



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2023
JANUARY-DECEMBER



**Indigenous Peoples
Rights International**
Championing Indigenous Peoples Rights

Letter from the Director

2023 was a year marked by consolidation and growth for IPRI, building upon the lessons gleaned from our initial years to embark on the implementation of our 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Throughout the year, we responded to numerous collaboration requests spanning advocacy, communication campaigns, and legal and sanctuary support, alongside indigenous organizations working within territories, culminating in our participation in key global processes and bodies, e.g, UN Committee Against Torture, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28), the Business and Human Rights (BHR) Forum), and engagements with Special Rapporteurs.

In these spaces, we highlighted the challenges and perils we as indigenous peoples face in the defense of our lands, territories, and ways of life, actively contributing to the development of international guidelines that advocate for the respect of our rights, notably influencing the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct.

Amidst the climate crisis and the green transition - central issues in the protection of our territories and the biodiversity we safeguard-, we reiterated in forums and campaigns that a just transition is one that unequivocally upholds indigenous peoples' rights and prevents and addresses criminalization and violation of our individual and collective rights.

Furthermore, 2023 witnessed our concerted efforts to nurture solidarity among indigenous women in political spheres and movements across territories, in particular, through our support of the September Indigenous Women's March in Brazil.

We also grappled with multifaceted challenges, particularly the perilous and evolving contexts in our six focus countries. While notable indigenous women secured significant political positions in states like Brazil and Colombia, the looming threats posed by armed actors and extractive industries persistently endanger the existence of our peoples. Internally, our foremost challenge lies in looking for indigenous peoples possessing the requisite expertise to fill critical positions.

As we reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of 2023, we are imbued with renewed hope and unwavering conviction, recognizing that it is through solidarity and diligent effort that we will continue to advance our mission in combating criminalization and impunity while safeguarding the rights of indigenous peoples worldwide.

Joan Carling
Executive Director

Our main accomplishment

In 2023, IPRI began the implementation of its 5-Year Strategic Plan. Now, IPRI is consolidating its role as a recognized credible global actor in addressing the criminalization of and human rights violations against Indigenous peoples with impunity.

Our key achievements

Enhanced Advocacy in Global Processes to Strengthen Global Recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights

Heightened Visibility of Rights Violations in conservation and climate actions

Specific Recognition of Indigenous Women's Rights

Advancing understanding of the criminalization of indigenous peoples through comprehensive jurisprudence **compilation**, research, **publications**, and communications outreach

Sustained Provision of Crucial Emergency Support to Indigenous Peoples' Rights Defenders and Indigenous Communities

Enhanced recognition and backing for grassroots Indigenous organizations, alongside continued fostering of impactful collaborations on a national scale



How we did it

Legal and Policy Advocacy

Effective engagement with UN Human Rights Bodies:

Support to our partners in Brazil to file a report with the **UN Committee Against Torture** that resulted in a number of recommendations (CAT/C/BRA/CO/2)

We were the only organization requested to file an amicus brief by the **Human Rights Committee** in relation to a number of pending cases against Guatemala

Successful lobbying for the **Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers** to conduct a study on Indigenous peoples' justice systems

Work with a member of the **Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** to obtain approval for the drafting of a general comment on Indigenous peoples' rights.

Engagement with the **UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples**, directly participating and supporting indigenous representatives' participation.

In his last report to the **UNGA** on the impact of tourism, the Special Rapporteur references case studies commissioned and submitted by IPRI and IWGIA.

Coordination of an Indigenous Peoples' global effort that led to the recognition and inclusion of specific provisions related to Indigenous Peoples' rights in **OECD's Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct**.

Advocacy in key global forums including the **16th session of the Expert Mechanism on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, The 54th session of the HRC, the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples, the Business and Human Rights Forum and the UNFCCC COP 28**. **Nine (9) side events** were organized at these key events.

Organization of a side event of **CEDAW's GR 39** at the UNPFII.

Other processes

Together with Anmiga and FIMI, we led a delegation of 20+ global indigenous women leaders to build solidarity within the Indigenous Women's March in Brazil.

How we did it

Sustained Solidarity and Support for Campaigns and Capacity Building

IPRI's collaborative approach has led to increased visibility and support for Indigenous Peoples' organizations at local and national levels, empowering them to effectively engage in regional and global advocacy efforts.

Support for campaigns

10

countries such as Tanzania, Kenya, Ecuador, Belize, Guyana, Suriname, and Ethiopia. This includes advocacy, support for local campaigns, submission of complaints to UN Treaty Bodies, trainings, and support through our legal and sanctuary fund.

Building relationships

of local indigenous partners with other support organizations including donors.

Treaty bodies reached

UNSRIP
CAT
CEDAW

Some cases supported

Maasai people
Ogiek people
Karrayyu people

Trainings on

InterAmerican System
UN Treaty Bodies
UPR
Special procedures

Strengthened networking and alliance-building

Total 111

35

indigenous organizations and networks

36

human rights organizations, CSOs, and academe

13

UN agencies, bodies, and processes

15

government agencies and bodies

6

intergovernmental and multilateral bodies



How we did it

Research, documentation and publications

7

publications on the
criminalization of
Indigenous Peoples
and related issues

Two (2) issues of Xanharu (Volume 3 and 4), IPRI's legal digest to further advance the implementation of the UNDRIP

One (1) compilation of Treaty Body decisions that is being developed into a searchable database

Development of 4 case studies (2 from Tanzania, 1 from Kenya, 1 from Nepal)

Collaborations
and inputs

Joint submission/publication with IWGIA for inputs to the UNSRRIP report on tourism

Inputs for the preparation of the UNSRRIP report of Canada

Inputs to thematic report on Climate Change

Collaboration on IFI reports to guide a new report focused on Green Financing

Monitoring and
Documentation of
human rights cases

Operationalization of Database

User's Manual for database operation and functionality

Networking with human rights organizations and with the data community

Legal Defense and Sanctuary Fund (LDSF)

20 Total of cases supported

16

Direct support

4

Facilitated support

11

Countries covered

Regions

Asia, Latin America
and Africa.

USD 78,000 Amount provided

Communications and Outreach

Comprehensive and
timely communication
campaigns to position
cases, events, and
processes among
relevant audiences and
mainstream media

Strengthening work in latin america

- The regional planning workshop provided a platform for in-depth discussions and exchanges, facilitating more effective strategies
- Successful annual planning at the country level despite budgetary limitations
- Reports on militarization (e.g., Ecuador, Colombia, and Guatemala) and advocacy efforts in Ecuador's Byron Guatatuca case through mobilization of key stakeholders and galvanization support from major organizations.

Partnerships with indigenous peoples organizations

Partnerships with local indigenous organizations is pivotal for our work. For 2023, we in-creased partnerships with indigenous peoples organizations and networks

7

Equity Models – CIELO, Mexico

Online Attacks Project – Ogiek Peoples Development Program (OPDP), Kenya

GBF and IPs Project – CNTI, Colombia and APIB, Brazil

Criminalization/HRV documentation – LAFO, Ethiopia

Addressing security of indigenous peoples in Sagaing Region– RRtIP, Myan-mar

Philippine national advocacy on NBSAPs/GBF and Climate - Tebtebba

We continue to support **6 indigenous national partner organizations (NPOs) and IPRI country teams**

Alliance Nationale d'Appui et de Promotion des Aires et Territoires du Patrimoine en République Démocratique de Congo (ANAPAC-DRC)

- Capacity-building and legal information sharing.
- Collaboration with parliamentary commissions and advocacy activities for land law reform, inclusion of indigenous heritage areas, Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures, and free, informed, and prior consent in the amendment to the nature conservation law.
- Advocacy activities and dialogues with government agencies to address arbitrary arrests and criminalization of indigenous Pygmy peoples

Panaghiusa Philippine Network to Uphold Indigenous Peoples Rights

- Preparations, networking, and case studies for the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous peoples
- Sustained documentation and monitoring of criminalization and violation of indigenous peoples' rights

Partnerships with indigenous peoples organizations

Articulação Nacional das Mulheres Indígenas Guerreiras da Ancestralidade – ANMIGA

- Collection of updated data on the incarceration of indigenous peoples.
- Organization of the Indigenous Women's March, attended by thousands of Indigenous women from Brazil and 11 countries

Colombia IPRI Country Team

- Training sessions for indigenous communities to gather audiovisual material, as well as to engage in regional campaigns
- Outreach activities with the national government to address indigenous peoples' security and development issues
- Presentation of the criminalization report for 2022

IPRI Mexico Core Group

- Collaboration with organizations to craft a unified perspective on Internal Forced Displacement, integrating observations into a working document for the government.
- Integration of Indigenous Peoples' approach into the Universal Periodic Review, systematization of recommendations, documentation of murder of indigenous activists, participation in the Geneva session, and meetings with ambassadors.
- Submission to relevant global bodies of inputs on militarization; establishment of a qualitative analysis method to measure impacts, and formulation of an agenda of demands

Indigenous Rights Advocacy Center (IRAC)

- Capacity-building activities and internship programs on the different national human rights mechanisms and relevant laws
- Documentation of new cases under investigation by authorities, informing National Human Rights Institutions.
- Campaign for India's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, leading to recognition by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- Organization of a meeting on land grab by a renewable company, prompting an investigation by the concerned State Human Rights Commission.



Institutional strengthening and building

The consolidation of IPRI's internal organization allows us to better leverage our resources for the benefit of our partners

We continued to **strengthen our governance**, by holding key meetings and consultations with our Global Board, our International Advisory Group (IAG), and our Philippine Board

The current IAG has retained its members with 25 individuals from the following organizations/institutions

10 Indigenous Organizations/
Networks

5 Funders

8 HR Organizations

2 Academe

IPRI Affiliates

As a result of our Affiliates campaign, IPRI now has **49** Affiliates from **27** countries

Regions

19 Africa

2 Europe

15 Asia

3 North America

1 Australia and Pacific

9 Latin America

Policies, Guidelines and Institutional Documents

For **2023** strengthening and consolidation of the secretariat was sustained.

The total Global Secretariat is now composed of **13** full-time staff and **2** consultants

We developed a Salary Scale and Staff benefits.

We were able to sustain support from **11** existing funders and gained **5** new funders



PHOTO: IPRI BRAZIL

The Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI) is a global Indigenous Peoples' organization established in 2019 in response to the grave situation of Indigenous Peoples who are increasingly being criminalized, killed, disappeared, and subjected to the worst forms of violence.

We are leading the Global Initiative to Address and Prevent Criminalization, Violence, and Impunity Against Indigenous Peoples—an Indigenous-led global effort to strengthen coordination, solidarity, and actions to prevent, respond to, and reduce acts of criminalization, violence, and impunity against Indigenous Peoples; and to provide better protection and access to justice for victims not only as individuals but as collectives or communities.

Global Board of Directors

- **Sandra Creamer** (Waanyi/Kalkadoon, Australia), Chairperson
- **Lars-Anders Baers** (Saami, Sweden), Vice-Chairperson
- **Naomi Kipuri** (Maasai, Kenya), Secretary
- **Leonor Zalabata Torres** (Arhuaco, Colombia), Treasurer
- **Victoria Tauli-Corpuz** (Kankanaey, Philippines)
- **Rukka Sombolinggi** (Toraja, Indonesia)
- **Wilfredo Alangui** (Kankanaey, Philippines)
- **Pavel Vasilievich Sulyandziga** (Udege, Russia)
- **Beverly Jacobs** (Iroquois, Canada)
- **Joan Carling** (Kankanaey, Philippines), *ex officio* Executive Director

International Advisory Group

Individuals and organizations with expertise and experience in areas relevant to IPRI's mission and activities. Includes representatives of regional networks of Indigenous Peoples, international human rights organizations, academe and donors.

Affiliates

Indigenous organizations and networks supporting IPRI in addressing the serious challenges of Indigenous Peoples against criminalization and impunity through solidarity, cooperation and collaboration.

The Global Secretariat

The Global Secretariat currently has 13 staff: The Executive Director, Deputy Director for Latin America, Chief Operations Officer, Legal Policy and Advocacy Team, Research Coordinator, Communications Team, and the Finance and Administrative Support Team.

Contact us



**Indigenous Peoples
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