



ANNUAL REPORT 2014 -15

IWGIA

# International secretariat

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Frederica Barclay  
Karen Bundgaard Andersen  
Claire Methven O'Brien  
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Geneviève Rose (staff representative)

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15  
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# Vision

We believe that indigenous peoples should be able to fully enjoy their individual and collective rights as distinct peoples as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We envisage that indigenous peoples participate and are consulted on decisions affecting them in accordance with the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent. They practice and develop their cultures and exercise their distinct cultural identities based on their own priorities and visions in accordance with the fundamental right to self-determination.

# Mission

IWGIA works, in partnership with indigenous peoples' own organisations and institutions as well as international and regional human rights mechanisms, to promote the recognition of and the respect for the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, particularly their right to self-determination and self-determined development, as well as their right to control their own territories and resources.

# Goals

Empower indigenous men and women, including the most vulnerable groups, so they may promote and exercise their rights.

Sensitize duty-bearers to promote, protect and fulfil indigenous peoples' rights.

Hold duty-bearers accountable for violations of indigenous peoples' rights.

# Report from the board

In 2014-15, IWGIA maintained its focus on promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples around the world through support to human rights projects implemented by indigenous peoples' organizations at the national and local level; support to and facilitation of indigenous peoples' human rights advocacy work at the international level; and documentation and awareness raising on the situation of indigenous peoples. In 2014 IWGIA supported a total of 52 partners, 84 projects and 42 publications.

The projects - some small, some not so small - focused on: capacity building of indigenous peoples' organizations to conduct policy lobbying; protection of indigenous peoples' land and natural resource rights; monitoring and documentation of violations of indigenous peoples' rights; and promotion of the rights of indigenous women and youth. We consider it a strength that IWGIA is able to support indigenous peoples with projects of different size as small projects can have a large impact.

At the international level, IWGIA supported indigenous peoples' advocacy work on such important UN processes and

mechanisms as: the Post-2015 Development Agenda; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights; the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD); and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). IWGIA was furthermore active in commenting on the World Bank's revised safeguard policies and helped facilitate indigenous peoples' input.

IWGIA also supported indigenous peoples' active engagement with UN mechanisms and processes specifically targeting indigenous peoples. These include the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The World Conference led to the UN General Assembly's adoption of an Outcome Document that provides for the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This was a major achievement in 2014 and, in 2015, IWGIA provided support for the development of concrete national actions plans through which to implement this Outcome Document.

IWGIA also continued its support to regional human rights mechanisms such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) for the further development of their indigenous rights work, and helped indigenous peoples make active use of these two important mechanisms.

A major focus for IWGIA over 2014 and 2015 was its support for indigenous peoples to influence climate change policy at both national and international level. Indigenous representatives have been assisted to consistently attend and influence international preparatory meetings leading up to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 21) in Paris at the end of 2015.

In relation to documentation and awareness raising, IWGIA has continued to publish a number of books and reports. In 2014 IWGIA further developed a Spanish web-based radio platform called 'Radio Encuentros', which has successfully reached out to many people in the Spanish-speaking world, informing them of key issues relating to indigenous peoples.

## The Secretariat and the Board

In June 2015, Orla Bakdal stepped down as IWGIA's director and Marianne Wiben Jensen was appointed as interim director. Marianne has worked as IWGIA's Africa Programme Coordinator since 1995. In September 2015, Søren Juul Aarslev took up the position as Head of Finance and Administration and thus, at the end of 2015, IWGIA's staff numbered 14 people in all.

IWGIA's Board held four ordinary and seven extraordinary meetings during 2014 and 2015. In 2015, Frank Sejersen was re-appointed as the chair of the Board, and Rie Odgaard was appointed vice-chair. Knud Vilby was appointed as a new board member, substituting Claire O'Brien, and Marianne Lykke Thomsen was elected to replace Frederica Barclay. Knud Vilby has published extensively on Africa, global development, climate and the environment. Marianne Lykke Thomsen lives in Greenland and has a background in Inuit studies and anthropology. She has been working twenty years for the Government of Greenland, being involved in a number of UN processes including negotiating the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.





## RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION

The World Conference saw three Roundtables and one Panel Discussion that were co-chaired by State and Indigenous Peoples representatives.

Photo: Roundtable 2, co-chaired by the Bolivian Minister of Foreign Affairs & Mr. Joseph Ole Simmel, Representative of the African Indigenous Region.

Photo by Cæcilie Mikkelsen / IWGIA

# AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD

2014 saw the celebration of the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The outcome document confirms and reaffirms the rights of indigenous peoples and includes references to most of the indigenous peoples' key proposals. It also expresses a clear commitment to developing concrete action plans for the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights nationally and internationally.

The President of the UN General Assembly's appointment of two indigenous advisors to assist him – on an equal footing with State advisors – in developing the conference outcome document was a result in its own right, as was the fact that the indigenous peoples' Global Coordinating Group (GCG) was recognised as an official counterpart in the consultations.

During the three-year preparatory process, IWGIA had the integrity and trust of both the indigenous peoples and the UN system, as well as State and private donors, to act as a facilitator and coordinator. The organisation contributed to implementing the preparatory activities organised by the GCG, including regional and international lobbying initiatives to promote indigenous proposals, by fundraising and providing logistical, administrative and strategic support. We also coordinated all logistics for the participation of 250 indigenous delegates to the World Conference.

The real value of the World Conference remains to be seen. The implementation of the outcome document will require the political will of States and coordinated lobbying by indigenous peoples to ensure that the commitments are followed up at the international and national levels. IWGIA will continue to follow this process closely.



## LAND RIGHTS

The Kadiwéu are protecting their forest from the erosive practices of large-scale cattle farming and soy bean plantations. The border of Kadiwéu Reserve.

Photo by Alejandro Parellada / IWGIA

# MARKING BOUNDARIES TO PROTECT THE LAND

The dense Pantanal forest in the western part of the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso do Sul is home to the remaining 1,300 indigenous Kadiwéu, a people who rely on subsistence agriculture and small-scale cattle herding for their livelihood. Their ancestral land is still rich in wildlife but is surrounded on all sides by an encroaching frontier of plantation agriculture and large-scale cattle farming.

Mato Grosso do Sul has the highest rate of deforestation in Brazil. The Kadiwéu territory boundary is clearly marked by the change from high forest canopy to eroded grassland. To maintain this boundary, the Kadiwéu have placed two-meter-high concrete and iron markers every kilometre along the border of their 540,000 hectare indigenous reserve.

Through the indigenous organisation, ACIRK, IWGIA is supporting the Kadiwéu with legal advice, training of indigenous leaders and the physical demarcation of the reserve's boundaries. Indigenous community members have been trained in georeferencing and in constructing the solid boundary markers that have been placed along a 140-km line to demarcate the territory.

The Kadiwéu are one of the many indigenous peoples in Latin America who, despite legal recognition and title to their land, continue to struggle to defend themselves from unlawful invasion and destruction of their environment. IWGIA is working to ensure that indigenous peoples have the right to stay on their ancestral land by supporting its physical demarcation, the people's institutional strengthening and political advocacy. We also help raise awareness, monitor public policies, document human rights violations and take legal actions when the boundaries are crossed.

*Raising awareness about indigenous peoples' rights is one of the main pillars of work supported by IWGIA. In recent years, a number of training courses have targeted members of the judiciary in Tanzania, Peru and Paraguay.*

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Chair of the Law Reform Commission, Judge Mujulizi, has invited UCRT to continue discussions on how the rights of indigenous peoples can be better upheld by the Tanzanian judiciary.

Photo from the training seminar by UCRT

## SENSITIZING JUDGES

The Tanzanian judiciary has considerably improved its knowledge of indigenous peoples and of international legal provisions for the protection of their rights. A seminar organised by Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT) in May 2014 provided training to 19 judges and registrars from Tanzania's High Courts about indigenous peoples' rights and the national and international legal mechanisms that protect them. They also gained an understanding of the impact of land alienation on indigenous livelihood systems and, in particular, on indigenous women.

Prior to the training, the judges knew almost nothing about indigenous rights issues. By the end, however, they had realised that it was a highly relevant area and agreed that they would now seek to apply it in their courts. As Judge Moshi said, "One of the very valuable things that I learnt is that courts can apply international and regional instruments to protect indigenous peoples' rights".

The training was the first of its kind to be held in Africa. Feedback from the participants stressed the need to extend the training to many others. As Judge Rugazia said, "Trainings like this need to be continued for advocates from Tanzania as well as more judges and government officials". This is why, in 2015, IWGIA and UCRT decided to extend the training to 200 Tanzanian lawyers.

The project has both increased UCRT's capacity to deliver training on indigenous peoples' rights to high-profile groups and significantly raised its profile among the judiciary. IWGIA provided funding for the training, identified international experts to facilitate the training and provided relevant training materials.



*IWGIA and its indigenous partner organisations in Asia are jointly implementing a project to promote rights-based, equitable and pro-poor REDD+. Since 2014, special focus has been on increasing indigenous women's knowledge of and active participation in national and local REDD+ processes.*

**GENDER EQUALITY**

NEFIN's REDD+ project coordinator, Pasang Dolma Sherpa providing training to indigenous women in Khasur community, Nepal.

Photo by Chris Erni / IWGIA

## INDIGENOUS WOMEN KEY TO REDD+

Basanti Chaudari is a 31-year-old Tharu woman from the Terai region of Nepal. Like most indigenous women in Nepal, she is dependent on the forest for firewood, medicine and food. Since receiving training from the national indigenous organisation, NEFIN, she has gained an understanding of how international agreements on climate change and national forest policies can affect the conservation of the forest and her future access to its resources. She is now engaging in public consultations to make sure indigenous women's voices are heard by decision-makers.

National initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, known as REDD, have a great impact on tenure and use rights to the forests that are home to many indigenous peoples. If indigenous peoples' rights to land and livelihood are not respected in REDD initiatives, the fight against climate change may lead to poverty and a loss of cultural practices.

Indigenous women are most severely affected by the loss of land and resources since they are often the ones responsible for collecting firewood, fetching water, tending the fields and feeding the family.

Indigenous women also play a central role in forest conservation and management as they hold traditional knowledge of non-timber forest products and are the keepers of seeds that help preserve agro-biodiversity, which is key to climate change adaptation among farming communities.

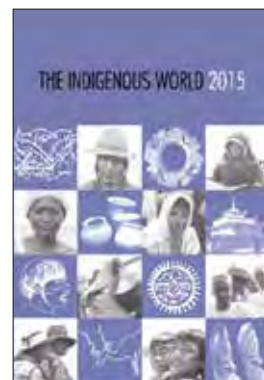


# Getting the word out

Publishing materials on indigenous affairs and distributing information about indigenous peoples' rights is an essential part of our work. We publish a wide range of books, reports, briefing notes and videos each year. Remember, if you want to be updated on new publications, sign up for our newsletter at [iwgia.org/news/newsletter](http://iwgia.org/news/newsletter).

Each year, we publish *The Indigenous World*, a comprehensive book documenting the current situation of indigenous peoples around the world. The Indigenous World looks at the most significant developments and setbacks for indigenous peoples' rights at the national and international level during the previous year and at indigenous peoples' own assessments of possible ways forward.

In 2014 IWGIA published 42 books, reports and briefing notes. See a full list of our publications at [iwgia.org/publications](http://iwgia.org/publications)



# Publication Highlights 2014



**World Heritage Sites and Indigenous Peoples' Rights**  
Ed. by Stefan Disko and Helen Tugendhat

IWGIA, Forest Peoples Programme & Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, Copenhagen  
ISBN: 978-87-92786-54-8

Twenty case studies explore indigenous peoples' experiences with World Heritage sites and with lobbying for recognition in the World Heritage Convention.



**Indigenous Peoples in the Russian Federation.**  
IWGIA Report 18  
By Johannes Rohr  
Eds. Diana Vinding and Kathrin Wessendorf

IWGIA, Electronic copy only  
ISBN: 978-87-92786-49-4

This report examines the human rights situation of the 41 indigenous peoples living in the Northern and Asian territories of the Russian Federation.



**Business and Human Rights: Interpreting the UN Guiding Principles for Indigenous Peoples.** IWGIA Report 16  
By Johannes Rohr & José Aylwin. Ed. by IWGIA  
IWGIA & ENIP, Copenhagen  
ISBN: 978-87-92786-44-9

This report examines the relationship between the Guiding Principles and indigenous peoples' substantive rights, in particular the rights to self-determination, land and resources, and the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent.



**Briefing notes on indigenous peoples and sustainable development**

IWGIA & Tebtebba

As a contribution to indigenous Peoples' advocacy for inclusive sustainable development goals (SDGs), IWGIA, in collaboration with Tebtebba has prepared seven briefing notes on topics of key relevance for indigenous peoples' in the post-2015 development process.

//  
*In my community, it is difficult for girls to finish secondary school. We are told that our place is in the kitchen or in the field.*

FAVIA PÚA CHANCHARI  
26-YEAR-OLD SHAWI WOMAN  
FROM ALTO AMAZONAS IN PERU

In Favia Púa Chanchari's community in the Peruvian Amazon, the teachers are locals who teach the native language and know the students' reality. But girls are not encouraged to attend school.

Photo by ONAMIAP

RADIO ENCUENTROS

CONTENIDOS PARA LA DIFUSION DEL MUNDO INDIGENA

## Empowerment through podcasting

In the tiny radio studio on the outskirts of Lima, Nery Velasco Castillo presses record and turns towards three young indigenous women, who have come to talk about the barriers to education for indigenous girls. Luz Moya Chanca and Inés Roca Mejía, from the Andean regions of Huancavelica and Ayacucho, are concerned about ethnic discrimination in the school system "The teachers don't understand our culture and how we live," says Luz, who finds that the teaching material does not reflect indigenous peoples' social and economic realities. Inés, for her part, relates how in her community, the teachers mistreat the pupils when they speak Quechua.

Although their experiences are different, the women agree on the importance of promoting bilingual and bicultural education, and on the need to promote equal access to education for indigenous girls.

Nery Velasco Castillo or one of her associates from the national indigenous women's organization, ONAMIAP, regularly interviews other women about their experiences of being indigenous and a woman in today's Peru. Through short radio podcasts, women who often remain silent at home voice their hopes and concerns and share them with other indigenous women.

IWGIA is supporting the training of indigenous organisations and media in Latin America and the production of programmes such as the series on indigenous women produced by ONAMIAP.

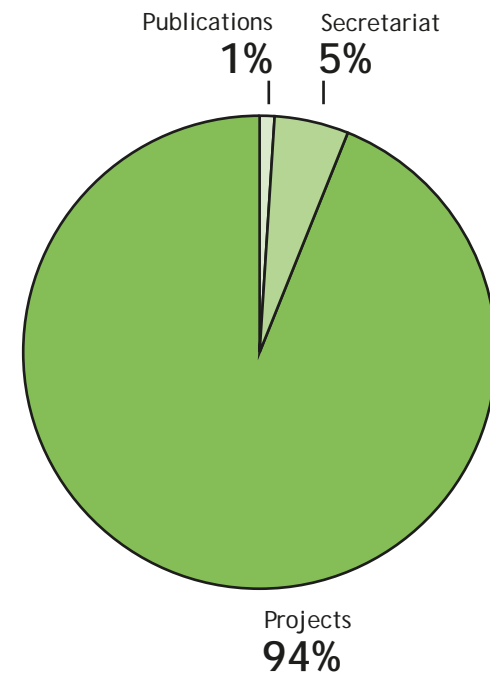


## Annual accounts

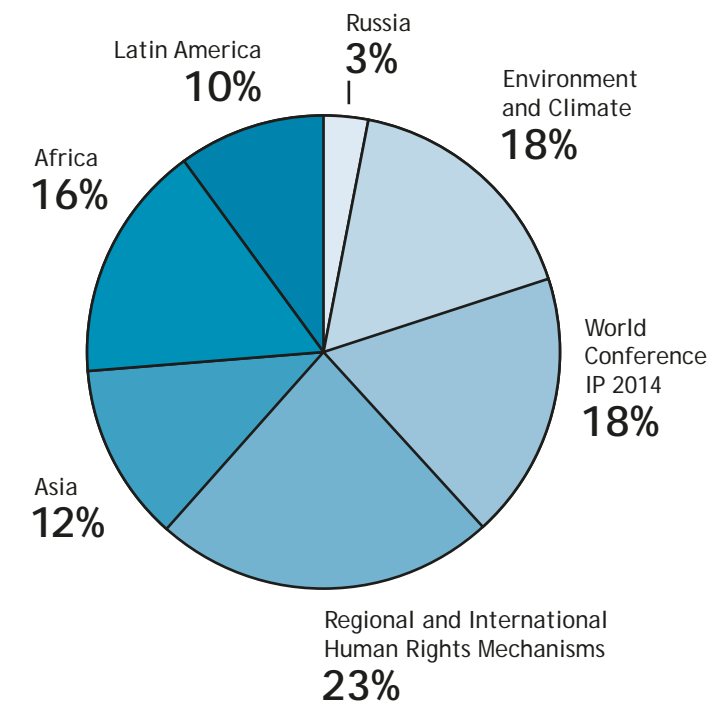
<b>Profit and Loss (total)</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Direct activities</b>			
Received project and programme subsidies and grants	37.845.033	38.509.935	32.995.948
Transfers, projects & programs	(38.578.054)	(37.027.440)	(36.222.044)
<b>Total</b>	<b>733.021</b>	<b>1.482.495</b>	<b>(3.226.096)</b>
<b>Indirect activities</b>			
Core funding	3.087.118	3.222.243	3.538.213
Contributions to IWGIA	173.464	365.022	365.473
Expenditure, Secretariat	(2.037.407)	(1.607.149)	(2.298.281)
Publications	(413.306)	(690.450)	(705.085)
IWGIA, projects expenses	(149.486)	(348.969)	(332.357)
<b>Total</b>	<b>669.015</b>	<b>940.697</b>	<b>(567.963)</b>
<b>Special activities</b>			
Strategic Institutional and Program Development	(22.782)	0	(500.000)
<b>Remaining funds for future projects and programs</b>	<b>646.233</b>	<b>940.697</b>	<b>67.963</b>

For further specification, please refer to IWGIA's Financial Statement 2014 at [iwgia.org/iwgia/who-we-are](http://iwgia.org/iwgia/who-we-are)

## Costs and projects 2014



## Distribution of funds on programmes 2014



# Land grabbing seminar

Agribusiness and extractive industries pose serious threats to indigenous peoples' livelihoods and to their cultural survival as peoples.

In October 2014, IWGIA hosted a members meeting on the burning issue of land grabbing. The presentations ranged from a broad analysis of causes and consequences to concrete cases and tools with which to tackle the problem.

The two-day seminar was attended by 75 participants, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, IWGIA members, representatives from indigenous peoples' organisations, NGOs, international organisations, the private sector and governments, all of whom actively engaged in the debates on how to address the issue in an informed and targeted way.

Every other year, IWGIA organises a members' meeting to discuss issues of urgent importance to indigenous peoples and how to address them. The members' meeting has consultative status and is an advisory body to the Board.



Join us - become a member now at:  
[iwgia.org/act-now](http://iwgia.org/act-now)

# Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the assistance and guidance provided throughout the year by our large network of indigenous peoples' organisations, support NGOs, international institutions, indigenous and non-indigenous academics and experts working with indigenous peoples and issues.

The work of IWGIA would not be possible without the generous support of all our donors and supporters. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to institutions and individuals who have provided financial support for our work in the past years.

Particular thanks go to our institutional donor the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2014 and 2015) and Norad (2014) for their faithful support over the years. There is no doubt that their financial and political commitment to the promotion and recognition of indigenous peoples' rights has repeatedly played a key role in IWGIA's achievements.

IWGIA gratefully acknowledges the project support received in 2014 and 2015 by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Utenriksdepartementet), Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), The European Union, Ford Foundation, CISU, UNDP, GIZ, Rainforest Foundation Norway, and the Norwegian Forum for Development Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples, members and private donors.

# You can help create a better world for all

IWGIA is dedicated to bringing about positive change in the lives of indigenous peoples and we need your help. You can help defend the protection of indigenous peoples' rights, ensure their voices are heard, and create a better world for all.

We accept support through membership, individual contributions, and collaboration with corporations and foundations.

Contact us today to learn how you can get involved.



Scan to learn more  
about how you can  
contribute

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