



## IPRI in 2021

**Advancing the Global Initiative to Address and Prevent Criminalization, Violence, and Impunity Against Indigenous Peoples**





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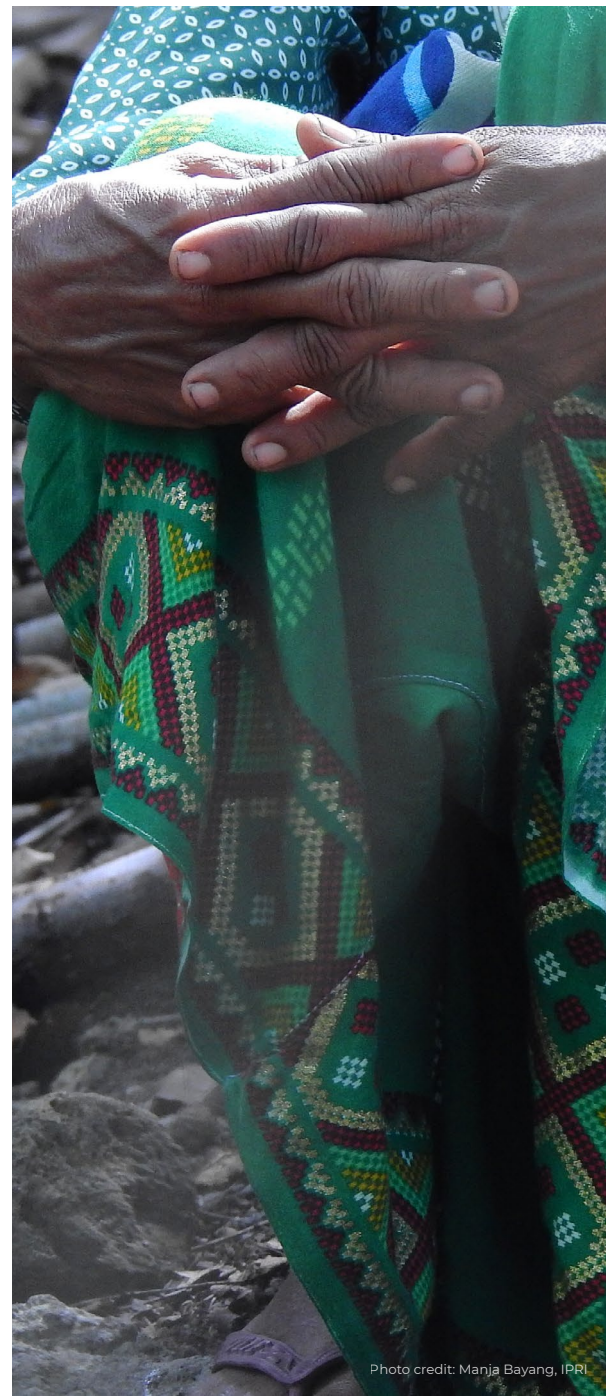
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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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The year 2021 was a period of difficulties and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us faced personal losses and distress, yet we persisted in doing our work even in the midst of restrictions and limitations. Now on its 2nd year of programme implementation, IPRI has made significant progress in establishing itself as a global actor in addressing the criminalization of and human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples with impunity. It continued in building partnerships and collaboration with other organizations and networks as critical steps in tackling these serious issues. Its Global Secretariat was able to conduct series of activities in relation to advocacy, networking, research and communications.

The work of IPRI has resulted to significant impacts in raising awareness and attention to the issues of the criminalization and violation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in conservation, business operations, land rights and violence against women.

Our work with Indigenous Peoples' organizations and allies in IPRI's six (6) focus countries is increasingly gaining traction in defining the specific dimensions of criminalization in these countries. Likewise, IPRI's direct support to Indigenous communities and Indigenous human rights defenders through the Legal Defense and Sanctuary Fund has been well-received and acknowledged in addressing a huge gap in the provision of financial and advocacy support to victims of human rights violations and to those facing serious threats.

As a new organization, IPRI is learning and strengthening its institutional systems and capacities for strategic leadership and improved management of the secretariat to address gaps, limitations and weaknesses.

For 2022, we hope the world would overcome this health crisis. For IPRI, we aim to build on the gains and progress made in our work so far. We shall define more clearly the direction of our work by undertaking an inclusive 5-year Strategic Planning process, and work toward more effective and responsive programme implementation and management. We shall increase our collaboration and partnership with Indigenous organizations, allies and other relevant actors in addressing the violence, criminalization and human rights violations of Indigenous Peoples with impunity. I am also delighted to announce our initiative to compile and publish digests on legislations and jurisprudence upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples at the international, regional and national levels. This will be launched during the UN Permanent Forum session in April this year. We hope this initiative will catalyze increased awareness on Indigenous Peoples' rights based on international human rights instruments.

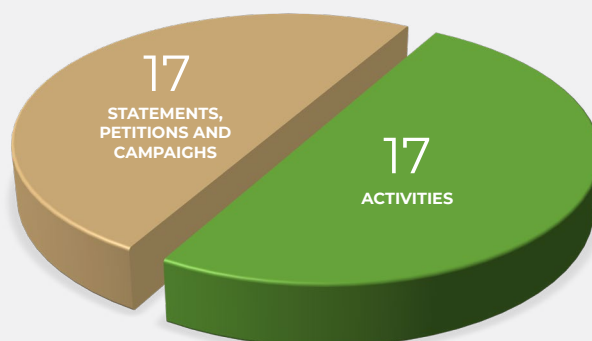


Joan Carling  
Executive Director

# 1. CATALYZING ACTIONS, INCREASING CAPACITIES AND AWARENESS TO ADDRESS CRIMINALIZATION AND RIGHTS VIOLATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

IPRI organizes campaigns to bring local struggles to the global level for solidarity, attention and actions.

Public statements, initiated petitions and campaigns supporting Indigenous issues on the ground, and amplifying their voices



Capacity building and awareness raising activities (webinars and learning sessions) on criminalization of Indigenous Peoples, business and human rights, conservation

## Sign On Petition: [Stop The Eviction Of Indigenous Pastoralist Communities In Ngorongoro Conservation Area](#) (Excerpt)

12 May 2021

To:

Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania  
Your Excellency,

We, Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI), Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG) and, 124 organizations and 229 individuals from 51 countries, express our deepest concern regarding the impending eviction of 73,000 Indigenous pastoralists in Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). On April 12, 2021, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) had already initially issued a 30-day eviction notice to 45 Indigenous pastoralists living in Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Although this eviction notice was put on hold, we seek your attention on the matter as we believe the NCAA remains to pose a threat to the safety and security of the Indigenous pastoralist communities...





**IEKHŌOR  
OGKHABA  
NŪM**  
resistimos confinados

WATCH ON  
**YouTube**

### Confined We Resist

Country: Colombia

A documentary film by: **La Cola de Rata with the support of IPRI- Indigenous Peoples Rights International**

Indigenous families of Unión, in the Chocó, are forcibly displaced from their territory by the armed group AGC: Gaitanist Self-Defense Forces of Colombia.

**EMRIP SIDE EVENT: CRIMINALIZATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION**

WATCH ON  
**YouTube**

This event is organized by:

- Indigenous Peoples Rights International  
Championing Indigenous Peoples Rights
- FIAY  
FORO INDIGENAS DEL ALTA TALA
- AIPP

Interpretations by: da-ip

**Side event**  
**Criminalization of Indigenous Peoples and their Right to Self-Determination, 14th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 14 July 2021**

## 2. ADDRESSING CRIMINALIZATION ON THE GROUND: LEGAL DEFENSE AND SANCTUARY FUND (LDSF)

The [LDSF](#) directly supports and facilitates the physical safety and security of Indigenous individuals, communities and organizations and community struggles. It supports and strengthens Indigenous Peoples' traditional justice and governance systems that protect and support those who suffer from criminalization.

IPRI supported 13 applications to the LDSF in 2021. From these applications, six (6) beneficiaries are facing criminal charges. Two of them were criminally charged for cutting trees in their territories, for personal use.



### Foundation for Community Development and Empowerment (FOCODE),

*"I feel empowered after learning about my rights as an Indigenous woman. I feel hope for me and my community, that we will not lose our homes. I am encouraged with the strong support of lawyers and civil society organizations."*

Crispin Babirye, an Indigenous woman facing impending eviction from their traditional lands due to the Uganda government's plans for ecotourism.



Filing of court case against the public vilification of Indigenous activists and portrayal as terrorists by the Philippine National Police (PNP) that put the lives and security of Indigenous persons at risk. In an interim court order, the judge directed the PNP leadership to stop publicly portraying the activists as terrorists, including putting up their names and photos in public places and in social media, and referring to them as terrorists.



Photo credit: Manja Bayang, IPRI



Photo credit: Colombia Country Team, IPRI

In Colombia, support for the exercise of the right of the Arhuaco people to autonomy and self-government. IPRI has supported their proposals to promote dialogue and respect for their own decision making processes by State institutions. The Constitutional Court has reiterated the need to respect Arhuaco self-government. Support will be provided to strengthening internal unity and harmony, guided by their own traditional authorities.



Advocacy support through petitions, dialogues, local mobilizations to 70,000 Maasai Indigenous Peoples in Tanzania who are facing impending eviction protect the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.



Photo credit: APIB, Brazil

Five (5) cases involving sanctuary or protection, with three families being relocated temporarily to another place because of the imminent danger to their lives and safety. One case involved the installation of security cameras in the home, and another case required the hiring of bodyguards for a few months.

Four men under threat were supported for temporary relocation including the families of three of them to avoid actual attack. One Indigenous woman who has been consistently under attack by the national government of her country was provided temporary security personnel.



Photo credit: APIB, Brazil



### 3. DEEPENING AND POPULARIZING ANALYSES AND UNDERSTANDING ON CRIMINALIZATION AND VIOLATIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

IPRI documents, analyzes and exposes criminalization and violence against Indigenous Peoples and their organizations and institutions and publishes reports, policy briefs and situationers to aid in advocacy and lobby campaigns. We raise awareness and highlight criminalization and rights violation of Indigenous Peoples with impunity to generate support and action at local, national regional, global levels.

#### Research and Publications

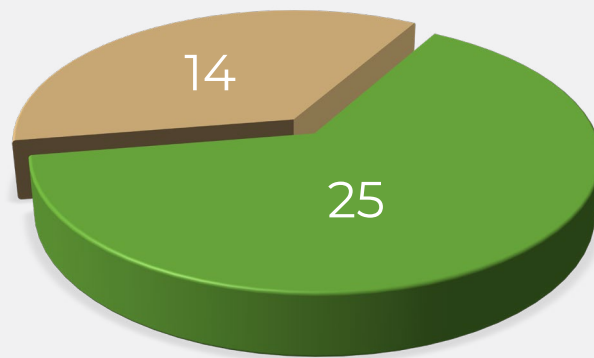
1. Criminalization of Indigenous Peoples in Conservation – [Nepal](#), [Thailand](#), [Kenya](#), [Tanzania](#) and [Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

2. Incarceration of Indigenous Peoples: Canada, United States of America, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Indonesia, Guatemala, Chile and the Democratic Republic of Congo



3. COVID-19 Economic Recovery measures and impact on Indigenous Peoples

Publications and country reports



Press releases, news and feature articles and videos

### **Redefining Protected Areas: A Study on the Criminalization of and Human Rights Violations Against Indigenous Peoples in Conservation (Key Recommendations)**

#### **To states:**

Immediately stop forced evictions and displacement of Indigenous Peoples from their traditional lands and territories overlapped by State or private protected areas and provide adequate remedy for those who have been displaced.

Adopt all the necessary legal, policy and administrative measures to respect, protect and ensure the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their right to self-determination and their rights to their lands, territories and natural resources.

#### **To conservation organizations:**

Fully adhere to, and effectively implement a human rights-based approach to conservation including the full respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples as enshrined in UNDRIP and relevant international human rights standards.

Ensure that the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples has been obtained before engaging in any conservation initiative with States or other partners that affects Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories and resources.

#### **To conservation community as a whole:**

States and non-state actors including donors, shall commit to the prevention of any further violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights in conservation activities, and establish and strengthen partnership with Indigenous Peoples for effective actions to conserve biodiversity, combat climate change and advance sustainable development for all.

Ensure that the implementation of new conservation targets, particularly the 30x30 Initiative, fully respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The conservation community should consider that Indigenous Peoples do already comply with the 30/30 target, and should support Indigenous governance and control over their lands, territories

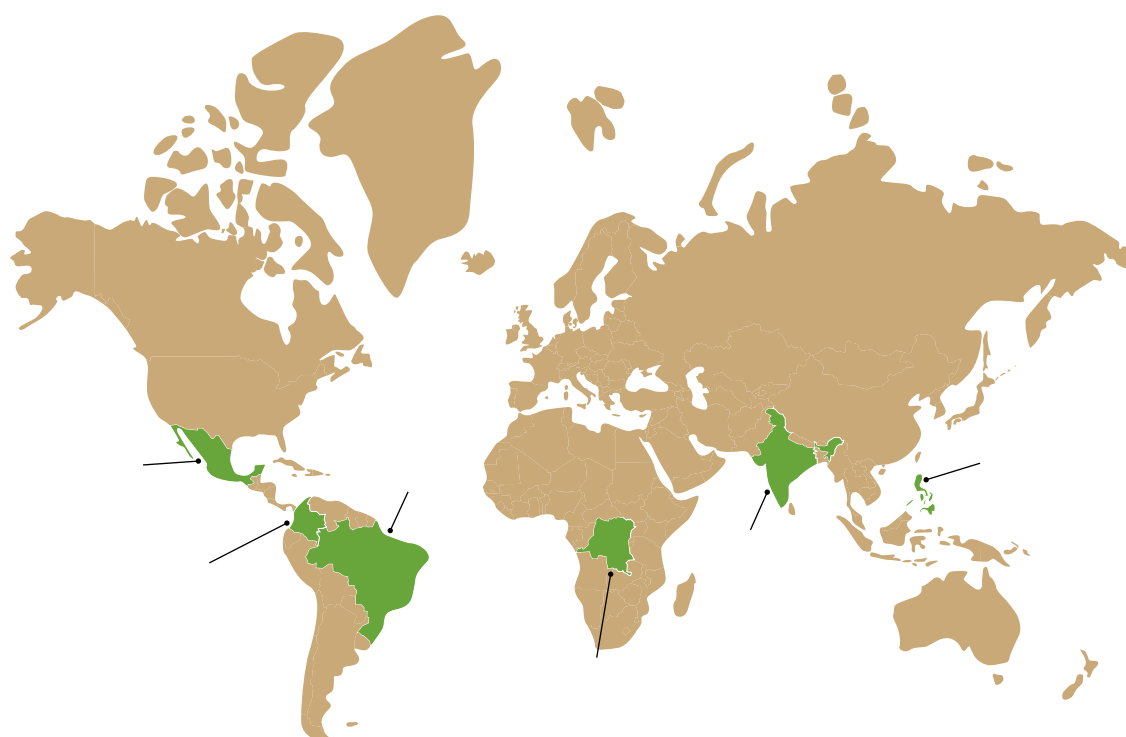


## 4. BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: INDIA, DRC, PHILIPPINES, MEXICO, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA AND LATIN AMERICA REGION

IPRI supports and strengthens Indigenous Peoples' initiatives and partner with Indigenous Peoples' organizations and networks to address and prevent criminalization and human rights violations with impunity.

In 2021, IPRI expanded its work in six (6) focus countries where violence against Indigenous Peoples is particularly serious: Philippines, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and India.

Work in Latin America to coordinate the activities in the three (3) focus countries (Mexico, Brazil and Colombia) and at the regional level expanded with the establishment of contacts with Indigenous organizations, civil society organizations and human rights organizations; support to country teams on communication work; monitoring of jurisprudence of the Inter American Commission on Human Rights relating to Indigenous Peoples; and monitoring of the situation of Indigenous Peoples in the region.



## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Partner Organization:

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

Key achievements:

1. Legislative advocacy for the adoption of a law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Pygmy Peoples in DRC. The Bill was overwhelmingly approved at the lower house and is now pending before the Senate for approval.
2. Training and capacity building workshop for 24 leaders and community monitors on monitoring techniques, documentation and reporting of criminalization cases in risk zones.
3. Training workshop for 26 monitors on the collection of data and documentation of cases of Indigenous Peoples' rights violations.
4. Advocacy for legal and policy reform:
  - Follow-up activities, including participation in workshops and submission of recommendations, on the national land policy;
  - Follow-up on the process of the dialogue on human rights and nature conservation with Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature/Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN).
5. Sustained documentation and monitoring of situation of Indigenous Peoples. This includes the following cases affecting women and children:
  - 36 women and girls (78%) were victims of the massacre in Irumu, Ituri;
  - 161 women from Indigenous pygmy households from the villages of Abembi, Masini, Musango, Zunguluka, Maitatu were displaced to Idohuand Ofaya;
  - 471 displaced girls do not have access to education and health following the multiple displacements and violence in the risky area of Irumu in Ituri;
  - 1,719 women and girls do not have access to their lands to carry out livelihood activities in the risk provinces, including Ituri, North Kivu, Tshuapa and South Kivu.



## BRAZIL

Partner Organization:

**Articulação dos Povos Indigenas do Brasil (APIB)**

Key achievements:

1. Establishment of APIB's Criminal Justice Observatory and the Access to Justice Working Group of the National Council of Justice to combat the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples.
2. Installation of satellite internet connections as requested by Indigenous communities for their protection
3. Community-building of traditional prayer houses to strengthen their spirituality resilience, cooperation and collective action
4. Publication and dissemination of the report An Anatomy of the Practices of Silencing Indigenous Peoples: Report on Criminalization and Harassment of Indigenous Leaders in [Brazil](#)
5. Design of a future database on the persecution of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil.
6. Support to legal work in cases related to Indigenous Peoples' rights.



## COLOMBIA

Partner Organization:

A team was organized to implement the IPRI plan in Colombia.

Key achievements:

1. Dialogues with Indigenous leaders from different regions in Colombia to assess the situation and identify actions that could be undertaken with the support of IPRI to confront the violence faced by Indigenous Peoples in the country
2. Workshops for identification of self-protection measures defined by the communities and to increase the visibility of the problems affecting Indigenous communities in the Departments of Caldas, Choco and Narino.
3. Elaboration of advocacy materials, such as a video on the situation of Indigenous communities confined by the violence in Chocó
4. Support for the Arhuaco people in the defence of their right to self-government.
5. Elaboration of a report on the patterns of violence and criminalization against Indigenous Peoples in Colombia and strategy for its discussion and dissemination



## MEXICO

Partner Organization:

IPRI works with a national core group composed of several organizations (13 members so far) that came together to implement the work of IPRI at the national level.

Key achievements for the year:

1. Setting up of the core group to develop IPRI work in Mexico composed of 21 representatives from different Indigenous and support organizations.
2. Documentation and monitoring of cases of human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples
3. Visit to several communities in different States who are experiencing attacks and human rights violations and data-gathering on the cases
4. Videos documenting the struggle of Indigenous communities
5. Assistance in advocacy meetings and dialogues, including with UN Special Procedures, on ongoing violations of Indigenous Peoples in Chiapas, Chihuahua and Sonora, among others
6. Development of a report on patterns of violence and criminalization of Indigenous Peoples in the country

## INDIA

Partner Organization:

### Indigenous Rights Advocacy Center (IRAC)

Key achievements:

1. Sustained human rights documentation and monitoring
2. Interventions before the National Human Rights Commission for justice and reparation (NHRC) in 70 cases of human rights violations. 50% of these cases (36 cases) involved criminalization against the Indigenous Peoples by the police, forest department and other public officials while other cases related to atrocities by non-state actors and denial of basic documents and welfare schemes by the Government. In all cases which have been registered, the Commission has ordered either investigation or sought action taken report from the concerned authorities, or both.
3. Setting up and operationalizing the legal support hotline
4. Provision of legal assistance in a few cases involving human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples
5. Launched the following:
  - Campaign to stop eviction, harassment or seizure of Podu cultivation lands of the tribals by the forest department in Telangana;
  - Campaign to release an Indigenous woman who has been in pretrial detention for six (6) months;
  - Campaign to stop eviction of Indigenous communities by the Imphal Town Ring Road project in Manipur.
6. Legal and policy advocacy:
  - Submissions of comments and suggestions to the Government's proposal to amend Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.



## PHILIPPINES

Partner Organization:

### PANAGHIUSA (Philippine Network to Uphold Indigenous Peoples Rights)

Key achievements:

1. Organized dialogue meetings with international human rights organizations and NGOs.
2. Generated support to the campaigns through dialogues with philanthropists/donors from the USA.
3. Submission of the national report on COVID-19 recovery and impacts on Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines.
4. Development of the report on the situation of Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines in 2021.



## 5. INFLUENCING LAWS AND POLICIES THROUGH SUSTAINED LEGAL AND POLICY ADVOCACY

IPRI convenes and undertakes advocacy activities in collaboration with Indigenous organizations, networks, human rights organizations, allies and other relevant actors to address situation of criminalization and impunity at national, regional and global levels.

IPRI participated and undertook several activities and initiatives in relation to legal and policy advocacy such as:

1. EU Mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence ([mHREDD](#))
2. Open Ended Inter-Governmental Working Group to elaborate an international treaty to regulate transnational corporations in international human rights law, with active interventions during their session in October 2021.
3. Submission of communications to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNESCO in relation to the Ngorongoro National Park in Tanzania where Indigenous Peoples face an impending eviction from their territories.
4. Dialogues with IUCN on the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and submission of petition to UNESCO
5. Production of an advocacy video on Indigenous Peoples and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, available in eight (8) languages – English, Spanish, French, Hindi, Russian, Portuguese, Bahasa-Malay, and Swahili.
6. [Testimony](#) to the U.S. House of Congress on Conservation and Human Rights, 26 October 2021.

## 6. ESTABLISHING RELATIONS AND WORKING WITH NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

IPRI works with other partners and networks to build a critical mass of Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders and advocates who will strengthen IPRI's discourse, amplify the voices of Indigenous communities as appropriate, and provide support and assistance through joint advocacy activities and direct support to IPRI partners.

We continued to sustain and expand further our partnership and engagement with the following:

1. Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and networks and national, regional and global levels;
2. Civil society organizations and networks;
3. Office of the High Commission on Human Rights and Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council, UN bodies and agencies, Treaty bodies, UN environmental conventions, and multilateral bodies.

### Our Funders

We would like to acknowledge and thank the invaluable support of the following funders:



**FORDFOUNDATION**

Supported by the



Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

Implemented by

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



**NIA  
TERO**



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FUND**

*Disclaimer: All publications and reports of IPRI are solely the views of IPRI and do not necessarily reflect those of our funders.*



## 7. 2020-2021 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Audit prepared by independent auditor R.G. Manabat and Co, a member of KPMG global organization.

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
**(A Non-stock, Non-profit Organization)**  
**STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENSES**

	<i>Note</i>	<b>Years Ended December 31</b>	
		<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations and project grants	9	<b>\$641,477</b>	\$208,255
Foreign exchange gain		-	166
Interest income	4	<b>106</b>	87
		<b>641,583</b>	208,508
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Project and program services	10	<b>579,465</b>	187,222
General and administrative	11	<b>73,007</b>	18,095
Depreciation	7	<b>3,971</b>	935
Foreign exchange loss		<b>277</b>	-
		<b>656,720</b>	206,252
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES, BEFORE INCOME TAX</b>		<b>(15,137)</b>	2,256
<b>INCOME TAX EXPENSE</b>	13	<b>720</b>	601
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>		<b>(\$15,857)</b>	\$1,655

*See Notes to the Financial Statements.*

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
**(A Non-stock, Non-profit Organization)**  
**STATEMENTS OF CHANGES OF FUND BALANCE**

	<b>Years Ended December 31</b>			
	<b>Restricted Fund</b>	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Fixed Asset Fund</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance as at December 31, 2019	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Excess of income over expenses	1,014	87	554	1,655
Reclassification of office furniture and equipment	(14,456)	-	14,456	-
Balance as at December 31, 2020	(13,442)	87	15,010	1,655
Excess of income over expenses	(16,800)	3,778	(2,835)	(15,857)
Reclassification of office furniture and equipment	(8,979)	-	8,979	-
<b>Balance as at December 31, 2021</b>	<b>(\$39,208)</b>	<b>\$3,865</b>	<b>\$21,154</b>	<b>(\$14,202)</b>

*See Notes to the Financial Statements.*



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—a 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 12 members: 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. It is based in the Philippines and 4 work from their own countries

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