



# IPRI in 2022



Indigenous Peoples  
Rights International

Championing Indigenous Peoples Rights

# From the Executive Director

## 2022

**has been a breakthrough year for IPRI.** With the waning of COVID-19, **we were able to increase and expand our engagement at national, regional and global levels.** IPRI has now established itself with increased visibility as the Indigenous-led global organization focusing on criminalization and human rights violation of Indigenous Peoples. We have contributed significantly to the General Recommendations 39 of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), coordinated the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, gained the support of 500+ organizations in our sign-on letters for solidarity support, and released publications of joint reports highlighting the human rights violations in climate actions, business operations, among others.

With our different forms of advocacy and engagements, **IPRI is being acknowledged as an important actor** at the global level by Indigenous Peoples' organizations and networks, UN bodies, human rights organizations and advocate organizations through our active collaboration and cooperation with them.

At the national level, **IPRI's work in the six focus countries**--through partnerships with Indigenous organizations in Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Philippines, India and DRC--are achieving increasing visibility and actions in addressing criminalization and violation of Indigenous Peoples' rights with impunity. Our work at the national level has different levels of progress, and some serious challenges need to be addressed in relation to the strategic positioning of partners to focus in addressing the worsening human rights condition of Indigenous Peoples.

The major gap in our programme implementation is the **absence of a research coordinator.** In spite of our open call for applications, we were not able to hire a qualified staff. Moreover, the database took a long time to be established due to technical delays. We shall address these gaps in 2023.

In 2022, **we conducted a participatory process in developing the 5-Year Strategic Plan of IPRI** which was approved by our Global Board. At the Secretariat level, IPRI has grown to 13 competent and committed staff, located in six countries. Team work and program management have been enhanced while we continue to build our capacities to be more responsive.

Guided by the Strategic Plan, **IPRI is now ready to grow** in the coming years to cover more countries, expand its partnerships and collaboration and become more effective in addressing criminalization, violence, impunity, securing safety, and providing better access to justice to Indigenous Peoples.

On a personal note, **2022 was year of learning and building trust and solidarity** with Indigenous Peoples, partners, allies and donors. It was intense yet inspiring as we continue to grow with more confidence and clear strategies to advance our work.

  
Joan Carling  
Executive Director

# Our major accomplishment

IPRI is now a **credible global actor** in addressing the criminalization of and human rights violations against Indigenous Peoples with impunity.

## What did IPRI undertake and achieve this year?

### Legal and Policy Advocacy

**Sustained and effective engagement** with UN Human Rights Bodies.

**Advocacy and engagement** in climate and biodiversity global processes.

**Increased visibility and support** for Indigenous Peoples' organizations at local/national levels for effective engagement and advocacy at global levels.

**13 country and global reports** on criminalization of Indigenous Peoples and related issues such as business and human rights, conservation, Indigenous human rights defenders.

**Two editions** of digest "Xanharu" on legal jurisprudence and decisions at national, regional, global levels on implementation of the UNDRIP and treaties and conventions relevant to Indigenous Peoples.

**Generated global awareness** on criminalization and related issues including Indigenous women human rights defenders at risk through webinars and coverage of its activities.

**Visibility and awareness** of criminalization and rights violations of Indigenous Peoples

**Campaigns**  
against  
intensifying  
criminalization  
and rights  
violations

**Campaign against the eviction** of 150,000 Maasai Indigenous Peoples in Loliondo, Tanzania: technical advice to the Maasai; advocacy with UN and treaty bodies, governments and funders; petitions and effective use of social media.

**Four public sign-on letters** to government officials demanding their action to stop criminalization and human rights violations on specific urgent cases

**14 statements** addressing criminalization mainly at country level and 7 interventions in relevant agenda items

**Convenings and meetings** between local Indigenous leaders and frontline defenders with international human rights organizations, relevant UN agencies and donors

Between 2021 and 2022, **31 cases of human rights violations** involving Indigenous communities and Indigenous Peoples human rights defenders-at-risk were directly **supported under the Fund in 17 countries** from Asia, Africa, and Latin America

**Emergency  
legal and  
sanctuary  
support**



## Partnerships

**Provided financial, political and other forms of support** to Indigenous organizations and IPRI country teams in the six focus countries as partners

**Collaborated with 56 Indigenous Peoples' organizations,** human rights institutions/advocate organizations in the conduct of awareness-raising and advocacy activities

**Hiring** of competent and committed staff

**Inclusive Strategic Planning process** undertaken and IPRI 5-Year Plan developed

**Adoption and implementation of Operations Manual** and strengthening of finance policies, guidelines and processes of the Global Secretariat

**Regular Board meetings**

**Governance  
and internal  
capacity**



## Where did we engage in 2022?

### UN Bodies

We organized events, held meetings with Working Groups, offered statements, provided inputs for resolutions, supported the presence of Indigenous leaders, and provided technical assistance for the participation of Indigenous organizations in:

- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) 25<sup>th</sup> Session
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) 15<sup>th</sup> Session
- Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 41<sup>st</sup> Session
- Regional and Global Forum on Business and Human Rights –
  - Regional meetings of the Forum: in Latin America, Africa and Asia.
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Forum on BHR
- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties Meeting (UNFCCC COP27) and UN Convention on Biological Diversity COP15

### IPRI also:

- Organized convenings and meetings between local Indigenous leaders and frontline defenders with international human rights organizations, relevant UN agencies and donors.
- Coordinated meetings between internally displaced Indigenous communities in Mexico with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced People.
- For the UPR, we organized briefing sessions at country level with the diplomatic missions (Philippines and India) and also during the UPR session itself.
- We organized a total of 14 webinars and side events.

### Cases in which we issued sign-on letters:

**2 sign-on** in relation to the forced eviction of Maasai Pastoralists in Loliondo, Tanzania.

**The full implementation of the Peace Agreement** in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh

**On the Swedish position** on the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products

### Countries

*with cases in which we have issued statements:*

- Mexico
- Tanzania
- Honduras
- Ecuador
- Brazil

∴ **Asserting**  
∴ **Our Rights**  
∴ **to Our Lands, Forests and Waters**



**Indigenous Peoples**

make up only

**5%**

**of the total global population,**

yet they occupy, own, and manage about

**20 to 25%**

**of the Earth's land surface** and

**80%**

**of the world's biodiversity.**

**They are bearing the brunt of this climate and environmental crisis and yet they are the ones who should guide us out of the environmental crisis that humanity is facing.**



**In Brazil,** Indigenous Peoples, especially women, were at the forefront of seeking justice when former president Jair Bolsonaro opened the forests where they lived for resource extraction. The Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI) will further strengthen its partnership with ANMIGA (National Articulation of Indigenous Women Ancestrality Warriors) to put more attention in reducing violence against Indigenous women and bolster their leadership.

**In Mexico,** the Indigenous Maya in Homun, Yucatán protested the establishment -without FPIC- of a mega-farm of 49,000 pigs, which would pollute their territory and threaten their way of life. A core group in Mexico, formed with IPRI support, documented and raised this case at the global forum on Business and Human Rights in 2022.

As the only Indigenous-led, global nonprofit with a mission to end the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples and facilitate access to justice for victims of rights violations, **IPRI supports frontline indigenous environment and human rights defenders.** It partners with Indigenous organizations in focus countries where criminalization of Indigenous Peoples is severe, through documentation, mobilizations, solidarity actions and policy advocacy, including engagement with the UN and human rights bodies. Its Legal Defense and Sanctuary Fund supports Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous women who are victims of violence or are facing legal cases as they confront their governments or corporations that grab their territories and violate their rights.

# Who do we work with?

As of 2022,

we partnered, collaborated, co-organized activities with **30 Indigenous organizations** and networks at national to regional and global levels.



## Consolidated Key networks

**16**  
CSOs and academe

**7**  
UN agencies/  
bodies/special  
procedures

**4**  
philanthropic  
organizations

**4**  
intergovernmental  
bodies

**9**  
government  
bodies

## New networks

**15** other UN agencies,  
multilateral bodies, CSOs

## UN and treaty bodies

- Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
- Working Group of Business and Human Rights
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination/CERD
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women/ CEDAW
- Special Rapporteurs (on Indigenous Peoples Rights, Internally Displaced, Persons, Human rights Defenders), UNEP, UNDP, FAO.

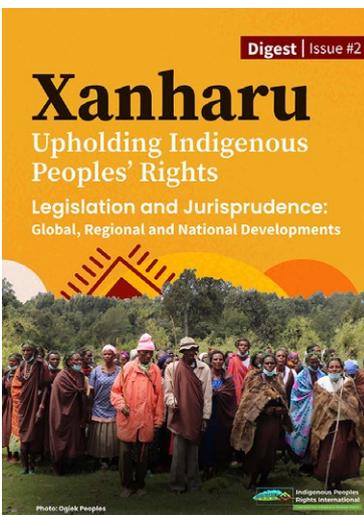
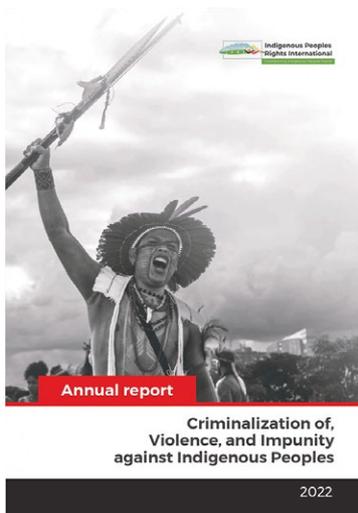


PHOTO: IRAC

# Our research, documentation and publications

IPRI produced and published **13 well-received country and global reports on the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples and related issues** such as business and human rights, conservation, Indigenous human rights defenders.

Documentation, monitoring and reporting of cases of criminalization, violence and impunity against Indigenous Peoples is an ongoing work which will be reinforced by the implementation of the unified database at the beginning of 2023.



# Legal Defense and Sanctuary Fund (LDSF)

17

Cases directly supported in 2022

17

Countries from Latin America, Africa and Asia

USD 84,000.00

Amount

## People/Communities involved

39

Indigenous Human Rights Defenders

9

Communities

## The cases involved

11

Criminalization cases

1

Involving land grabbing and forced eviction

6

Involved other human rights violations such as intimidation and threats

1

Killing

## LDSF STORIES

### Support to landmark ruling in favor of the affected Indigenous Maasai community (Kenya)

IPRI's partner, Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), has partnered with affected members of Maji Moto GR in their endeavor to restore and protect their land rights. After exhausting all community level and administrative grievance and conflict redress mechanisms available in the country, the claims ended up as a lawsuit in the courts.

LDSF provided much-needed additional funds to continue with the court proceedings. On July 8, 2022, after six years of a lengthy and expensive litigation process, the Land and Environment Court in Narok County delivered a landmark ruling in favor of the affected Indigenous Maasai community.

The Court directed among others that: (i) All grabbed public/community land, e.g., schools, water points, hospitals, and community investment grounds are reverted to the community; (ii) The Registrar of Lands Narok to issue fresh title deeds in the name/favor of the group ranch and rightful members; (iii) All parcels of land illegally allocated/sold to persons other than legally registered members of the ranch be revoked and consequently registered on the rightful members.

According to ILEPA, "The Court decision is unprecedented and inspiring on many fronts for the affected members of Maji Moto Group Ranch, and the many other land rights victims and defenders in the country, who've pursued the respect and protection of their land rights for eons."

## Our partnerships in focus countries

## The focus countries

are those with the highest number of attacks on Indigenous Peoples in the world. IPRI has established partnerships in six of these countries and these are the results.

### E. Mexico

#### IPRI Core Group

##### 2022 Key actions:

- Series of meetings, dialogues and training with Indigenous organizations on Escazú Agreement, communication planning, development of videos and audios, social networking, data management
- Case study of the community struggle of the Indigenous Maya in Homun, Yucatán who protested the establishment of a mega-farm of 49,000 pigs
- Country Report on Criminalization in Mexico; and an ABC Manual of Criminalization
- Mapping and systematization of Indigenous women's networks
- Increased dialogues with government agencies and UN bodies
- Active engagement with the UN Special Rapporteur on Forced Displacement

### D. Colombia

#### Colombia IPRI Country Team

##### 2022 Key actions:

- Country report of Colombia on criminalization, violence and impunity
- Dialogues with President Petro for an Indigenous Peoples' agenda
- Scoping on the situation of Indigenous Peoples based on consultations with Indigenous leaders
- Consultations with Indigenous leaders on a center of Indigenous thought and the development of an Indigenous agenda

### C. Brazil

#### Partner Organization *Articulação Nacional das Mulheres Indígenas Guerreiras da Ancestralidade - ANMIGA*

##### 2022 Key actions:

- Construction of two houses of prayer and elaboration of a guide booklet on religious intolerance in the Guarani language
- Sustained support for internet in the Guyraroka, Lagoa Quieta, Juçaral villages. This is used to monitor rights violation and quick access to protection and response mechanisms
- Creation and maintenance of IPRI Brasil website and accounts on Instagram and Facebook
- 1 Database system formed
- Support to the election of the national coordinator of IPRI Brazil to the Chamber of Deputies. Sonia Guajajara was elected and subsequently appointed Minister of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil

### F. India

#### Partner Organization *Indigenous Rights Advocacy Center (IRAC)*

##### 2022 Key actions:

- Submission of a total of 95 fresh complaints of human rights violations before the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and follow up of 41 previous cases
- Follow up of the cases filed before the NHRIs and submission of comments
- Advocacy activities and public awareness
- Active campaign on the UPR, with briefing meeting with the team in charge of the human rights sector at the Netherlands Embassy and participation in briefing missions in Geneva
- Pro bono legal cases in Nagaland, Mizoram and Indigenous Peoples facing criminalization
- Successfully combated impunity by public servants through its interventions with the National Human Rights Commission (23 cases filed with summon notices issued to 34 top officials)

### A. 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)*

##### 2022 Key actions:

- Advocacy for the modification of the law on Nature Conservation
- Working with a national Parliamentarian to integrate modifications in favor of securing the territories conserved by Indigenous Peoples
- Preparation of the position of the Indigenous and civil society organizations of the DRC that was presented at CBD COP15
- Documentation of cases
- Presentation of the situation of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the DRC during the Africa Forums on Business and Human Rights and in the Forum on BHR in Geneva

### B. Philippines

#### Partner Organization *Panaghiusa Philippine Network to Uphold Indigenous Peoples Rights*

##### 2022 Key actions:

- Capacity buildings on Indigenous Peoples' rights, documentation of criminalization and rights violation cases
- Six online Publications covering community conserved areas, struggle of Indigenous Peoples in southern Philippines, dams and Indigenous Peoples, among others
- Two educational materials
- Diplomatic Briefing attended by 14 embassies and 20 individual representatives, and a UN Country Consultation with 17 UN Country Team representatives
- Volunteer network organized, regional and partner consultations regularly undertaken to support campaigns on criminalization and Indigenous Peoples' rights violations

# Work in Latin America – Regional

## Key activities of the **3** focus countries in the region (Brazil, Mexico, Colombia)

- Regional forum with the participation of CONAIE, CAOI, FIAY, ANMIGA on criminalization and resistance strategy
- Workshop on Escazú in Mexico
- Close coordination and relationship with Indigenous organizations and networks in Ecuador, Argentina and Guatemala.



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## 2022 Audited

# Financial Statement

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

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS INTERNATIONAL, INC.**  
**(A Non-stock, Non-profit Organization)**

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**STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

		December 31	
	<i>Note</i>	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash	4	\$252,099	\$367,923
Advances and receivables	5	11,108	49,875
Prepaid rent	6	811	154
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>264,018</b>	<b>417,952</b>
<b>Noncurrent Asset</b>			
Office furniture and equipment - net	7	22,739	21,154
		<b>\$286,757</b>	<b>\$439,106</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	8	\$307,381	\$452,588
Income tax payable		-	720
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>307,381</b>	<b>453,308</b>
<b>Fund Balance</b>		<b>(20,624)</b>	<b>(14,202)</b>
		<b>\$286,757</b>	<b>\$439,106</b>

*See Notes to the Financial Statements.*

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

		Years Ended December 31	
	Note	2022	2021
<b>INCOME</b>			
Donations and project grants	9	\$1,036,304	\$641,477
Other income	4	14,246	106
		<b>1,050,550</b>	<b>641,583</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Project and program services	10	992,616	579,465
General and administrative expenses	11	58,688	73,007
Depreciation	7	5,600	3,971
Foreign exchange loss		68	277
		<b>1,056,972</b>	<b>656,720</b>
<b>DEFICIENCY OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES, BEFORE INCOME TAX</b>		<b>(6,422)</b>	<b>(15,137)</b>
<b>INCOME TAX EXPENSE</b>	13	-	720
<b>DEFICIENCY OF INCOME OVER EXPENSES</b>		<b>(\$6,422)</b>	<b>(\$15,857)</b>

*See Notes to the Financial Statements.*



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**



 [ipri@iprights.org](mailto:ipri@iprights.org)  <https://www.iprights.org>

### **Find us on social media**

-  [Indigenous Peoples Rights International](#)
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