

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



IWGIA

Acknowledgements

IWGIA promotes, protects and defends Indigenous Peoples' rights. We promote the recognition, respect and implementation of Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, cultural integrity and development on their own terms. We would like to acknowledge all the valuable individuals and groups who have made our work in 2020 possible through various ways of support.

We thank:

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

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has impacted on all corners of the world and on all spheres of our lives and livelihoods. Indigenous Peoples have been disproportionately affected by the epidemic. This Annual Report will therefore give a broad overview of how the pandemic has affected the world's Indigenous Peoples. IWGIA's yearbook, *The Indigenous World 2021*, provides further extensive documentation as to how Indigenous Peoples have been affected in the different countries and how international processes dealing with their rights have had to adjust to the new situation and use digital means to communicate.

The COVID pandemic and Indigenous Peoples' rights

Indigenous Peoples and their rights have been severely impacted by the pandemic. Their needs and challenges have not been taken into consideration in precautionary measures or emergency relief and, in some cases, their rights have been further restricted through new laws and measures rooted in the pandemic, which has been used to restrict the civic space of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples have nevertheless shown enormous resilience and innovation in tackling the pandemic.

In many countries, health facilities have been inaccessible to Indigenous Peoples and health information only disseminated or made available in the majority languages. There has also been a lack of distribution of personal protection equipment. Furthermore, economic relief packages have not considered Indigenous economic markets, and remote education has not factored in the lack of electronic equipment and unavailability of Internet access for Indigenous children and students.

In a number of countries where IWGIA works, Indigenous Peoples have also been affected by the repercussions of a shrinking civic space, which has become clear in legislation being passed that has further restricted Indigenous Peoples' rights.

IWGIA has tried to address these challenges and the impacts that many of our partners and their communities have faced by being flexible in terms of project implementation and reallocating funding to COVID-19 activities. In Latin America, for example, we supported communication on COVID-19 and prevention possibilities and measures in Indigenous languages to communities in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. In Africa, we supported partners to supply communities with basic sanitary equipment (such as for hand washing), as well as with COVID-19 information. In Asia, we placed particular emphasis on the shrinking civic space and were able to obtain funding for three new projects that support our partners on this issue directly related to COVID-19. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors, who have been very flexible in this difficult situation and who, in some cases, have proactively reached out to engage in constructive dialogue on how best to support Indigenous Peoples during the pandemic. It is important to stand together in solidarity in this crisis.

Further, in most countries, COVID-19 data related to, for example, health and economic impacts, has not been disaggregated, either at all or for Indigenous Peoples in particular, meaning it has been nearly impossible to get a clear picture of how the virus has affected Indigenous populations in individual countries. We have therefore relied closely on information from our partners. Within the Indigenous Navigator Initiative, we were also able to publish a report "The impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous communities - Insights from the Indigenous Navigator", which has served as a vital insight into the pre-existing challenges Indigenous Peoples faced before the pandemic, and how these have been exacerbated by the global health crisis.

Indigenous communities have, for generations, experienced human rights violations, including violations of their right to health and proper protection from viral infections. They have learned how to protect themselves to survive and thus be strong and resilient communities. Indigenous Peoples' communities in all regions of the world have already responded to the pandemic through

their self-determined protection mechanisms. Around the globe, Indigenous Peoples rose to the challenge by limiting access to their communities and providing COVID-19 information. Indigenous Peoples furthermore came together to support each other by exchanging goods and sharing information and by strengthening their livelihood practices. There is ample evidence of the incredible resilience of Indigenous Peoples.

In addition to the struggles Indigenous Peoples have faced due to the virus, they have continued to fight discrimination and targeted violence, a shrinking civic space, lack of recognition of their rights as peoples, land dispossession, evictions and the negative impact of climate change as well as top-down decisions in the conservation industry. IWGIA has continued to support Indigenous Peoples in their daily fight against discrimination, racism and injustices and for respect for their rights. IWGIA continues to focus on supporting our partners in defending and promoting their rights and, as many of the examples in this report show, there is evidence that it is possible to find solutions founded on a human rights-based approach. This Annual Report presents our main achievements for the year 2020. In all cases, Indigenous Peoples have acted as agents of sustainable change and self-development.

Going online

As the pandemic spread, IWGIA and international and regional mechanisms and agencies, such as the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, were quick to cancel physical meetings and find ways to continue their important work. Adjustments to online and virtual platforms in order to bridge the digital divide between these mechanisms and Indigenous Peoples were needed but virtual meetings soon became an integral and widely-used solution.

We would also like to hereby acknowledge the great efforts and adjustments that have been made by international UN mechanisms, particularly those dealing with Indigenous Peoples' rights, in order to continue a close and much-needed dialogue with Indigenous Peoples.

While Indigenous Peoples did their very best to proactively engage via digital platforms,

however, states and other relevant stakeholders participated less actively. Indigenous representatives found it harder to engage directly with states and promote their views and demands without physical sessions. In building back better, physical meetings will therefore be crucial to ensure that Indigenous Peoples have access to relevant mechanisms and decision-makers.

As the world embraces the benefits of technology, the voices of Indigenous Peoples must not be silenced through the cancelling of crucial physical and community-driven meetings between Indigenous Peoples and states.

IWGIA has been involved in numerous online meetings and events throughout 2020 and we have learned a great deal about how we can communicate with our partners and other stakeholders in a timelier and more direct manner by virtual means. We invite you to read further about our virtual engagement on page 30 of this report.

Setting the path for IWGIA in the coming years

2020 has been an exciting year in terms of our organisational development. In the spring, IWGIA underwent a comprehensive Organisational Capacity Assessment, commissioned by the Danish Development Cooperation Agency (DANIDA). The conclusion was very positive and the assessment team stated: "IWGIA has adequate strategic, organisational, programmatic and financial management capacities to deliver quality outcomes". IWGIA would like to thank the Organisational Capacity Assessment Team once again for good cooperation despite the difficult circumstances as COVID-19 closed down our society. Following the assessment, IWGIA developed a new agreement with DANIDA for a three-year period. We are happy that we have reached a constructive model and look forward to our continued strategic cooperation.

IWGIA developed its new Institutional Strategy (2021 – 2025) over the year, through a comprehensive and consultative process. The new strategy was approved by IWGIA's Board in October and we are very much looking forward to its implementation. IWGIA will focus on the overall ambition of ensuring that Indigenous Peoples'

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

A number of changes have taken place in IWGIA's management and staff. At the start of 2021, we welcomed Maria Bierbaum Oehlenschläger to IWGIA's Board. As a communication officer, Maria has been engaged mainly in international development, Indigenous Peoples' rights and human rights. She has worked for the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, first serving as an intern at the Danish Mission to the UN in Geneva and later working at the former Centre of Culture and Development based in Copenhagen. She has spent time working at the Danish media outlet *Altinet* as an opinions editor and, most recently, as head of proofreading. In 2016, Maria had the pleasure of working at the IWGIA secretariat as a communications and press officer. She is currently at the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

From the Secretariat, we said goodbye to Lærke Marie Lund Petersen who was Policy Advisor focusing on climate change for three years. Lærke has also been instrumental in enhancing IWGIA's engagement in Denmark. We are deeply grateful for her contribution to IWGIA's work and wish her the best in her new endeavours.

In 2020, the pandemic magnified the inequalities that Indigenous Peoples have faced for generations but also sharpened the focus on their strength and resilience as well as that of their communities. If we are to build back better than Indigenous Peoples' solutions need to be heard. They hold knowledge that is essential for the design of responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Future initiatives must take advantage of their capacity for resilience, their knowledge and their practices.

As national governments focus on economic recovery to upend the damage of the global pandemic, many are opting for traditional forms of economic development, with a focus on extractive industries and large infrastructural projects, which will further impact Indigenous Peoples' rights to their land, territories and resources. Building back better initiatives therefore need to fully respect Indigenous Peoples' rights and particularly the right to land, territories and natural resources, which are essential for their livelihoods and for sustainable and regenerative practices. Indigenous Peoples' own aspirations, initiatives and businesses must be prioritised.

Indigenous Peoples are at the heart of the struggle for self-determination, rights, equality, participation and a more sustainable and just world. IWGIA is proud to stand by and behind Indigenous Peoples. We thank all those who support us to do so.



Kathrin Wessendorf
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ida Theilade
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Who we are

IWGIA is a non-governmental human rights organisation promoting, protecting and defending Indigenous Peoples' collective and individual rights. We have supported our partners in this fight for more than 50 years. We work through a global network of Indigenous Peoples' organisations and international human rights bodies. We promote recognition, respect and implementation of Indigenous Peoples' rights, including the right to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

The term "Indigenous Peoples" is a common denominator for distinct peoples who, through historical processes, have been marginalised and denied their right to control their own development. We believe that Indigenous Peoples as rights holders are powerful agents of change. Our partnership with their organisations and institutions is at the centre of all our work.

Vision

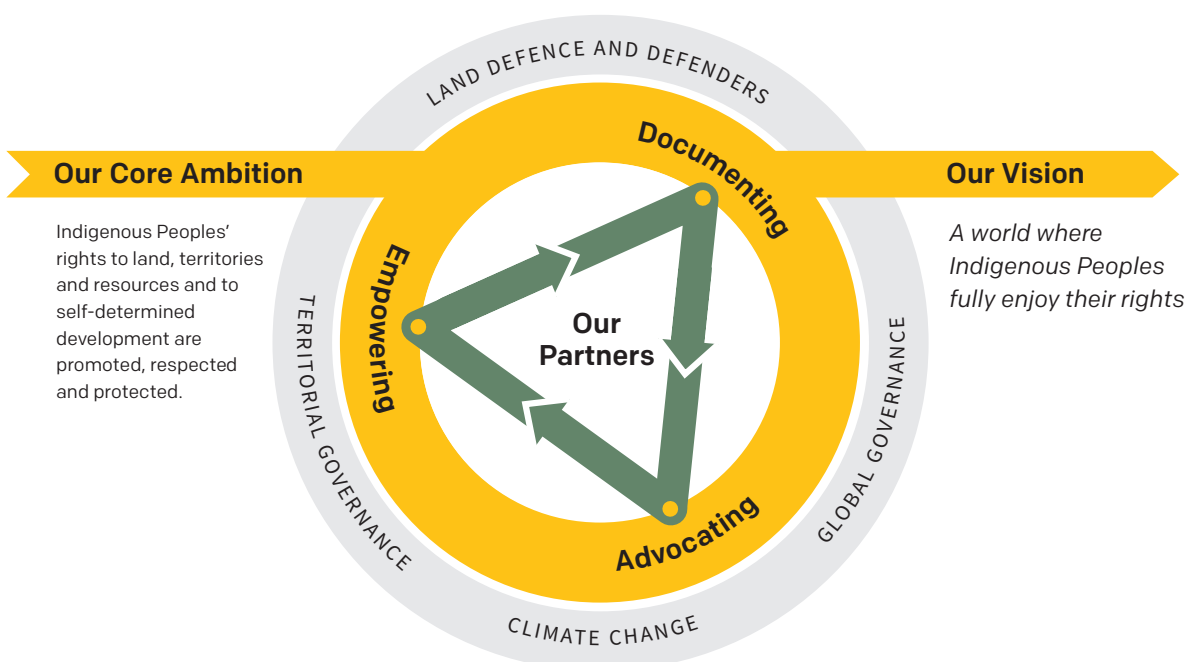
A world where Indigenous Peoples everywhere fully enjoy their internationally recognised rights.

Mission

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, thus contributing to knowledge and awareness of their circumstances and promoting respect for their individual and collective rights;
- **Advocating** for change from decision-makers at local, national and international levels, including active engagement in international networks; and
- **Empowering** Indigenous Peoples' own organisations to act in order to claim and exercise their rights and to amplify the Indigenous Peoples' movements at local, national and international levels.



Our work in 2020

- We worked with **34** project partners in **15** countries
- We facilitated the engagement of Indigenous representatives with various stakeholders through **19** webinars and virtual dialogues
- We engaged with **18** international and regional processes, despite the difficulties linked to the COVID-19 crisis

Indigenous Peoples in 2020

- **476 million** people worldwide, speaking 4,000 different languages and living in more than **90** countries
- Indigenous Peoples are estimated to be protecting and defending over **80%** of the world's biodiversity
- Indigenous Peoples make up **6%** of the global population but **15%** of the world's poor
- The COVID-19 crisis has disproportionately affected Indigenous Peoples and compounded the effects of systemic and daily acts of discrimination



Climate Change

Despite 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 thematic programme on Climate Change seeks to ensure that the rights of Indigenous Peoples affected by climate change, and climate action, are respected. The objective of the programme is for Indigenous Peoples to be key actors in claiming their rights and contributing their knowledge as part of the solution to climate change.

In 2020, our efforts primarily involved 10 project partners from Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Tanzania and Peru. We also worked closely with strategic Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners such as the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), the CSO Observer Network of the Green Climate Fund, and the environmental umbrella organisation, The Danish 92-Group.

In joint collaboration with our partners, 52 advocacy initiatives were executed at local, national and international levels, including participation in consultation processes, targeted advocacy meetings with duty-bearers, mass media campaigns, etc. A total of 1,458 communications products were produced in English, Spanish and Indigenous languages. Through publications, newsletters, videos or radio programmes, a wide range of subjects was covered, including Indigenous contributions to climate change solutions, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, rights safeguards in climate action, Indigenous women's rights, and Indigenous participation in climate policy.

Throughout the year, Indigenous civil society in pre-coup Myanmar kept strengthening their voice, position and influence in climate policy. In Nepal, Indigenous women, men and youth from all parts of the country received training on participation in climate processes. IWGIA and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) raised the voice of Indigenous Peoples from Asia through a joint submission to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In Tanzania, the seeds were sown for an Indigenous Peoples' climate platform of knowledge holders. In Peru, Indigenous Peoples stood up to oil companies and other territorial aggressors as described in the following pages.

All IWGIA's partners struggled against the COVID-19 pandemic in their tireless fight for their rights in climate action. They are well aware that while the global health crisis will be overcome within a year or two, the climate crisis has a longer and more profound perspective. The fight of Indigenous Peoples in climate action will therefore continue, no matter how many obstacles they may face on the way.



WE WORK IN **5**
COUNTRIES



WE WORK WITH
10 PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS



IWGIA and our partners developed and disseminated **1,458** communications products



IWGIA and our partners carried out **52** advocacy actions

Internet in the Amazon allows Indigenous communities to **act promptly on COVID-19**

In 2020, Indigenous Amazonian communities implemented a self-imposed lockdown as protection against the rapid spread of COVID-19. During the lockdown, recently-installed satellite Internet proved to be a lifesaver. Through this Internet connectivity, the Indigenous representative organisation, Coharyima, was instantly able to reach and coordinate with its base communities on how to self-isolate, restrict entry of travellers and follow health guidelines. Had it not been for the Internet installations, it would have taken days or weeks for such messages to be communicated.

In Peru, many communities are affected by the effects of top-down climate and conservation policies on the ground. They need to defend their territories, not only from extractive industries such as illegal logging and toxic goldmining but also from so-called “carbon pirates” who approach communities to sell unregulated carbon offsetting schemes on unfavourable and fraudulent terms. In order to defend their rights, forest and territory, these communities need to be able to communicate with each other and with the external world. According to the news agency Servindi, however, census figures from 2017 shows that only 6.7% of the some 2,700 Indigenous communities in Peru have access to the Internet and 57% lack telecommunication services.

In late 2019, IWGIA facilitated the installation of solar-powered satellite Internet in 10 Indigenous communities of the Madre de Dios region of Peru. This was done to strengthen Coharyima’s access to its 17 base communities so that they could organise common advocacy approaches to climate policy and land rights defence. Shortly thereafter, the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world, and the population of the remote Amazon regions of Peru was among the hardest hit. *“It is an important tool which we now have in the community and very useful in these times of Covid. We are very thankful to Coharyima,”* stated Nancy Manqueriapa Ramos, a young woman leader from the Santa Rosa de Huacaria community.

In an effort to give voice to and empower affected Indigenous communities, IWGIA has supported partners Servindi, Onamiap and Coharyima to build capacity at community level to ensure their effective engagement in national-level climate policy processes. Support is provided through capacity-building workshops, support for Indigenous community radio stations and, more recently, through an online learning platform, “Learning with Servindi”, which is tailor-made for Indigenous women, men and youth at community level. To strengthen this work, IWGIA supported the installation of solar-

powered satellite Internet in 10 communities and provided them with laptops and desk-top computers. This experience has been a positive one, with the additional unexpected but important outcome of proving to be a lifesaver when COVID-19 swept Peru.



CREDIT: Coharyima - Servindi

Indigenous Peoples stand up to oil companies in Peru

In 2020, the Government of Peru allocated 260 million Peruvian Soles (PEN) (approximately USD 72 million) of public funds to remediate tropical forest sites damaged by oil exploitation on Indigenous territory in the Pastaza, Corrientes, Tigre and Marañon river basins. With this, the government took a step towards implementing the Law on remuneration for environmental remediation.

Fifty years of oil exploitation have caused extensive damage in the territories of the Achuar, Kukama, Quechua and Kichwa peoples deep in the Amazon rainforest of Peru. They are fighting for recognition of the historic debt owed to them by the oil industry and the government. The four Indigenous groups achieved important commitments from the Peruvian government in 2015. Through Law 30321, a seed fund of PEN 50 million (today equivalent to nearly USD 14 million), was established for the remediation of affected sites. The Law also ensured Indigenous representation and voting rights on the Board administering the funds. With the funds provided, 32 rehabilitation plans were developed, but it was concluded that remediation of these sites alone would amount to a staggering PEN 600 million (approximately USD 166 million). In fact, however, there are more than 3,000 sites in the oil exploitation areas of Block 1AB/192 and Block 8 (which affects the four river basins) that have been impacted and ought to be remediated by the companies and the government. This shows the immense cost of the environmental damage.

Organised under the PUINAMUDT platform, and supported by NGOs such as Peru Equidad, the federations of the four Indigenous groups are coordinating effective advocacy for environmental remediation and accountability on the part of the oil industry and the government. The disbursement obtained in 2020 is an extraordinary achievement not least due to the current economic crisis caused by the pandemic, which has created pressure to allocate resources elsewhere. Another important achievement has been the agreement of the Agency for Environmental Assessment and Enforcement (*Organismo de Evaluación*

y Fiscalización Ambiental) to consolidate an official list of the numerous sites identified by Indigenous environmental monitors over the years.

In 2020, IWGIA supported PUINAMUDT to undertake key advocacy work to contribute to the above achievements. Among other activities, a public event was held to denounce the 5th anniversary since the Pluspetrol Norte company left Block 1AB without an approved exit plan and with more than 1,000 sites pending remediation. The Indigenous federations were also supported to organise assemblies in the affected areas in order to gather voices from the ground to ensure accountability of PUINAMUDT's advocacy efforts for the affected communities. Further to this, IWGIA supported eight Indigenous women and men to perform the task of environmental territorial monitoring. They have identified and documented 19 new spills which the oil companies had delayed in notifying to the government and local population. This information has been submitted to the Environmental Enforcement Tribunal so that it can confirm the responsibility of the Block 192 operating company and sanction them for not responding to the spills. In the words of the monitoring coordinator of the Pastaza basin: *"The project support has allowed us to keep up our guard at all times in terms of vigilance for respect of our rights in this year of COVID, which has been so difficult for our communities."*



CREDIT: PUINAMUDT



Land Defence and Defenders

Indigenous Peoples are losing their lands on a daily basis, and this is having 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.

In 2020, IWGIA supported projects on land defence and defenders in 10 countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America (Kenya, Tanzania, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Vietnam, Peru, Bolivia and Colombia) and IWGIA collaborated on a non-project basis with partners in 8 countries on various activities such as alliance-building and international advocacy (Rwanda, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia and Russia).

A total of 24 project partner organisations were supported by IWGIA and this enabled our partners to carry out more than 120 training courses and other forms of empowerment and capacity-building interventions with the aim of strengthening the awareness and self-organisation of Indigenous communities on land matters, also including some training on security for Indigenous land rights defenders.

A key component of the projects supported was monitoring and documentation of land rights issues and violations. IWGIA supported partners to publish a wide range of documentation and information materials, and a total of 240 reports, booklets, fact sheets, videos, radio programmes, TV programmes, newspaper articles and memorandums/petitions were produced. In addition, IWGIA produced its own documentation material (16 articles, urgent alerts, radio interviews etc.). This comprehensive documentation was used to strengthen the land rights advocacy of IWGIA and its partners in more than 126 advocacy actions, including meetings with government officials, parliamentarians and other duty-bearers as well as international lobbying and initiation of legal action.

IWGIA's support has contributed considerably to increased land rights awareness and self-organisation among Indigenous communities in target countries, increased knowledge of safety precautions among Indigenous land rights defenders, increased numbers of women involved in the land rights struggle, comprehensive documentation and exposure of violations, actions against land dispossession, enhanced use of the judiciary and initiation of land mapping and titling processes in some of the target countries.

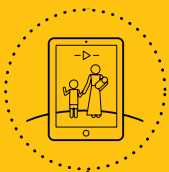
Securing land rights nevertheless remains the most critical and urgent global issue for Indigenous Peoples and it is a key aspect of achieving



WE WORK IN
14 COUNTRIES



WE WORK WITH
24 PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS



IWGIA and our partners developed and disseminated **256** documentation materials



IWGIA and our partners carried out over **126** advocacy actions



IWGIA enabled our partners to conduct over **120** trainings

IWGIA's overall objective of securing Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determined sustainable development. Deforestation, mineral, oil and gas extraction, expansion of plantations, national parks, agribusiness, huge infrastructure and hydro power projects (see India – page 15), are just some of the industries Indigenous Peoples are up against when they defend and protect their land. Indigenous Peoples are increasingly organising and building alliances when they protest land grabbing (see India – page 15). They are also making use of the existing national legislation in some countries to secure their ancestral lands through formal community land registration and titling (see Kenya – page 14). Indigenous women and youth are increasingly empowered and involved in land defence (see Kenya – page 14 and Tanzania – page 13). All this work is driven by brave Indigenous human rights defenders who are constantly putting themselves at risk and who have, in some countries, successfully pushed for increased legal protection and improved national legislation for human rights defenders based on international standards (see Bolivia article – page 17).

Indigenous women in Tanzania are **leading change** in their communities

In 2020, in the Morogoro, Coastal and Manyara regions of the southern part of Tanzania, four women's groups, with a total of 105 members, were able through small grants to participate in different women's and children's rights movements and address gender violence and discrimination in the families and communities.

The situation for Indigenous women in Tanzania is very similar to that of Indigenous women in other African countries: they are excluded from decision-making in the family, community and in local and national government; they have no right to property ownership; they suffer from traditional harmful practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation; and they do not have access to school. Yet they are strong, united and full of self-initiative. Together, they are capable of standing up for their rights and bringing change to their communities.

The women from the Morogoro, Coastal and Manyara regions have not only increased their financial power but also gained status and a voice in their communities. For example, NALEPO, a Parakuyo pastoralists' community-based organisation, has mobilised its community to support girls from families that have failed

to send them to school, as well as those who have been forced to drop out and get married. NALEPO bought some cows and resold them for a profit. Parakuyo women are not normally allowed to own cows but they found ways around the customary rules and used some male allies to help them in the transaction. Owning cows gives these women special status in their community. It gives them financial power and a voice. With the profit they made, they were able to support girls to attend secondary school. The negative view pastoralist men have of women's groups in these communities has changed as women have become empowered and able to support their children to attend schools. More men are now accepting the fact that their wives and daughters are joining the women's group and movement.



CREDIT: PAICODEO

In 2020, IWGIA provided financial and technical support to local partner organisation PAICODEO, in Morogoro, through a large project helping to raise the voices and needs of Indigenous women in Africa and Asia. The project has specifically contributed to empowering women's groups with small grants in pastoralist communities in the southern part of Tanzania. In February 2020, IWGIA participated in a meeting organised by PAICODEO in Morogoro where

strong community women from across Tanzania, Kenya and Cameroon met to share their challenges, aspirations and visions, as well as to reinforce their movement. IWGIA partners from Kenya – the Samburu Women Trust (SWT) – and Cameroon – the African Indigenous Women Organisation-Central African Network (AIWO-CAN) – attended the meeting, facilitating an exchange of experiences and networking.

Indigenous communities in Kenya self-organise to claim land rights

In 2020, Indigenous communities in Samburu County, northern Kenya, paved the way for implementing the Community Land Act of 2016. This is a way of securing their collective community land rights while at the same time strengthening the role of women in land governance.

One of the major problems of Indigenous Peoples in Kenya is the loss of their traditional lands and territories. Indigenous Peoples have been pushing for proper legislation to protect collectively-held community land for many years. In 2016, the Community Land Act was adopted – providing for recognition and registration of collectively-held community lands – raising great hopes among Indigenous communities. And yet very little has been done since by the authorities to concretely implement the Act.

With the assistance of the organisation IMPACT (Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation), three Indigenous communities in Samburu County have carried out pioneering work to begin implementing the Act in their communities. The community leaders have taken ownership of the process and, after training themselves on the content of the Act, have in turn trained men, women and youth in the villages. This has enabled the communities to embark on the process for obtaining recognition and protection of their community lands. They have established land management committees consisting of men, women and youth, and these have produced and submitted the required documents for registration of their community lands to the authorities. Decision-

making and land management among the pastoralist communities has traditionally been the reserve of the male elders. The inclusion of women and youth in the community land management committees is a huge step forward in their empowerment, challenging the barriers to inclusivity in land governance and natural resource ownership.

Awareness raising around the Community Land Act was subsequently expanded to wider areas of Samburu County and neighbouring counties via the Serian FM radio station, reaching around 100,000 people, some living in the most isolated villages and in communities with high illiteracy rates. The feedback from communities was overwhelming: community members requested that the radio programme be replayed and contacted IMPACT to obtain support for securing the ownership of their lands.

Community voices have also been amplified through the formation of a joint platform, the *Samburu Indigenous Landowners Forum*, a platform for communities in Samburu County to address issues of common concern. The forum members have been trained by IMPACT on the provisions of the Community Land Act and the requirements of the land registration process. In November 2020, the Forum submitted a document to the Samburu County Government highlighting the grievances and concerns of the communities in relation to the delay in registering community lands and the prevalence of land grabbing and serious conflict in Samburu County.

“The support IMPACT provides to communities could not have happened without the development of IMPACT’s organisational capacity facilitated and supported by IWGIA and other donors over a span of nearly 20 years,” says Mali Ole Kaunga, IMPACT’s Director.

In 2020, IWGIA provided financial support to IMPACT to implement the project that brought about these results. IMPACT is a locally-based organisation that carries out projects in a way that creates local ownership. IWGIA has supported the organisational capacity building of IMPACT for many years via financial and technical support. IMPACT has now become one of the leading Indigenous land and human rights organisations in northern Kenya. IWGIA has furthermore supported IMPACT to become part of the global Indigenous movement

through dialogue with organisations around the world, and to leverage their advocacy work at an international level, facilitating their participation in sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and other UN human rights fora.



CREDIT: IMPACT

Indigenous lawyers network fights to cancel devastating hydroelectric project in India

Amidst the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown, a network of Indigenous lawyers in India has been established to strengthen enforcement of the recognised rights of the country’s Indigenous Peoples - the Indigenous Lawyers Association of India (ILAI). One of the cases it worked hard on during 2020 was to halt a hydropower project on the Dibang River in Arunachal Pradesh, which would have devastating effects on the lives of the Indigenous Idu Mishmi people and the surrounding environment.

If implemented, the hydropower project, located in the richest biogeographical province of the Himalayan zone and one of the mega biodiversity hotspots of the world, would seriously affect the Idu Mishmi Indigenous people. They are one of the disappearing tribes of India, with only around 13 - 14,000 members in a country of 1.3 billion people. The Idu Mishmi people have a deep spiritual and cultural connection with their natural environment,

and their survival is based on shifting cultivation, a livelihood that requires deep respect for the natural resources. They face extinction not only because of the risk of displacement from their ancestral land, and thus upheaval from their spiritual and cultural roots, that the project will cause, but also because of the massive influx of non-Indigenous Peoples that will ensue with the establishment of the mega project. More than 100 families could be displaced from their homes and over 700 families will lose land to the project - a significant proportion of their entire population. A site inspection report by the environment ministry’s regional office in Shillong noted that: *“The land on which the project is proposed is in pristine forests with riverine growth that, once cut, cannot be replaced.”*

“At a time when the destruction of nature has been blamed for upheavals in the world, including the

pandemic, and green energy is being increasingly promoted, the construction of outdated hydroelectric projects by destroying nature must be abandoned.” - Dilip Chakma, ILAI coordinator.

On 18 July 2020, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave the go-ahead to the project. This was despite the fact that civil society had little opportunity to express their views on the project due to the very limited freedom of movement and organisation caused by the COVID-19 lockdown, and despite the fact that the forest clearance approval is still pending before the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) under the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change. The Indigenous Lawyers Association of India is lobbying the FAC and the State government of Arunachal Pradesh to acknowledge that this project will violate India’s Constitution and several laws, including the 2006 Forest Rights Act. The project is still not being implemented as of writing.

In addition to providing legal opinion, ILAI raised public awareness of the project through coverage in the national and regional media. Encouraged by the support from ILAI, the Idu Mishmis launched the “Dibang Resistance” group on Facebook and used ILAI’s media statements to share information and build resistance to the proposed project, which they are determined to block: *“Our only STAND - WE WON’T LET THE DAM BE CONSTRUCTED AT ANY COST - Not at the cost of our health and the well-being of our people!”* - Dibang resistance group.

IWGIA supported the start-up of the Indigenous Lawyers Association of India, which now constitutes a network of 25 Indigenous lawyers from all over India. IWGIA facilitated discussions with various experts in India and similar networks in other countries to design a set-up for ILAI that would support the Indigenous Peoples of India in fighting for their rights through the justice system. IWGIA is also providing financial support and technical advice to ILAI on cases that could potentially be taken to the international level.



A law to protect Human Rights Defenders in Bolivia supported by the Ministry of Justice

In 2020, the Ministry of Justice expressed its explicit support for a bill on human rights defenders and the law is currently being debated in Parliament. The law was introduced to the State's executive and legislative branches by a coalition of human rights organisations in Bolivia.

The situation of human rights defenders in Bolivia, including those defending and promoting environmental rights and Indigenous Peoples' rights, has been challenging for decades. State actors, both at local and national levels, have long portrayed rights activists as the enemies of development and of government agencies. The work of human rights organisations is often obstructed, defenders are harassed judicially and, in some instances, attacked physically. The fact that the Ministry of Justice, the very agency that has been involved in the judicial harassment of human rights activists in the past, is now offering its enthusiastic support to this draft law on defenders is extremely important.

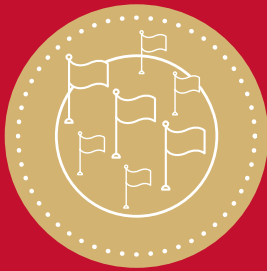
The draft law is based on the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted in 1998. While not introducing new rights, the declaration and hence the draft law articulate existing rights in such a way as to make their application easier to the work and situation of defenders. It further reiterates the State's specific duties and the responsibility of all with regard to defending the defenders. If approved, the law on defenders will offer the human rights activist community of Bolivia a powerful tool to promote the rights of and defend those whose rights have been violated.

IWGIA has a decades-long history of supporting the human rights community and Indigenous Peoples' organisations in Bolivia. This support has included providing legal support to human rights defenders, assistance to exiled Bolivian rights activists, and bringing cases of gross violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights to the attention of regional and international human rights mechanisms, such as, for example, the landmark decision on enslaved members of Guaraní communities in the Bolivian Chaco taken by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2008. Over time, IWGIA has built up a broad network of Indigenous Peoples' organisations, human rights defenders, lawyers,

anthropologists and communication specialists who are able to influence the national human rights and political agenda. Given the nature of IWGIA's work in Bolivia and its network of partners, it is clear that IWGIA has supported the coalition in its crucial work of developing a legal framework to protect defenders. IWGIA provided financial support and advice during the project development phase to ORÉ, the civil society organisation that led the coalition responsible for the draft law on human rights defenders.

"The project and the whole process around it is giving the coalition of Human Rights organisations a very powerful tool for parliamentary advocacy and public positions, as well as legal protection of their own rights, something they did not have in the past" - Leonardo Tamburini, Executive Director of ORÉ.





WE WORK IN **3**
COUNTRIES



IWGIA and partners published **6** publications and **20** articles



IWGIA and partners produced **15** radio programmes in podcast format



IWGIA and partners organized **18** virtual workshops

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-government 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.

While IWGIA has worked with territorial governance since the organisation was first founded, this is a new and specific programme, designed to support Indigenous organisations in their territorial defence strategies by building Indigenous autonomies, thus further emphasising IWGIA's focus on this central right of Indigenous Peoples. The main area of work during 2020 was on Latin America albeit with a view to future involvement globally.

The programme has focused on strengthening initiatives to build autonomies in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador by providing support to different areas of action such as the implementation of communication programmes or technical assistance for the development of natural resource management plans. It is also promoting an exchange of experiences between Indigenous governments globally. One crucial area of the programme is the inclusion of youth, with a gender balance.

The pandemic imposed significant limitations on the ability to hold face-to-face meetings and so these were replaced by virtual meetings on a number of occasions. During 2020, together with our partners, IWGIA organized 18 virtual workshops for training and exchange of experiences between different Indigenous organisations.

In Bolivia, the Centre for Autonomous Territorial Planning, CPTA, closely monitored the impact of an extremely large forest fire, which seriously affected Indigenous territories. In the Amazon region of Bolivia, support for the zoning of the Multi-ethnic Indigenous Territory commenced. In Peru, we continued to finance the consolidation of the Wampis Indigenous government and, through the Indigenous platform PUINAMUDT, IWGIA supported the remediation of environmental disasters caused by oil spills. And, in Ecuador, the Kichwa people's organisation made progress in developing their autonomous statute and producing their life plans.

Written or audiovisual documentation is also a key element of the programme and, during 2020, daily radio programmes were broadcast by the Wampis Autonomous Government's radio station, by the radio and TV stations of the autonomous territory of Charagua and through the communications programme, Servindi, based in Peru. IWGIA published 20 articles and 15 radio programmes in podcast format, in conjunction with the Climate Change programme. In addition, together with IWGIA, our partners produced six publications that were widely distributed.

In association with the Global Governance programme, a series of dialogues were held between the IACHR, IWGIA and Indigenous organisations in the region to commence the process of preparing the thematic report on autonomies.

Indigenous communicator training: strengthening Indigenous Peoples' self-determination

During 2020, IWGIA provided the necessary support to consolidate the operation of Radio Wampis in Peru and the first cycle of students at the journalism school in Charagua, Bolivia.

The training of Indigenous communicators, particularly youth, was part of the strategy to consolidate the Indigenous autonomies of the Wampis people and of the Guaraní in the Chaco region of Bolivia. In both cases, Indigenous youth have been trained in different media.

"Our word travels through the air, directly to the communities," says Evaristo Pujapat, one of the people in charge of the Wampis radio station.

"Communication is a fundamental part of the autonomous process. It strengthens our sense of identity and allows us to make our reality visible and share it." - Dedé Yarigua Maraguari, student from the Charagua Norte area.

Communication is a human right that allows communities to exercise their right to freedom of expression and access to information. At the same time, information is essential to be able to defend and claim other rights. Since the establishment of autonomous Indigenous governments, Wampis and Charagua authorities have discussed the importance of having their own channels of communication, enabling them to focus on their agenda and their territorial and cultural challenges among themselves. Training in the use of digital platforms, social networks and communication tools is therefore indispensable for the creation of cultural content in their own codes and languages and which reinforces both recognition and appreciation of the Indigenous Peoples' culture. The media play an important role in developing ideas and establishing realities. Indigenous Peoples must therefore be an integral part of and contribute from within to



CREDIT: Santiago Cuellar Franco

conversations on interculturality, their knowledge, wisdom and feelings. Communication training programmes provide young people with a space in which to reinforce their cultural identity and territorial commitment in the face of the growing pull for migration of young people to the cities.

Since 2016 IWGIA has supported the installation of a Wampis radio studio in the community of Soledad, on the banks of the Santiago River, powered by a solar energy plant and with an antenna that covers almost the entire Indigenous territory. At the same time, IWGIA began a pilot training programme for young journalists in 2019 and, during 2020, implemented a wider, intensive training programme for young Indigenous women and men from different communities. Among the programmes broadcast are updates and news on the illegal mining of the Santiago River and the oil contamination of the Morona River but there are also other very popular programmes such as the "Voice of the Wise" and different musical programmes. In 2020, an intercommunal radio system was further upgraded, establishing radio communication bases to enable immediate information to be obtained on events in the communities and for this information, in turn, to be disseminated via the radio station. During

the COVID-19 pandemic, the radio communication system was crucial for the dissemination of information on both the prevention and treatment of COVID-19, given the lack of cultural relevance of State measures. A health official from the Wampis government highlighted the importance of the radio station during the health emergency and attributed the low mortality rate in the communities to the prevention and treatment campaign.

In the Charagua autonomous region, the start-up of the journalism school was received with enthusiasm by many young people. The course has also been recognized by the Ministry of Education. The school educates students in current affairs and

debates. The courses include discussions on the importance of Indigenous autonomy, the situation of young people in Charagua and reflections on the environment, where pollution and degradation are directly harming and affecting their communities and territories. Communities in the region have a special interest in the fires that have affected the Bolivian Chaco in the last two years and the situation of the Ayoreo Indigenous People in voluntary isolation. The school has taken on a real commitment to gender equality and upholding women's rights, drawing on the knowledge of Indigenous and peasant women, as well as on the experience of the battles fought in other Latin American countries.

Consultation protocols: new paths for the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples

In 2020, IWGIA facilitated the development and implementation of consultation protocols among different communities in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Chile. IWGIA also worked with international human rights organisations to systematise and disseminate information on the development of consultation protocols.

"Consultation protocols offer a better way for us to relate to the State and companies on our territory, in line with our principles." - Ronal Andres. Indigenous Guaraní leader from Charagua, Bolivia.

The development of consultation protocols is crucial for Indigenous Peoples' self-determination and forms part of the framework for an Indigenous autonomy. A growing number of Indigenous Peoples are promoting and adopting autonomous consultation protocols as part of their rights to autonomy and self-determination. IWGIA has been mainly supporting this process in Latin America but is now starting to work with partners in Asia and Africa on the same topic.

A State's duty to conduct processes of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and to obtain the consent of the Indigenous Peoples is a right established in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Peoples consider this to

be one of their main demands. And yet the vast majority of consultations have not taken place in accordance with established principles of FPIC. Relations between Indigenous communities, companies and States have been established in unequal conditions and, ultimately, these dialogues - which have lacked good faith - have only served to legitimise interventions on Indigenous territories, without the real consent of the communities. We have now reached a point where Indigenous Peoples are questioning whether consent processes, as implemented by many States, simply end up being a threat. This is why the proposal for protocols is gaining particular importance globally.

Indigenous protocols are instruments of governance that coexist with the legal regulations of a State and offer a more complex and plural legal system that contributes to peaceful coexistence. The autonomous protocols are an expression of Indigenous normative systems and they give rise to legal pluralism, that is, the coexistence of Indigenous normative systems alongside the State's legal system.

Over the last two decades, a series of autonomous protocols have emerged in Latin America. The protocols establish principles and rules for the

exercise of collective rights and internal governance and, on this basis, their relationship with the State and other actors. The instruments are mainly to be applied in the process of free, prior and informed consent for projects that may affect their territories, natural resources and way of life. The name, content and scope of the protocols vary for each Indigenous people. The impact on guarantees of their rights and the relationship with the domestic and international legal background also varies according to the social, political, cultural and economic context.

With IWGIA's support, consultation protocols have been developed for investment projects in the Indigenous autonomous communities of Charagua in Bolivia and the Wampis people in Peru. Alongside this, a detailed analysis was conducted of consultation experiences and proposals for protocols in Latin America, and this was published in the publication "Protocolos de Consulta Previa

Indígena en América Latina". As a tool for promoting the usefulness of protocols, IWGIA produced a series of animated videos that have been used in training workshops in the region.

The experience of the Latin American continent is taking place against a global backdrop that has led Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant groups and local communities to prioritize autonomous strategies in the struggle for their rights. The protocols have also attracted the attention of international organisations and States. While official recognition of the protocols is thus only in its early days, Indigenous organizations have expressed confidence that they could potentially allow Indigenous communities to have a truly symmetrical relationship with the State and with private individuals, and real influence in affairs that affect their collective life, territories and resources.



Global Governance

2020 was undoubtedly an unprecedented year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and it posed new challenges to Indigenous Peoples' and IWGIA's engagement with international and regional human rights mechanisms and other relevant global processes.

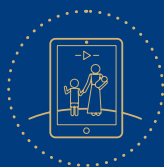
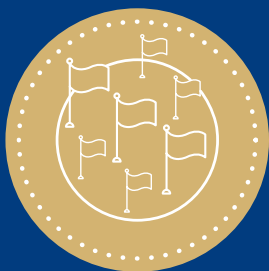
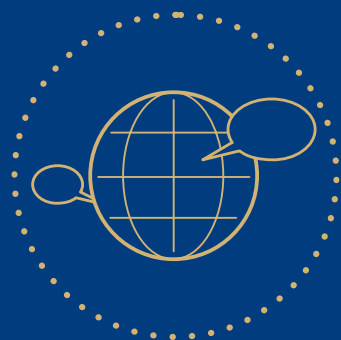
The aims of IWGIA's Global Governance programme are to ensure that Indigenous Peoples' right to participate in all decisions concerning their lives are respected and to keep states accountable to their international human rights obligations regarding Indigenous Peoples' rights. The programme works in close collaboration with IWGIA's other thematic programmes and is our tool to link local realities to international decision-making and global developments, as well as to bring the gains achieved back to Indigenous communities for concrete change.

Linking international human rights processes to national and local efforts, and successful advocacy for rights through country level initiatives, is key if decisions made by global actors are to lead to real change. We believe that supporting Indigenous representatives to speak to the international community is crucial in making their voices heard.

As face-to-face meetings were cancelled from the start of 2020, together with UN mechanisms and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IWGIA quickly looked for new ways to maintain a close dialogue and engagement with Indigenous Peoples through virtual platforms. Over the course of the year, IWGIA organized 19 webinars or virtual dialogues related to the work of the international and regional human rights mechanisms. Over 900 people engaged in these virtual initiatives organised by IWGIA and its partners. IWGIA also continuously engaged with international mechanisms dealing with Indigenous Peoples' rights by making submissions, providing comments on their work and collaborating on reports. (see article page 23)

In Nepal, IWGIA supported Indigenous women to successfully engage with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The relentless efforts of these women led to concrete change at country level with 20 Nepali parliamentarians making a public commitment to develop specific actions to implement the recommendations of the CEDAW. (see Nepal article – page 24)

Through the Indigenous Navigator Initiative, a collaboration of 6 organisations currently operating in 11 countries, IWGIA provided small grants and support to Indigenous communities to implement pilot projects based on needs identified through data collected by the communities themselves. With one of these grants, the Indigenous Quechua community of Sunimarka succeeded in securing water sources for year-long irrigation, marking a step towards improved food sovereignty and security at community level while addressing the local consequences of climate change. (see Peru article - page 26)



IWGIA made **7** submissions to the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies



IWGIA and partners organised **19** webinars/virtual dialogues related to the work of human rights mechanisms



Over **900** people engaged in these virtual initiatives organised by IWGIA and partners

Engaging with international mechanisms despite the pandemic

Throughout 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, IWGIA maintained its engagement - and that of its partners - with international and regional human rights mechanisms and other relevant global processes.

As the pandemic spread, meetings and travel were cancelled. Together with the UN and other international human rights institutions, IWGIA began to look for alternatives in order to maintain a close dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and continue their work. This was to monitor the impact of the pandemic on Indigenous Peoples and to ensure that the measures taken by states to prevent the spread of COVID-19 respected Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Although adjustment proved difficult to begin with, and it took some time to bridge the digital gap between the UN mechanisms and Indigenous Peoples, virtual communications soon became an integral and widely-used solution by Indigenous Peoples all over the world and they were able to regularly engage with international and regional human rights mechanism and provide information on their situation, particularly that of the human rights violations they were facing during the pandemic. This close communication is clearly reflected in the numerous calls made by the international human rights mechanisms to states urging them to ensure respect for Indigenous Peoples.

One major drawback to the temporary online reality of global meetings, however, has been that while Indigenous Peoples took advantage of the opportunity to proactively engage with international human rights mechanisms, many states and other relevant stakeholders did not. Without face-to-face sessions, Indigenous representatives were not able to directly engage with states and advocate for their views and demands. The pandemic has clearly shown the limited engagement of states with Indigenous Peoples and with civil society actors more generally.

Although virtual meetings should never replace face-to-face meetings, one of the lessons learned during the pandemic was the additional value that virtual dialogues can bring in terms of responding quickly to human rights violations committed against Indigenous Peoples, particularly in crisis situations.

Throughout the year, IWGIA contributed by organizing many regional and thematic dialogues where Indigenous Peoples were able to provide information on the disastrous impact of the pandemic on their communities and in their territories.

IWGIA organised four webinars where representatives of Indigenous Peoples from South America and the Amazon region were able to share information on the impact of the pandemic in their communities and territories with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples and the UN Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The information and recommendations that emerged during these dialogues were reflected in the report that the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights presented to the UN General Assembly in October 2020 on the impact of COVID-19 on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in the communications that were made by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the situation of Indigenous Peoples during the pandemic.

Although the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) had to cancel its annual session, it continued to work on its thematic report on the right to land under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). As a contribution to this important report, IWGIA submitted comments on the draft version, some of them incorporated into the final report adopted during the Human Rights Council session in September 2020.

IWGIA made five submissions to the Human Rights Council on issues such as the increase in violence against Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and COVID-19, and business and human rights.

In the context of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Rwanda, Myanmar and Nepal, IWGIA and the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in Geneva, together with representatives of Indigenous Peoples, co-organised a virtual briefing for government delegations ahead of the UPR session in January 2021. The briefing was attended by 10 government delegations.

IWGIA also responded to a call from the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

for contributions to its report on the 10 years of implementation of the UN Guiding Principles, with a substantive contribution focusing on experiences of the UN Guiding Principles and Indigenous Peoples' rights. The submission was greatly appreciated by the Working Group on Business and Human Rights and we expect the findings of our submission to be reflected in the 10-year stocktaking report that is currently being prepared by the Working Group.

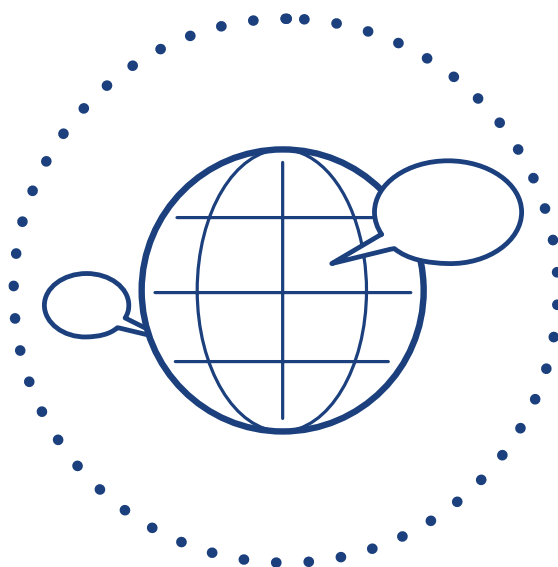
In October 2020, IWGIA organised a virtual event on the right of Indigenous Peoples to autonomy and self-government, at which all the international and regional human rights mechanisms dealing with Indigenous Peoples' rights presented their work on this topic and identified possible joint actions to advance the implementation of this fundamental right.

Together with the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group, IWGIA organised an official virtual event on "Delivering results for not leaving Indigenous Peoples behind: COVID-19 Responses and Beyond" during the High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs. During the session, IWGIA and the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group organized a series of six virtual events aimed at bringing the voices of Indigenous Peoples to the HLPF.

Strengthening our collaboration with UN agencies such as FAO and IFAD continued to be of particular importance in the context of the Global Governance programme. In the case of FAO, IWGIA developed an

initial draft of the first ever global report on the status of food security and nutrition of Indigenous Peoples. The report will result in a joint FAO and IWGIA publication.

As a part of our partnership with IFAD, and together with the Indigenous Steering Committee at IFAD, IWGIA coordinated the organisation of 14 virtual regional and sub-regional consultations with Indigenous Peoples in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Pacific to prepare for the 5th session of the Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples Forum at IFAD that took place in February 2021. The consultations were attended by more than 400 Indigenous representatives.



Indigenous women in Nepal empowered to advance their rights using international human rights mechanisms

During 2020, Indigenous women in Nepal succeeded in consolidating support for their issues and concerns from among parliamentary members through their successful engagement with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). 20 Nepali parliamentarians have now made a public commitment to address issues raised by Indigenous women and to develop

specific actions to implement the recommendations of the CEDAW.

Indigenous women in Nepal face serious challenges regarding recognition and protection of their rights as women and as members of Indigenous communities. Indigenous women are discouraged from participating in the wider society both from

within their own communities as well as from the wider Nepali community, and are instead encouraged to focus on the domestic sphere. They are thus not included in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. Massive grabbing of Indigenous Peoples' land is resulting in disproportionately negative impacts on women: a lack of food security and income leading to a lack of education, bad health and insecurity. Violence against women and impunity for perpetrators is a serious issue for Indigenous women in Nepal, as well as trafficking and early marriage. One of the main root causes of these challenges is the lack of recognition of Indigenous women's rights in the Constitution and the general lack of recognition of the right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination.

In order to address these challenges, Indigenous women's own organisations in Nepal have joined forces to push the government to recognise their specific challenges and to act to address them. Women have, for example, organised provincial-level dialogues where they invited relevant government institutions to dialogue directly with Indigenous women. In 2020, despite COVID-19 restrictions, seven such dialogues were organised by the National Indigenous Women's Forum and the National Indigenous Women's Federation. During the dialogues, 20 parliamentarians were made aware of the CEDAW recommendations relevant to Indigenous women and they committed to raise the issues and recommendations in their provincial assemblies and do their best to advance the implementation of CEDAW recommendations at the local level. The parliamentarians also said that they would begin to organise programmes relating to CEDAW at government level.

The CEDAW plays a pivotal role in strengthening the protection of women's human rights nationally, as explained by Yasso Kanti Bhattachan, Vice-Chair of the NIW Forum and one of the founding members and advisors of the NIW Federation: *"Implementation of CEDAW recommendations are important to Indigenous women of Nepal and beyond as it helps Indigenous women to have meaningful dialogues with the government to secure both individual and collective rights, including self-determination, autonomy, collective ownership and*

control over lands, territories and resources, and self-government."

IWGIA has supported the self-organisation of Indigenous women in Nepal, their capacity development and awareness-raising, as well as strengthening regional- and national-level solidarity for many years. Specific focus has, since 2015, been placed on supporting Indigenous women to participate effectively in human rights processes relevant to their issues, and direct engagement with members of the CEDAW. Side events during the Commission on the Status of Women, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues etc. enabled Indigenous women from Nepal to raise their concerns. Dialogues were organised for the Indigenous women to understand how to more effectively use the possibility of their country undergoing a review, and to engage in direct dialogue with members of the CEDAW. IWGIA also supported Indigenous women representatives to participate actively in the CEDAW session itself in Geneva, where the Indigenous women again had an opportunity to engage in direct dialogue with the CEDAW commission members themselves. The outcome of this support was 15 recommendations made by the CEDAW to Nepal regarding Indigenous women's rights.

To ensure implementation of the CEDAW recommendations at country level, IWGIA has supported Indigenous women's own initiatives aimed at following up at national level. Indigenous women of Nepal know that if they do not push hard for implementation of these recommendations, nothing will happen.



CREDIT: NIWF

Indigenous community of Sunimarka in Peru secures access to water amid the pandemic

In 2020, the Indigenous Quechua community of Sunimarka succeeded in securing water sources for irrigation all year long, applying their traditional practice of *'siembra y cosecha'* (sowing and harvesting) coupled with new techniques with the support and firm commitment of the whole community. This is a step forward in improving food sovereignty and security at community level while addressing the local consequences of climate change.

Agriculture and livestock represent a fundamental economic activity and a key component of the survival of the Indigenous Quechua community of Sunimarka. However, these activities have been negatively affected by drought, which is threatening the communities' livelihood and food security, the worst months being August to December. To tackle these challenges, the community has designed a project that applies ancestral practices and knowledge together with new technology to sustainably manage water resources for the direct benefit of 126 people. These practices enable them to store and conserve water during wet periods for use during the drought by collecting the water in micro-reservoirs. In addition, the community is reforesting the area with native species to restore the local environment in such a way that allows them to better cope with climate change, fight erosion, and also improve food security and water availability in the high plateau.

In collaboration with five other organisations (Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, Forest Peoples Programme, International Labour Organization, Tebtebba Foundation and the Danish Institute for Human Rights), IWGIA developed the Indigenous Navigator initiative, a framework and set of tools for Indigenous Peoples to monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Currently in operation in 11 countries including Peru, the initiative also provides small grants to Indigenous communities to implement pilot projects based on needs self-identified through the data collected (see more on page 29).

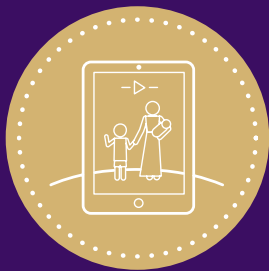
Through the Indigenous Navigator initiative, the community have participated in capacity strengthening workshops where they gained knowledge

and skills on Indigenous Peoples' rights, the Sustainable Development Goals, leadership, planning and communal management as well as advocacy training to be able to enter into dialogue with the local government regarding water management. They have applied these skills in order to approach and convince the provincial municipality of Melgar, Puno, of their concrete solution to this urgent issue. As a result, the municipality provided the heavy machinery needed to excavate the reservoirs and trenches in the steep hillsides. The community also reached out to Proyecto Especial Binacional Lago Titicaca, an agency under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, who provided 1,200 seedlings for reforestation of the area with native species.

"This project is also very important for us young people. We see our parents and grandparents working with forestation to mitigate climate change and that is a great motivation for us - to continue their efforts for the protection of the environment. As part of this project, I have learnt the importance of communal work. If we are not united and organised, we will not achieve anything. For me this project means life," says Willian Rivas Valeriano, a young agricultural engineer who returned to his community in Sunimarka as a consequence of the nationwide COVID-19 restrictions. Valeriano has used his professional skills to support his community with this ambitious project and is committed to ensuring the sustainability of the initiative and to contributing to environmental protection and climate change mitigation. He emphasises the importance of combining new technologies with ancestral practices and Indigenous knowledge in order to manage the natural resources in a reasonable and sustainable way that works for the Indigenous community.



CREDIT: ONAMIAP



OVER **8,100** NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

OVER **28,000** SOCIAL
MEDIA FOLLOWERS

FEATURED **82** TIMES IN
DANISH, ENGLISH AND
SPANISH LANGUAGE MEDIA

OVER **18,000** PERSONS
VISITED THE INDIGENOUS
WORLD 2020 WEBSITE
PAGES AND OVER
650 PHYSICAL BOOKS
DISTRIBUTED GLOBALLY



Engagement and Documentation

An essential part of IWGIA's work hinges on our engagement efforts, which cut across all our programming and organisational work. With our Triangle of Change at its foundation, our engagement encompasses documentation, communication, networking and fundraising. These elements allow us to communicate the reality and situation of Indigenous Peoples broadly, fully and effectively and engage numerous audiences – current and new – to raise awareness and inspire them to drive change for the promotion, protection and defence of Indigenous Peoples' rights.

IWGIA is recognised as a leading knowledge centre through our documentation of Indigenous Peoples' issues and human rights violations, conducted in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples and a broad network of committed individuals. We have become a trusted partner with Indigenous organisations, a go-to destination for academics, researchers and journalists, and a valuable resource for decision-makers, legal experts and activists fighting for the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Our communications work seeks to elevate the voices, actions and struggle of Indigenous Peoples; inform and influence policy processes and decisions; and promote and position IWGIA as the go-to organisation for Indigenous Peoples' rights. We do this, in part, by communicating broadly in two main institutional languages: English and Spanish. We also communicate in Danish on a limited level to engage with and inform Danish civil society networks, decision-makers, Danish politicians and the general public. We also support partners in developing culturally-appropriate communication interventions for Indigenous communities in their own languages.

In 2020, we published 18 reports and books and 68 articles, and we worked with our partners to produce hundreds of podcasts, documentaries, news programmes and other materials in local languages. We share news and information through our website, which was visited over 915,000 times in 2020; our newsletters, which reach over 8,100 subscribers; and our social media profiles, which are followed by over 28,000 people. In 2020, IWGIA featured 82 times in the English, Spanish and Danish language media, contributing to raising the awareness of Indigenous Peoples.

In 2020, we published the 34th edition of The Indigenous World, featuring 66 regional and country reports and 17 articles on international processes. 650 physical copies of the book were distributed around the world. The Indigenous World 2020's website pages in English and Spanish attracted over 18,000 visitors, while single articles in the publication were viewed by more than 68,000 readers. The Indigenous World is IWGIA's annual flagship publication, which is internationally recognised as a unique tool for monitoring the situation of Indigenous Peoples' rights and the result of a collaborative effort between Indigenous and non-Indigenous activists. The book is widely and continuously used by Indigenous Peoples, organisations, donors, academics and others as a reliable reference for policy input to decision-makers.

IWGIA's broad engagement work would not be possible without our extensive and dedicated network, which includes our partners, alliances and members who tirelessly and often voluntarily share invaluable advice, collaborate with us on interventions and lend their support as partners for change, promoting the fight for Indigenous Peoples' rights.

Communications from Latin America with a global outreach

One of the pillars of IWGIA's work since its foundation has been to contribute to the debate on different topics related to the Indigenous movements, through publications and communicational materials. Over the last few years, IWGIA has focused on improving the development of local-level communications and diversifying our own media.

During 2020, together with the organisation ORÉ, IWGIA produced a monthly digital magazine "[Debates Indígenas](#)" (Indigenous Debates) with articles from IWGIA's network. The magazine began as a product aimed at a Latin American audience, and only in Spanish. As of October 2020, however, the magazine expanded to an English version, and now has a more global perspective. In this first year, 70 articles were published in Spanish and 16 in English. The magazine has been disseminated, with good traffic, on social media. At the end of the year, a compendium with all the articles from 2020 was published. Among the articles with the most traffic, "[Remedios del Monte](#)" is noteworthy, with 392 shares and 101 comments, and "[El varon-mujer en los pueblos indígenas](#)", with 324 shares and 131 comments.

Linked to the [Debates Indígenas](#) magazine, we are continuing to produce podcasts in Spanish on the [Radio Encuentros](#) platform. 33 programmes have been produced and promoted on social media and re-broadcast on different local radio stations in Latin America.

Videos produced in previous years were shortlisted for and won awards at several documentary film festivals in 2020. The video "[Voices of the Sacred Mountain](#)", Colombia, was shortlisted/awarded in 21 international festivals. "[Time is Water](#)", Peru, was shortlisted/awarded in 17 festivals. "[Loma Santa](#)", Bolivia, was featured in 13 festivals, and "[Our Lands](#)", Myanmar, in one festival. New productions for 2020 included videos on consultation protocols and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The [training video on Protocols](#) (Chapter 1) had 18,900 views; the [animated video on Protocols](#), 28,100 views; the [animated video on the UN Declaration](#), 23,800 views; and the video on the International Day of Indigenous Peoples (Coica), 1,000 views.

Both the radio programmes and the videos are produced in collaboration with local organisations in Latin America.



Documenting Indigenous Peoples realities in facing a global pandemic: voices from Africa, Asia and Latin America

The Indigenous Navigator is a collaborative initiative of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP); the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP); the International Labour Organisation (ILO); the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA); Tebtebba Foundation; and the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), and is currently implemented in 11 countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Suriname; Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, the Philippines; Cameroon, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania).

The Indigenous Navigator provides a framework and a set of tools for Indigenous Peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. This framework and these tools monitor the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, and essential aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. The tools include questionnaires for data gathering at community and national levels; a Community Index and a National Index to quickly assess and compare Indigenous Peoples' situation across regions, countries and communities; a comparative matrix, which illustrates the links between UNDRIP and other human rights instruments; an Indigenous Peoples' Sustainable Development Matrix, showing the links between the UNDRIP and the SDG goals and targets; and a data portal for sharing data and tools across countries and communities.

The Indigenous Navigator is furthermore a platform for advocating for the realization of Indigenous Peoples' rights from local to international level. It also provides small grants to national partners and local communities for the design and implementation of development projects that respond to the needs of communities identified through the tools (see page 26 for an example of these projects).

Between June and August 2020, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and IWGIA conducted a series of consultations, surveys and interviews with Indigenous Navigator consortium members, coordinators and the national partner organisations involved in implementing the Indigenous Navigator Initiative's various components. These conversations, held across Africa, Asia and Latin America, along with data gathered through community questionnaires, facilitated the production of critical global reports on the impact of the pandemic.

Three of these global reports were made available and published by IWGIA in 2020: "Implementing the Indigenous Navigator: Experiences around the globe"; "The impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous communities - Insights from the Indigenous Navigator"; and "Indigenous Women's realities - Insights from the Indigenous Navigator", while two reports are due to be released in 2021: "Dialogue and Self-determination through the Indigenous Navigator"; and "Indigenous Peoples in a changing world of

work: Exploring the labour dimension of Indigenous Peoples' situation through the Indigenous Navigator".

These reports serve as a vital insight into the pre-existing challenges Indigenous Peoples faced before the pandemic, and how these have been exacerbated by the global health crisis. The reports were launched and presented in webinars focusing on COVID-19 and the critical role of Indigenous Women. The virtual launch event of the "Building Back Better, COVID-19 Report" was attended by around 200 participants, while the recording of the launch was viewed more than 1,200 times. The video of the launch of the report on Indigenous Women was viewed by more than 3,200 people and reached approximately 10,000 via Facebook. Building on this wide outreach, these global reports will continue to act as a critical resource in mobilising the community and disseminating national-level data gathered by the Indigenous Navigator and facilitates active dialogue and advocacy at the global level with regard to implementing and realizing Indigenous Peoples' rights.



Implementing the Indigenous Navigator:

Experiences Around the Globe



Indigenous women's realities:

Insights from the Indigenous Navigator



The impact of COVID-19 on indigenous communities:

Insights from the Indigenous Navigator



IWGIA building strong alliances online

Our unique partnerships with a diverse number of projects and strategic partners, including Indigenous organisations globally, UN agencies, international and regional human rights institutions, academic institutions, civil society organizations and donors, are one of IWGIA's main assets.

In 2020, in a COVID-19 context, the world has been confronted with major challenges in terms of communications and networking, impacting advocacy work from local to global levels. The impossibility of traveling and meeting with our partners in person has forced us, together with the whole world, to find new ways of communicating, meeting and exchanging. And yet virtual communications have also made it possible to bring together stakeholders and rights-holders that might otherwise not have discussed, let alone sat in the same meeting room. Webinars have also offered the possibility of tailoring events to the region or theme according to the audience addressed. It has also drastically reduced meeting costs while allowing us to reach a much wider audience.

Throughout 2020, IWGIA has tried to make the best of this situation by conducting a number of

advocacy actions online such as organising a virtual UPR pre-session together with the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in Geneva during which Indigenous representatives from Myanmar, Nepal and Rwanda briefed friendly states on their situation and listed recommendations they would encourage them to raise in the UPR session. IWGIA also organised a number of virtual side events to the meetings of international mechanisms such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, High-Level Political Forum, UNFCCC, UN Business and Human Rights Forum and UN General Assembly, facilitating discussions among Indigenous representatives, international mechanisms and states.

Online webinars have also proven to a very powerful tool in reaching out to wider audiences and making communications efforts even more impactful. Such was the case, for example, of the Spanish, English and Danish launches of "The Indigenous World 2020", which were made accessible via [IWGIA's Facebook](#) page and which attracted more than 550 attendees. IWGIA's webinar "[Advancing in the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' right to autonomy and self-government](#)" included a number of high-level speakers and was attended by 300

people. The webinars on the Amazon and COVID-19, organised through cooperation between IWGIA, the Catholic Church and the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights, were another success. The online launch of the Indigenous Navigator report on [the impact of COVID-19 on Indigenous communities](#) also attracted an audience of 220 individuals.

IWGIA's increased capacity for virtual communications has also benefitted our collaboration with the academic world. For example, IWGIA connected students from Danish universities with partners in Myanmar and Bolivia. IWGIA gave a virtual lecture on Indigenous rights to the Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia, Argentina, attracting an audience of 1,300. The 10th Advanced Course on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Africa was held online from 9 to 13 November 2020 by the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria in South Africa in collaboration with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and IWGIA. The course was attended by some 45 participants from various African countries, including Cameroon, South Africa, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Tanzania, Namibia, Nigeria, Benin, Ethiopia, Kenya and Botswana.

In 2020, together with NUR University in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia), IWGIA developed a three-month comprehensive training programme targeting Indigenous students and professionals with the aim of achieving a comprehensive understanding of complex environmental problems in the current context, as well as its relationship with the recognition and enforceability of the collective human and environmental rights of Indigenous Peoples. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme was held online and was attended by 37 students, 35 of them Indigenous graduates and professionals. IWGIA also gave a lecture on Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Peoples' rights and Indigenous territorial governance at the University of Saint Petersburg.

In 2020, IWGIA also continued its collaboration with a number of alliances and networks. In Europe, IWGIA forms part of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Forum, where

European organisations and academia actively engage to support Indigenous communities, meet regularly to share information, experiences, network and to strategise joint advocacy and campaigning efforts in support of the Indigenous communities of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Alongside more than 50 international, regional and national organisations, IWGIA is taking an active part in the Defending Land and Environmental Defenders Coalition. As part of the coalition, we are sharing experiences, learning as well as our specific knowledge of the challenges facing Indigenous Peoples' human rights defenders in accessing justice and support. We are using the coalition to amplify solidarity for the cases we work to support. IWGIA has shared several cases from partners with the coalition and has facilitated partners' access to resources and solidarity through the network. IWGIA is taking an active role in two working groups established by the coalition: the Law & Advocacy working group as well as the Data working group.

In 2020, IWGIA was active in the Zero Tolerance Initiative (ZTI), a coalition led by Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendants aimed at addressing the root causes of killing and violence in global supply chains. For example, we co-organised a side event during the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights on preventing abuses of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the business context. We also took part in all Steering Group meetings and shared issues of concern with them from our partners around the world, making use of ZTI as a solidarity network and support group.

IWGIA also continues to be part of a variety of international networks and is engaging in communication and advocacy work with those allies. These include the International Land Coalition, where IWGIA represents Global CSOs on the Council, the Working Group on Human Rights and Climate Change, the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP), an informal advocacy group of European organizations and specialists partnering with pastoralist organizations and specialists in East Africa.

IWGIA increasing exposure of Indigenous Peoples' rights in Denmark

It is important for IWGIA to inform Danish civil society and decision-makers as well as to raise Danish public awareness of Indigenous Peoples' rights. The Danish public is an obvious audience for IWGIA since the organisation and its offices are based in Denmark. Indigenous Peoples' rights are a priority for the Danish government. This provides us with opportunities to influence decision-making and we will continue to pursue these, as we have in the past.

In 2020, IWGIA was engaged in influencing the process of drafting the new Danish development policy. In September 2020, IWGIA had a meeting with Rasmus Prehn, Denmark's then Minister for Development Cooperation and, as a follow up to this meeting, IWGIA forwarded written recommendations. In December 2020, IWGIA produced a two-page advocacy and recommendation document that was sent to the development spokespersons of a wide range of Danish political parties in December 2020 and early 2021. IWGIA is also in dialogue with and provides regular updates to Danish embassies on the situation of Indigenous Peoples in focus countries.

IWGIA is a member of three Danish civil society networks – Globalt Fokus, CISU and the 92-Group – and is actively engaged in the different thematic expert areas. IWGIA organises joint events and

engages in joint advocacy efforts focusing on civic space and Indigenous Peoples' human rights defenders, on linking climate action with human rights, and on development issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2020, IWGIA also actively participated in the country-specific groups of Globalt Fokus, particularly for Tanzania and Myanmar.

In August 2020, IWGIA was invited by Humanity in Action Denmark to give a lecture on IWGIA's work in developing Indigenous Peoples' rights over the past 30 years through its fellowship programme, which has included 22 students or recent graduates from 10 different countries.

Unfortunately, in 2020, Folkemødet ("The People's Meeting"), a Danish festival for democracy and dialogue, had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. IWGIA was, however, able to hold one of its planned events online where, together with Verdens Skove (Forests of the World) and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we discussed a rights-based approach to forest conservation, particularly in the light of the enormous forest fires in the Amazon and other tropical forests around the world. The title of the event was: Kan rettigheder slukke skovbrande? – Can rights put out forest fires?

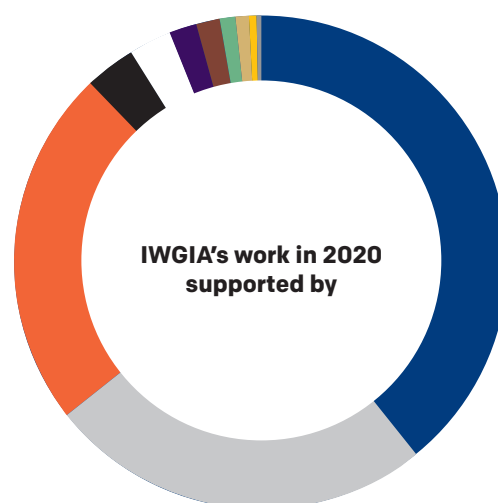
In August 2020, IWGIA launched its flagship publication, The Indigenous World, in an online event in Danish. The focus of the 2020 edition was on climate change. Speakers at the event included IWGIA's Chairperson, the Director of PINGO's Forum – one of IWGIA's partners in Tanzania, representatives of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Member of the Danish Parliament from Greenland and a representative from the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

IWGIA also had a presence in the Danish media in 2020, showcasing issues on and raising awareness of Indigenous Peoples' situation with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic and also country-specific struggles. IWGIA was mentioned in a total of 22 articles during 2020.

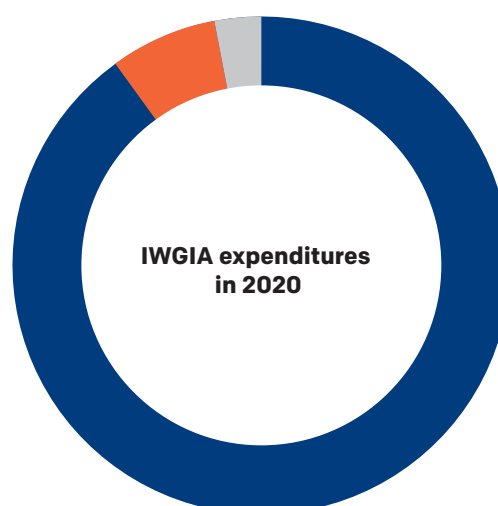


2020 Finance

IWGIA's work in 2020 supported by	Danish krone	%
● Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark	15,973,679	39.2%
● European Commission	10,211,662	25.0%
● Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI)	9,507,976	23.3%
● Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	1,291,973	3.2%
○ Ford Foundation	1,217,913	3.0%
● Comic Relief	754,303	1.8%
● Wallace Global Fund	574,410	1.4%
● Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	463,924	1.1%
● International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	377,556	0.9%
● International Labour Organization (ILO)	243,543	0.6%
● Nordic Council of Ministers	166,653	0.4%
Total	40,783,593	100%



IWGIA expenditures in 2020	Danish krone	%
● Projects and programmes	36,984,534	90.7%
● Cost of doing business	2,718,023	6.7%
● Development & other activities	1,081,036	2.6%
Total	40,783,593	100%



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