The Indigenous Navigator is a unique and innovative tool implemented by and for Indigenous Peoples. It provides reliable and comparable data across countries and regions about Indigenous Peoples, their rights and needs.

It is a trailblazer in demonstrating how Indigenous Peoples can actively participate in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global frameworks, while asserting their rights and advancing their self-determined development.

It provides a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and good practices among Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholders worldwide.

As of the end of 2023, the Indigenous Navigator:

- is implemented in 29 countries
- supporting at least 300,000 Indigenous persons
- in approximately 320 Indigenous communities
- and has completed 175 surveys
- and 18 national reports
A community-driven initiative with local to global impact

AWARENESS
National and community organisations worldwide collect and analyse data concerning Indigenous Peoples’ rights and development using a set of standardized questionnaires and indicators they themselves also design. Through this process, Indigenous communities learn about their rights and how to be agents of change in their own communities and countries, as well as international processes.

The collected data are stored in an online portal that allows for data visualization, analysis and comparison. More than just quantitative data, the portal also showcases stories, testimonies, photos and videos from the communities.

INFLUENCE
The data is then used to engage duty bearers, such as local authorities, governments, UN agencies, development partners, private sector, media and civil society organizations, to raise awareness, influence policies, monitor progress, and hold those same duty bearers accountable to their commitments.

SELF-DETERMINED DEVELOPMENT
The Indigenous Navigator provides a small grants facility (SGF) that enables Indigenous Peoples to design and implement community-led projects that address their specific needs and challenges. The SGF supports projects in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, land degradation prevention and restoration, sustainable forest management, cultural integrity and intergenerational knowledge transfer, as well as initiatives to provide social safeguards.

There are more than 476 million Indigenous children, men and women in the world, representing 6% of the world’s population. Disproportionately, they constitute almost 15% of the world’s poor with 18.2% of them living below USD $1.90 a day. They are therefore nearly three times as likely as their non-Indigenous counterparts to live in extreme poverty. They lack access to proper health care, education and decent work, resulting in lower life expectancy and higher child and infant mortality rates as compared to non-Indigenous populations in their areas.

Violations of Indigenous Peoples’ rights are often not reported or addressed. Knowledge gaps persist in understanding the social and economic situation of Indigenous Peoples.

Census data is non-existent or insufficient, which often leaves Indigenous populations statistically invisible. Many Indigenous Peoples lack a comprehensive analysis of their situation and duty bearers lack awareness and adequate data on Indigenous Peoples’ needs and concerns.

Documenting the human rights and development situation of Indigenous Peoples is a first step to understanding and engaging within their own groups and with duty bearers and other external stakeholders.

Experience has shown that using the Indigenous Navigator has an empowering effect in itself. Indigenous communities become more aware of their rights and are better equipped to promote them and their self-determined development.

A voice from the community

“The storage sheds have benefited us a lot, they serve to keep the fodder dry which means that we can feed the cattle every day. The cattle are becoming stronger and producing more milk as a result. They also now have shelter, as the sheds give them protection from the cold. The sheltered animals are healthier and they are no longer suffering from altitude sickness or pneumonia. As Indigenous women, we are the ones who manage the cattle, we ensure they are milked, so in this way we really benefit from the support and collaboration of the Indigenous Navigator and CEJIS (national partner). In the end, the contribution of this project is huge and is significant for the families that benefited since they will now be able to ensure sufficient food for their livestock and therefore be able to market the cheese and have the sustenance for their families – building their community.”

- VITALIA ARROYO MARTINEZ, COMMUNITY MEMBER, BOLIVIA

“The experience also served to create a space for training of the Wampis on their rights as Indigenous Peoples, an area in which not all community organisations are equally up-to-date.”

- SHAPOM NONGDO SESEN, TECHNICAL ADVISOR, AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT OF THE WAMPIS NATION, PERU.

“Using the Navigator tools also sparked an idea on how to engage with duty bearers and donor communities for a self-determined development. For one, it opened an opportunity to reflect on the concept of poverty. Poverty was realised to be not only about economic concerns in pecuniary terms, but more so about lack of other intangible matters such as powerlessness, illiteracy and having no voice among others.”

- TAHAI THAMI, DIRECTOR, LAHURNIP, NEPAL

EXPLOR THE DATA

“The study on the situation in Sweden shows an overall lack of implementation of [Indigenous rights in the national legislation. This is directly affecting the Sámi peoples’ possibilities to access their rights and there is a need for revised legislation for Sweden to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

- ÅSA LARSSON BLIND, VICE PRESIDENT, SAAMI COUNCIL.

“Documenting human rights and development situation of Indigenous Peoples is a first step to understanding and engaging within their own groups and with duty bearers and other external stakeholders.”

- LAURIE JONES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INDIANAPOLIS, USA
The Indigenous Navigator has touched the lives of the people, not only by allowing them to participate in monitoring their rights to self-determined development, but also by delivering services that support the community

– GIDEON SANAGO, CLIMATE COORDINATOR, PINGOS FORUM, TANZANIA

If you want to know more, contact us at: navigator@iwgia.org

The Indigenous Navigator is a collaborative effort of partners from local to international levels. The Initiative is coordinated by a consortium including the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA), the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education), and the Danish Institute for Human Rights.