



**INDIGENOUS  
NAVIGATOR**  
Data by and for Indigenous Peoples



# A global tool for Indigenous Peoples to assert their rights and advance their self-determined development

*“One of the things that makes the Indigenous Navigator different from other research tools is that Indigenous Peoples themselves are gathering the data, analysing the data, and storing the data within the community.”*

- JAMES TWALA, PROGRAMME  
MANAGER, ILEPA, KENYA

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

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

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

## **AWARENESS**

Assess the status of Indigenous Peoples' rights and development in relation to relevant international frameworks, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development Goals.

## **INFLUENCE**

Develop advocacy initiatives using the data to highlight the gaps and challenges Indigenous Peoples face and their contributions and solutions to local and global issues.

## **SELF-DETERMINED DEVELOPMENT**

Address identified issues according to Indigenous Peoples' own priorities and aspirations based on their own cosmovision, culture, values and knowledge systems.

As of the end of 2023, the Indigenous Navigator:

- is implemented in **29 countries**
- supporting at least **300,000 Indigenous persons**
- in approximately **320 Indigenous communities**
- and has completed **175 surveys**
- and **18 national reports**



# A community-driven initiative with local to global impact



## AWARENESS

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

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

## INFLUENCE

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

## SELF-DETERMINED DEVELOPMENT

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



### A voice from the community

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

- VITALIA ARROYO MARTINEZ, COMMUNITY MEMBER, BOLIVIA

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

- SHAPIOM NONINGO SESEN, TECHNICAL ADVISOR, AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT OF THE WAMPIS NATION, PERU

### EXPLORE THE DATA



## Reliable data key to leaving no-one behind

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ÅSA LARSSON BLIND, VICE PRESIDENT, SAAMI COUNCIL.



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

-TAHAL THAMI, DIRECTOR, LAHURNIP, NEPAL



**The Indigenous Navigator operates in 29 countries**



*“The Indigenous Navigator has touched the lives of the people, not only by allowing them to participate in monitoring their rights to self-determined development, but also by delivering services that support the community”*

- GIDEON SANAGO, CLIMATE COORDINATOR, PINGOS FORUM, TANZANIA



If you want to know more, contact us at: [navigator@iwgia.org](mailto:navigator@iwgia.org)



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



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[www.indigenousnavigator.org](http://www.indigenousnavigator.org)