights standards related to FPIC for Indigenous Peoples in several African countries. It also examines their experiences and challenges in implementing FPIC, as well as their experiences of consultation processes related to Biocultural Community Protocols, as provided by the Nagoya Protocol. The study further provides a comparative overview of experiences and developments in FPIC implementation and consultation processes in other regions, primarily Latin America, with a focus on Indigenous Peoples' own initiatives. The study was based on consultations facilitated by IWGIA with Indigenous Peoples' communities and organisations



and carried out in collaboration with expert members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Minorities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

## Researching Indigenous self-determination

In collaboration with Roger Merino from the Universidad del Pacífico in Lima, Peru, IWGIA published the book: Plurinacionalidad y autodeterminación indígena en América Latina (Plurinationality and Indigenous Self-Determination in Latin America). It is an interdisciplinary study on struggles for Indigenous self-determination and recognition of their territorial rights in Latin America. The study provides a comparative analysis of the struggle for territorial rights in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru with a focus on the period of the rise of neoliberal governments (1990 - 2019).



# Global Governance



Indigenous Peoples' rights have been recognised at the international level. However, for Indigenous Peoples' rights to be respected and protected, they must also 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.

## ***Declining UN engagement and increasing reprisals: Challenges and lessons learned***

One of the specific and ongoing challenges we and our partners face is that many States refuse to invite UN Special mechanisms such as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and regional mechanisms such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, for country visits in order to speak to rightsholders and others about their situation. Further, on the rare occasions they are invited, States do not provide the mechanisms, with all the information or flexibility needed, for them to meet with all relevant rightsholders and stakeholders. This is particularly the case in Asia and Africa.



Indigenous delegation from CONAIE (Ecuador) during the country UPR.  
CREDIT: Lola García-Alix / IWGIA

We are also seeing more and more governments wanting to weaken the special procedures by ignoring their requests and appeals or by not following their recommendations. One way to overcome such hurdles, in our experience, is that it is often a good idea to invite the special mechanisms for academic visits whereby they are invited by Indigenous Peoples to hold dialogues on specific issues. These are not official visits and do not result in specific country reports but they are a good alternative, and the information gathered can be included in the annual reports or thematic studies of the special mechanisms.

Another pressing challenge relates to the increasing acts of intimidation and reprisals perpetrated by government officials towards our partners during and after their participation in international meetings. In 2022, this was a harsh reality for our partners from the [Philippines](#) and Nicaragua. IWGIA is

# 179

**179 Indigenous representatives and activists** attended training sessions supported by IWGIA on how to use international human rights mechanisms.

# 728

**728 Indigenous representatives and Indigenous Peoples' rights experts** engaged with 10 international and 3 regional mechanisms and processes by participating in sessions, dialogues and side events organised by IWGIA.

# 9

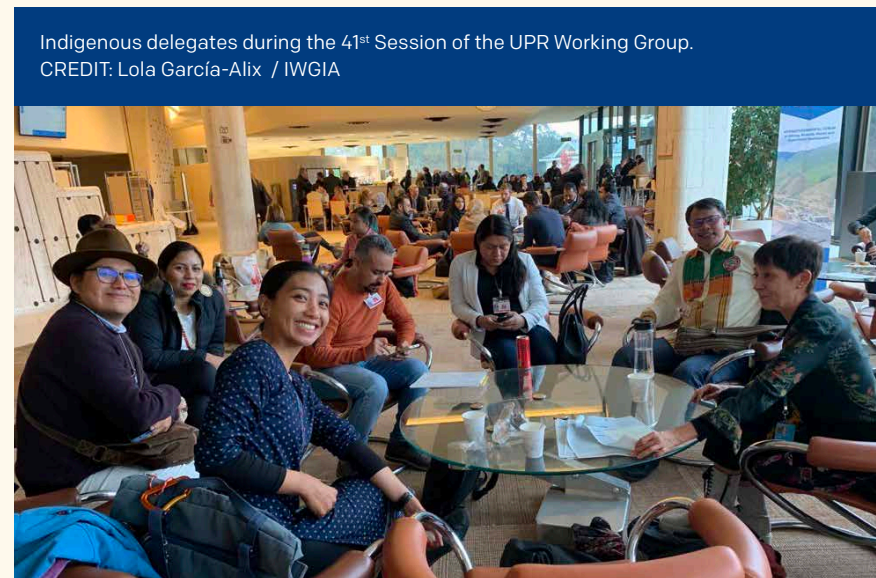
IWGIA supported **9 initiatives at the national level** organised by partners in Bangladesh, Ecuador, India, Nepal, the Philippines and Tanzania, providing input to international and regional human rights mechanisms, and following up on the recommendations issued by international and regional mechanisms.

providing support to targeted Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders, either by providing them with emergency funding to cover their stay in another country or through communication with the UN Country Offices and redress mechanisms, as well as embassies.

## ***Using the Universal Periodic Review process***

Indigenous Peoples from [Ecuador](#), [India](#) and the [Philippines](#) actively engaged with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process in 2022, a review process of the human rights record of all UN Member States under the auspices of the Human Rights Council. IWGIA supported its partners to draft and submit stakeholder reports to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as participate in an online briefing session for States where they were able to present their findings. IWGIA also supported Indigenous representatives from Ecuador and the Philippines to participate in the UPR session in Geneva.

This is one of the few forums in which Indigenous representatives can communicate with States regarding the situation of their human rights. Indigenous Peoples' engagement in the UPR session has facilitated greater visibility of Indigenous Peoples' issues and recommendations. In 2022, this engagement and visibility led to an increased number of States making specific recommendations on Indigenous Peoples' rights.



Indigenous delegates during the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group.  
CREDIT: Lola García-Alix / IWGIA

For Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders in the Philippines, the UPR was seen as an important avenue by which to address the recurrent violations of their fundamental human rights by the government, especially at a time when the democratic space is shrinking in the country and the justice system has not been working effectively, further resulting in unabated human rights violations. The recommendations of various Indigenous Peoples' organisations were put forward through joint reports and participation in the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group.

IWGIA supported a representative of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) to participate in the session, who warned that the government had not complied with the recommendations made by the UPR in previous reviews. Despite the fact that the Government of the Philippines has thus far ignored all previous recommendations, there is hope that the international community will put greater pressure on the Philippines government to comply with its obligations to respect and protect human rights and, in particular, the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

IWGIA also supported the participation of an Indigenous women's leader from the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE), who also noted that their participation in the UPR was important as they were able to speak with other States and UN institutions to suggest specific recommendations to be made to Ecuador based on what is really happening in the Amazon, the rainforest and on the Ecuadorian coast.

At the 41<sup>st</sup> UPR session, IWGIA co-organised a side event with Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI) on Indigenous Peoples' rights in the UPR process. The event brought together 50 participants including Indigenous people, human rights NGO and OHCHR representatives, as well as government delegations from Germany, Finland, Denmark and Mexico.

See our interview with [the CPA representative](#) and [CONFENIAE representative](#) in our digital magazine Indigenous Debates/Debates Indígenas.

## ***Engaging on global conservation***

Indigenous Peoples' voices were heard at the 1<sup>st</sup> IUCN [Africa Protected Areas Congress](#) (APAC), which took place in Kigali, Rwanda, 18-23 July 2022. It was

the very first International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s Protected Areas Congress targeting the whole of Africa. The APAC culminated in the Kigali Call to Action for People and Nature (Kigali Call to Action), which was prepared by a special drafting team during the Congress that included two representatives of Indigenous Peoples, and many of the concerns and priorities articulated by Indigenous Peoples at the Congress are reflected in the Kigali Call to Action.

IWGIA directly engaged in the APAC and supported its partner IMPACT (The Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation) from Kenya to coordinate preparatory meetings and the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the Congress. A month before the APAC meeting, IMPACT organised an Indigenous Peoples' preparatory meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. This allowed Indigenous Peoples to plan for their meaningful participation in the APAC. This meeting was attended by around 50 Indigenous participants from various parts of Africa and resulted in the Nairobi Declaration, which included recommendations to the IUCN, governments and funding partners.

IWGIA also provided support for Indigenous Peoples' participation in the Pre-Congress Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) Workshop that took place from 16-17 July 2022 in Kigali, which was co-organised by IMPACT. The pre-congress workshop was attended by more than 150 representatives of Indigenous Peoples and community-led conservation organisations from Africa. Among other things, the workshop aimed to shine a light on how Indigenous Peoples are conserving a significant proportion of the world's biodiversity and nature through their self-determined cultures, ways of life and governance systems as well as to discuss experiences, challenges, opportunities and recommendations for appropriate recognition and support for their self-determined priorities in relation to their collective lands and resources. Another key objective of the workshop was to prepare a consolidated declaration to the APAC. The resulting Kigali IPLC Declaration builds upon the Nairobi Declaration.

The Kigali IPLC Declaration included recommendations and requests to governments, donors, development partners and the IUCN. It was the key advocacy tool used by Indigenous Peoples to promote the inclusion of their issues into the Kigali Call to Action. It further provided the basis for the keynote addresses of Indigenous Peoples at the opening and closing sessions of the APAC and served as guidance for their representatives participating in high-level dialogue sessions, panels and the drafting group that prepared the Kigali Call to Action.



Milka Chepkorir from Kenya delivering the keynote address on behalf of Indigenous Peoples at the opening of the APAC. CREDIT: Stefan Disko / IWGIA

The APAC provided an outstanding opportunity for Indigenous Peoples' organisations in Africa to promote and advocate for respect and protection of their rights in the context of conservation laws, policies and programmes on the African continent and to highlight their contribution to global biodiversity conservation, including through their traditional knowledge.

## ***Increasing recognition in business and human rights processes***

Indigenous Peoples' representation was strong and well-articulated at the [UN Forum on Business and Human Rights \(UNFBHR\)](#) in Geneva in November 2022. The importance of and respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights is becoming more widely accepted, as evidenced by the strong Indigenous representation on a majority of the panels at the Forum, the strong attendance of Indigenous representatives, and the fact that the Global Indigenous Caucus was invited to make declarations at both the opening and closing sessions of the Forum.

IWGIA supported the organisation of the Global Indigenous Caucus during the Forum in Geneva that resulted in the adoption of a common Indigenous Peoples' advocacy strategy during the Forum. Indigenous representatives were included as speakers in nine of the 12 official panels of the Forum. One of the official panels was dedicated specifically to the topic of the criminalisation of Indigenous Peoples

in the context of business operations. This official panel was co-organised by IWGIA, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI) and the Global Indigenous Caucus, and was facilitated by Fernanda Hopenhaym, Chair of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights. The panel was attended by more than 200 participants.

The Global Indigenous Caucus was invited to make declarations both at the opening and closing plenary sessions of the Forum. In its [closing statement](#), the Global Indigenous Caucus noted that Indigenous lands and territories are under extreme pressure and that Indigenous fundamental human rights continue to be violated amidst corporate operations, with Indigenous Peoples receiving little to no protection from States and no access to redress and justice. As the Global Indigenous Caucus noted in its closing statement: *“Respect for Indigenous Peoples rights is not optional, neither for States nor for business. These rights are enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in international human rights law. National legislation on corporate activities cannot dilute our rights over our lands, forests, seas and oceans, over our cultural heritage and our rights to participation and free, prior and informed consent.”*

IWGIA also supported its partner *Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas* (Andean Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organisations/CAOI) to prepare Indigenous Peoples’ engagement and participation in the Latin America Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights that took place in Bogotá (Colombia) at the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFBHR in July. IWGIA, OHCHR, IPRI and CAOI held 3 online training events for Indigenous Peoples’ networks and organisations in Latin America to strategise and prepare for their engagement in the Regional Forum in Colombia and Global Forum in Geneva.



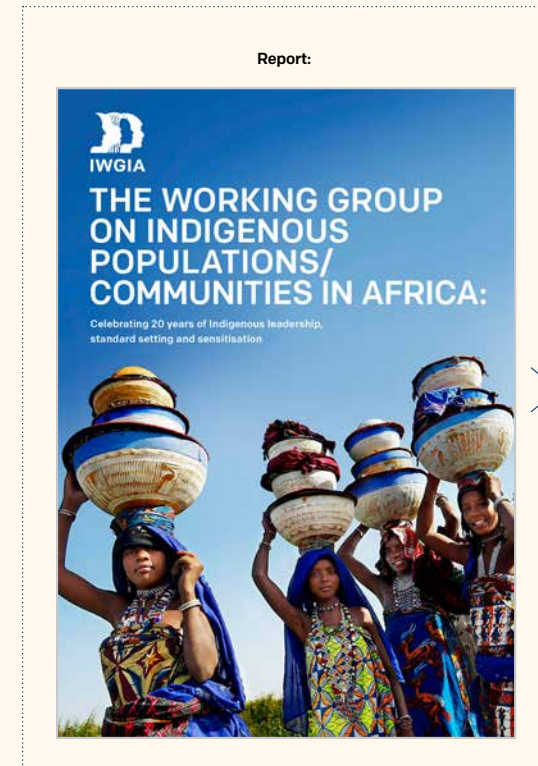
*“IWGIA actively collaborated to ensure the presence and voice of representatives of Indigenous Peoples in the regional (Latin America) and global processes that deal with the issue of business and human rights. IWGIA’s support made it possible for Indigenous leaders to exchange information on the impacts of the activities of companies on their territories and rights and to be informed on existing regulatory instruments and mechanisms that address the situation of the impacts of companies on human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.”* Benito Calixto, Co-Chair of the Global Indigenous Caucus of the Forum on Business and Human Rights and Indigenous leader from Peru



*“IWGIA’s most significant achievement has been to make the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights responsive to the human rights concerns of Indigenous Peoples in Africa. Prior to IWGIA’s engagement with the African Commission, Indigenous Peoples’ issues were not addressed.”* Naomi Kipuri, former expert member of the WGIP

## Documenting human rights work across Africa

In June 2022, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Minorities (WGIP) of the [African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights](#) (ACHPR), IWGIA published a [comprehensive report](#) that systematically presents all the work the WGIP has accomplished since it was founded.



In addition to documenting its important 20-year history from its inception to date, the report also provides online links to all the documents produced by the WGIP as well as other ACHPR documents relating to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, such as Concluding Observations and Resolutions. It is a handy, one-of-a-kind tool for obtaining a quick and easy overview and access to all relevant resources in one place, something that does not exist anywhere else. In connection with the anniversary, IWGIA also produced a [film](#) highlighting its more than 20-year partnership with the WGIP. IWGIA further conducted a review of the work done in collaboration with the WGIP and relevant partners up to the present day and reflected on how this work can continue in the future.

Video

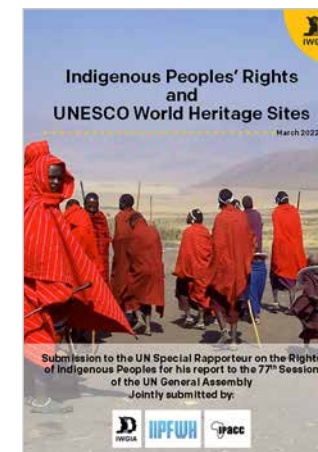


### ***Supporting international conservation bodies***

IWGIA prepared a substantive [Report on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#) as a contribution to the [UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples'](#) (UNSRIP) thematic report on Protected Areas, which he presented at the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly in October 2022. The UNSRIP report includes many references to the report submitted by IWGIA, including some of the specific recommendations. Based on this

submission, IWGIA and the UNSRIP have been contacted by the World Heritage Centre in UNESCO to further discuss how to continue engaging with the World Heritage Committee and its advisory bodies (IUCN and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)) in 2023. One of the plans being discussed with the World Heritage Centre and the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage (IIPFWH) is the organisation of a workshop to include Indigenous Peoples, members of the World Heritage Committee, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the advisory bodies (IUCN and ICOMOS). IWGIA has also been contacted by several journalists regarding the human rights situation of Indigenous Peoples in World Heritage sites.

Report:



### ***Using international human rights mechanisms***

IWGIA has been directly involved in organising and running 3 training events for Indigenous Peoples on how to use international and regional human rights mechanisms. This included the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme (IFP) for Latin American Indigenous leaders and youth at Deusto University in Bilbao, Spain; a high-level training session on Indigenous Peoples' rights at the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria, South Africa; and an Expert Degree in Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights and International Cooperation at the University Carlos III, Madrid, Spain. As a result of the OHCHR IFP, 6 of the programme's fellows were supported by the UN Voluntary Fund to attend and engage in different international meetings such as the annual session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the UPR and the UNFHR.

# Indigenous women



Indigenous women experience a broad, multifaceted and complex spectrum of mutually reinforcing human rights abuses. They are disproportionately affected by systemic discrimination, excluded from local and national political processes, and form the targets of multiple forms of violence. IWGIA is providing support to projects directly developed and implemented by Indigenous women’s organisations that focus on empowering Indigenous women and strengthening their leadership through awareness raising, civic education and supporting their participation in the development and review of legislation, policies and practices that affect them. We also pay particular attention to Indigenous women in relation to the prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, as well as in relation to access to justice and remedies.

## ***Increasing visibility of women and girls: Challenges and lessons learned***

Through our engagement with Indigenous women and our support for Indigenous women’s organisations, we have learned that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and low participation in decision-making are considerable problems for most Indigenous women in the countries where we work. The issues are very similar from country to country: sexual harassment, early marriage and pregnancy, discrimination of widows and women with disabilities, genital mutilation, domestic violence, trafficking, harassment and threats by military and police, trumped up charges and arrests, as well as very little voice and status

in the family and community, including a lack of legal rights to ownership of land and property. Many of these issues are very sensitive but communities are generally open to discussing them and exploring how they can be addressed.

Indigenous women play a crucial role as change makers. There is a need to make women’s roles and contributions more visible, both within their own communities and on a broader level, in order to build their confidence and encourage their inclusion. Networking, exchanging experiences and knowledge, and solidarity are important at all levels – not least at the local level. When women feel they have a strong network and foundation of solidarity and support, they are empowered to speak out and stand up for their rights. Indigenous women are especially adept at finding allies, showing great solidarity among themselves and providing support to each other.

Ensuring inclusion of and respect for Indigenous women cannot be accomplished by them alone, however; men need to be included in discussions on these issues, particularly GBV. There are supportive men in some of the communities who are willing to support Indigenous women and take an active part in the change process. The most important aspect for combatting GBV, however, is the need for long-term strategies and support.

See our Gender Strategy 2021 - 2025 here



The best results are achieved when projects are context-specific and designed with the involvement of Indigenous women, if not led by them as well. There is no quick fix or one-size-fits-all approach to solving Indigenous women’s issues but much can be achieved through meaningful, tailored small grants. Small

# 9

IWGIA supported **9 Indigenous women’s organisations and networks** in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru and Tanzania.

# 1,500

More than **1,500 Indigenous women** have been trained on their human rights in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, the Philippines and Tanzania.

grants to Indigenous women’s organisations are highly valued, especially as such organisations often are not able to access large grants with high administrative demands. Strategically, such smaller projects can lead to exponentially greater change. They support the establishment of women’s groups at the community level, help build the capacity of Indigenous women’s organisations in their operations and activities, lead to the empowerment of their economic and political will, and facilitate the creation of reliable documentation and strong advocacy on their rights.

### ***Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Kenya***

In Kenya, with IWGIA’s support, the Indigenous women’s organisation Samburu Women Trust (SWT) established the NAAPU Indigenous Women Fund. The fund helped 8 community-based women’s organisations (CBWOs) to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in their communities. The fund is a small basket fund facility that seeks to provide grants and seed capital to small and upcoming Indigenous women-led organisations that cannot easily access funding due to their marginalization and which work in remote rural areas. The 8 small CBWOs have gained capacity in carrying out activities on GBV in their communities and have become better at organising themselves to influence processes at community and county level.

Together with small grantees, SWT gathered data on the status of GBV in different pastoral communities and, in 2022, facilitated dialogue among all the small grantees, leading to the adoption of the NAAPU Indigenous Women Fund Advocacy Strategy (2022-2025). The strategy sets out the change they want to achieve over the next 4 years and how they will achieve it. IWGIA also supported SWT to chair the Indigenous Women Council (IWC), a national platform on Indigenous women’s rights comprising Indigenous women’s organisations from all over Kenya. The organisations meet regularly, support each other, define their common strategies to address GBV at the national level and take joint actions to influence decision-makers.

Read IWGIA’s article on [Indigenous women in Kenya fighting harmful gender-based practices](#) and see our [video](#) for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.



One of the small grantees: the community-based organisation Nareto Ntoiye and Women Programme (NNWP), having a dialogue with the Samburu community in Isiolo County. CREDIT: Samburu Women Trust

### ***Women lobbying against laws in Tanzania***

In Tanzania, IWGIA supported our partner organisation, PAICODEO, to train the pastoralist women’s network PAWODEO. The training events directly resulted in the empowerment of pastoralist women, who positioned themselves at the forefront of the pastoralists’ human rights struggle in their areas. Two hundred and twenty-eight (228) women from 10 villages were trained on land rights, lobbying and advocacy strategies, and the participants created a strategy on how pastoralist women can effectively participate in protecting grazing lands and strengthening the land tenure security of pastoralist villages.

More specifically, the women undertook advocacy work in relation to the highly contested Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability Act (the Act) that is being forced onto pastoralists. The Act is aimed at preventing pastoralist mobility by, for example, demanding that they brand and register all their livestock and livestock transactions, and that livestock must be transported on lorries



Women from the PAWODEO network.  
CREDIT: Pi Bjerregaard / IWGIA

from one place to another, among other culturally insensitive and impractical stipulations. The Act creates a tremendous amount of bureaucracy and comes at huge financial and time expense to the pastoralists, not forgetting the fact that the Act's legal requirements directly contradict traditional mobile pastoralist practices and values, as protected under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. If pastoralists do not follow the Act, they are heavily fined or even imprisoned.

The Indigenous women from the PAWODEO network were extremely active in 2022 in protesting the Act. They mobilised women into large meetings composed of up to 500 participants to meet with key duty bearers, including the Prime Minister, Members of Parliament and the President of the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). All this resulted in the successful halting, at least temporarily, of the enforcement of the Act. The women have not stopped their advocacy, however, and are now working toward nullification of the Act.

### ***Pushing for rights recognition in Nepal***

In Nepal, IWGIA partnered with 2 Indigenous women's organisations, the National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF) and the National Indigenous Women Forum, leading to a better understanding among Indigenous women of their rights and their ability to push for recognition of their rights.

The organisations pushed for the effective implementation of the recommendations that Nepal accepted during its last review in relation to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2018. They submitted memoranda to multiple ministries and heads of major political parties, and collected 8,000 signatures via an online petition demanding the implementation of the most important CEDAW recommendations for Indigenous women, most importantly calling for amendment of the Constitution, which is discriminatory to Indigenous women.

These actions have put pressure on Members of Parliament (MPs) to take the issues of Indigenous women in relation to CEDAW seriously. Indigenous women MPs from provincial assemblies reportedly spoke to the assembly with regard to passing legislation that promotes CEDAW recommendations. Apart from these important efforts to improve the state of Indigenous women and their rights at the national level, the project has led to raised awareness of the CEDAW recommendation that Nepal accepted among both women and men, and the need for its implementation to secure the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Nepal.

Read more about the importance of the adoption of CEDAW Recommendation No. 39 in IWGIA's article: [CEDAW adopts pioneer binding instrument on the rights of Indigenous women and girls.](#)

Indigenous women in Nepal & NIWF members exchanging experiences with Indigenous Women from Asia and Africa. CREDIT: Geneviève Rose / IWGIA





“With the help of IWGIA, I was able to attend a training event on violence and data collection where I learned about different types of violence faced by Indigenous women and girls, and ways to collect this sensitive data while maintaining confidentiality. After the training, I was able to collect cases of violence that my fellow Indigenous sisters faced, while ensuring their confidentiality. With this, I was able to gather evidence that can now be used in lobbying and advocacy in Nepal. This data will also be used in the CEDAW Shadow Report submission to highlight the different types of violence that Indigenous women and girls face in Nepal.” Ms Harikala Thapa from the Magar community

### Engaging on gender issues

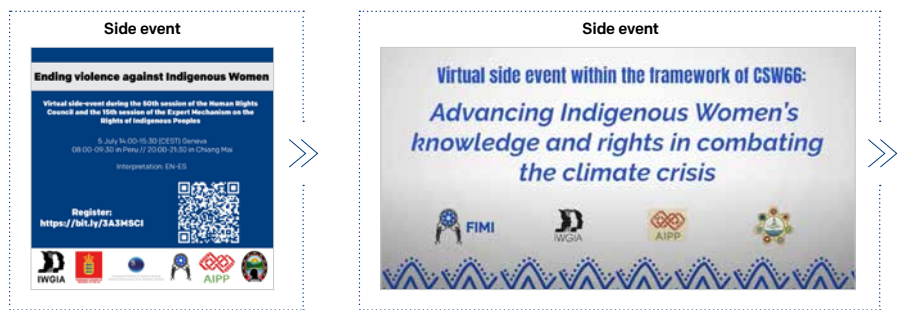


IWGIA published the report Implementing UN Recommendations on Indigenous Women: Understanding barriers and enablers, which aims to contribute toward a better understanding of the UN recommendations directed explicitly at the situation of Indigenous women in selected countries; to identify and discuss the obstacles to their implementation; and to be better equipped to support our partners for their implementation at the national level.

IWGIA made **3 written submissions**: 2 to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls: IWGIA inputs to the Report on Violence against Indigenous Women and Girls & IWGIA inputs to the Report on violence against women and girls in the context of the climate crisis; and 1 to the Commission on the Status of Women 66<sup>th</sup> Session.



IWGIA organised **2 online side-events** at the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women: 1 on Ending violence against Indigenous women: Virtual side event during the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council and 1 on Advancing Indigenous Women’s knowledge and rights in combating the climate crisis. In Denmark, IWGIA participated in Talk Town, a city-wide event promoting women’s issues where we organised a public debate panel on violence against women with special attention to Indigenous communities and the taboos related to domestic violence. More than 50 people participated in the event to which we invited Danner, a Danish feminist organisation working to eliminate violence against women and our partner the Samburu Women Trust from Kenya to present their realities and ideas.



## Data Generation and Analysis



Data generation and analysis is one of the cross-cutting methodologies that IWGIA applies to further strengthen its four thematic programmes. Data in its various forms enhances IWGIA's documentation, advocacy and empowerment work.

Data is not only a source of information but also a tool for change that can help Indigenous Peoples to monitor their situation, claim their rights and influence policy processes.

IWGIA engages with data on multiple levels: generating, sharing, ensuring quality and driving discourse on data standards. These multiple levels of data generation and management allow IWGIA to produce critical documentation that drives advocacy and is used to develop monitoring frameworks that can better understand and recognise the implementation gap in relation to Indigenous Peoples' rights, as guaranteed by international mechanisms.

These documentation products take various forms, from the production of The Indigenous World to videos, news and social media communications, and to the front-line data generation conducted by our partners and Indigenous communities around the world through the Indigenous Navigator.

### ***Left behind: Challenges and lessons learned***

Throughout 2022, we were again reminded that there is no full picture of the marginalisation and discrimination of Indigenous Peoples due to a lack

of disaggregated data. As we have noted in the implementation of the Indigenous Navigator in Sápmi, disaggregation globally remains a critical issue, even when adequate resources are available to official data producers such as the national statistics offices. In the context of Sápmi, it has been clear that it is difficult to find reliable and appropriate statistical data on the Saami. For example, Statistics Finland produces statistics on persons living in Finland by nationality, language and country of birth but not ethnicity. Norway also does not include ethnic identifiers in their national censuses. As a result, determining the situation of Indigenous Saami remains extremely difficult.

Indigenous Peoples are often left behind when they remain invisible in official data and are thus excluded from general development trends. Further, they face intersectional threats of racism, discrimination and marginalisation that impact their rights and lives. Production of data on their situation is a key tool in the fight for Indigenous Peoples to secure their rights.

When Indigenous Peoples do assert their rights, they often face violence and repression. The situation of Indigenous Peoples' human rights defenders remains critical and requires urgent attention and action from the international community. In an effort to address these challenges, IWGIA has been contributing to ALLIED, the Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environment Defenders, and its data working group.

Further, recognising the importance of data, including the benefits and harm that data can bring, IWGIA has, through our partners, engaged on the issues of Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance. We recognise, for example, that data can be both a powerful tool for Indigenous Peoples to advance their rights and wellbeing but can also pose significant risks if it is misused, misinterpreted, or misappropriated by others. Data can be used to exploit,

# 3

**comprehensive national surveys** completed for the Saami Peoples covering Norway, Sweden and Finland.

# 28

In 2022, the Indigenous Navigator began its 3<sup>rd</sup> phase, significantly expanding its **geographic coverage from 11 to 28 countries.**

oppress, or harm Indigenous Peoples, especially when it is collected without their consent, participation, or control. Data can also be used to erase, distort, or undermine Indigenous Peoples' identities, cultures, and histories. Data Sovereignty and Governance are critical, and our work must continue to be grounded in Indigenous worldviews, values, and knowledge systems.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty is the right of Indigenous Peoples to own, control, access and possess data deriving from them, and which pertain to their members, knowledge systems, customs or territories. Indigenous Data Governance is the process of exercising this right through policies, protocols, and practices that ensure data are collected, stored, shared, and used in ways that align with Indigenous Peoples' values, priorities, and self-determination. Community-generated data has been a key component of our work.

Data collected by IWGIA has a focus on recognising and supporting Indigenous Peoples' vital role in protecting their lands, resources, and rights from external threats and pressures; documenting and publishing data on violations and attacks against indigenous defenders, including non-lethal attacks, in order to raise awareness and prevent further violence; providing financial, and technical assistance to indigenous defenders who face risks or challenges in their work; enhancing partner capacities and skills to use data and technology for their own advocacy and empowerment; and engaging in dialogue and collaboration with other stakeholders, such as governments, civil society, media, and academia, in order to platform their evidence-based documentation and data and to promote their voices and perspectives.

Throughout 2022, recognising the importance of engaging in the digital sphere, IWGIA also continued to engage with the Danish-led Tech for Democracy initiative, which aims to make technology work for and not against democracy and human rights.



*"The Indigenous Navigator tool and the questionnaires illustrate what kind of statistics we could obtain from Saami and other Indigenous Peoples if national legislation allowed us to produce such statistics. Statistics would be of particular importance, for example, in mapping the economic, social and cultural rights of Indigenous Peoples. I therefore hope that the information mapped so far on these theoretical statistical possibilities could contribute to the development of the statistical work."* Oula-Antti Labba, lawyer within the Human Rights Unit of the Saami Council

## Mitigating violence and attacks

As a member of ALLIED, an alliance of national and international civil society actors working to protect land and environmental defenders, IWGIA has represented our partners and the Indigenous Navigator consortium, contributing to highlighting the critical role that community-generated data can play in documenting attacks and threats against Indigenous, Land, and Environmental Defenders (ILEDs).

Through the reports and data collected by ALLIED, the alliance published Uncovering the Hidden Iceberg. This report presents new data from the ALLIED Data Working Group that reveals alarming patterns of escalating non-lethal attacks against ILEDs. The 2022 report examines 2020 data, uncovering 355 non-lethal attacks against 536 distinct individuals, communities, organisations and unaffiliated groups. The dataset evidences a higher prevalence of non-lethal attacks than previously documented by separate datasets and can serve to uncover escalating violence against these defenders.



UN Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the General Assembly for the opening of the ministerial segment of the High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2022. CREDIT: David Berger / IWGIA

## ***Ensuring recognition, protection and participation in the tech sector***

Throughout 2022, IWGIA's participation in the Danish-led Tech for Democracy initiative was grounded in ensuring that the initiative recognises the rights and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples in relation to technology and its impacts. Closely tied to issues of Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance, IWGIA's participation has been focused around seeking to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are consulted and involved in the design, development and implementation of technology projects that affect them. IWGIA's participation also seeks to support Indigenous Peoples' access to and use of technology for their own development, self-determination and cosmovision.

To achieve this aim, IWGIA organised an official side event at the High-Level Political Forum 2022. This event brought together the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IWGIA's partners Servindi, CEJIS, and the Indigenous Navigator consortium with the participation of Chiara Adamo of the European Commission, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Francisco Calí Tzay. It served as a platform for Indigenous Peoples to share their challenges, perspectives and aspirations regarding technology's role in promoting a more just, equitable and peaceful global society. Further, the event highlighted the critical role of Indigenous Peoples own community-based data collection and a selection of relevant technological initiatives that they are leading.

## ***Monitoring rights implementation through community-driven data***

Throughout 2022, together with the Saami Council and the Saami Allaskuvla, IWGIA has implemented the Indigenous Navigator in Sápmi, conducting national surveys in Norway, Sweden and Finland that highlight the severe implementation gap regarding Indigenous Peoples' rights across the region. In the Saami context, it is important that we continue to map the differences and similarities of implementation of Indigenous rights in the four nation states of Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia, the countries that each incorporate parts of the divided Sápmi, the area traditionally inhabited by the Saami.

The data provided by Indigenous communities themselves, supported by the Indigenous Navigator, can help Saami communities monitor the level of implementation of their rights both on the local and national levels, and to identify the gaps in rights implementation as duty bearers work to meet their obligations in the future.

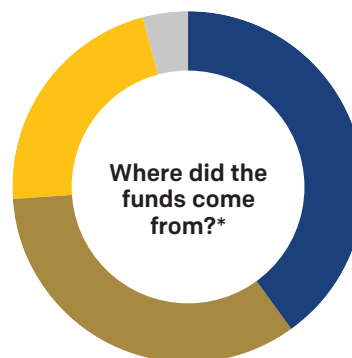
In October 2022, the Indigenous Navigator expanded its thematic focus to include climate, biodiversity and due diligence issues. The project is being implemented in Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, Guyana, India, Myanmar, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Tanzania and Uganda.

Saami reindeer graze in their winter pastures in Sápmi.  
CREDIT: IWGIA

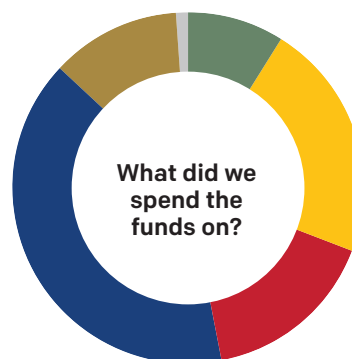


# 2022 Finance

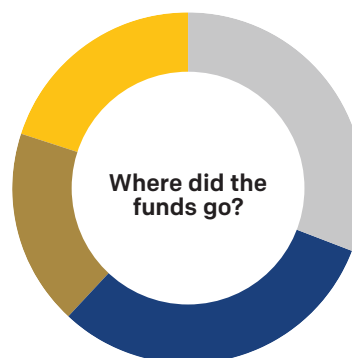
Where did the funds come from?*	DKK ('000)	%
Danish public funds	16,163	40%
International public funds	13,810	34%
Private Foundations	9,142	22%
Private donations, memberships, other	1,657	4%



What did we spend the funds on?	DKK ('000)	%
Climate Change	3,787	9%
Land Defence and Defenders	8,799	22%
Territorial Governance	6,501	16%
Global Governance	16,213	40%
Other / Cross cutting activities	4,825	12%
Operating expenses	520	1%



Where did the funds go?	DKK ('000)	%
Global Activities & International processes	6,925	31%
Asia	7,017	31%
Africa	3,961	18%
Latin America	4,501	20%



\* Cash income only

\*\* 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.

# Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge all the valuable individuals and groups who have made our work in 2022 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 to 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.



[www.iwgia.org](http://www.iwgia.org)  
Prinsessegade 29 B, 3rd floor,  
DK 1422 Copenhagen, Denmark  
(+45) 53 73 28 30

Documenting • Advocating • Empowering

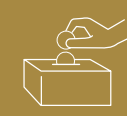


## Support us; Get involved

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.



Become a Member



Donate



Subscribe

