The Indigenous Navigator Index

The Indigenous Navigator Community Index and the Indigenous Navigator National Index are tools that serve to rank countries’ performance with regard to recognizing and implementing indigenous peoples’ rights.

Within each of the 10 essential domains of rights included in the short questionnaires, a few questions have been selected as key markers of a country’s performance in terms of recognition and implementation of indigenous peoples’ rights within that particular domain.

By assigning a numerical value to key questions within each of the 10 domains assessed in the Short Community Questionnaire and the Short National Questionnaires respectively, the performance is scored, whereby it becomes comparable, and also easy to illustrate in a graphic form, which can be communicated easily to all kinds of actors:

The Indigenous Navigator Community Index is based on responses to the Short Community Questionnaire.

The Indigenous Navigator National Index is based on responses to the Short National Questionnaire.

The Indexes are ranking tools that summarize a country’s performance in a score – or present them graphically.
The outer part of the spider web represents a high score, indicating a high level of recognition / realization of indigenous peoples’ rights, while the centre represents a low score. In the example included above, the two domains of ‘Recognition of identity / participation’ and ‘Employment, occupations and poverty’ are scoring 10 points (maximum score), while the domains of ‘Education’ and ‘Fundamental rights and freedoms’ are scoring only 1 point each.

**Comparing Index Values**

When an Indigenous Navigator Community Index and an Indigenous Navigator National Index have both been generated in the same country, a comparison of the two will show whether communities’ experiences with actual respect for their rights reflect the level of recognition of their rights in national legislation, policies and programmes:

**Implementation gaps**

The Indigenous Navigator can illustrate implementation gaps by contrasting differences between recognition in national laws and community perceptions.

Likewise, Index Values can be compared across communities, across countries – or data from the same community or country can be compared over time, if data gathering is repeated.
How the index values are calculated

Both the Indigenous Navigator National Index and the Community Index are designed to measure 10 essential domains of indigenous peoples’ rights. The Index Tool assigns a numerical value to the responses to the key questions included in the Short Community Questionnaire and the Short National Questionnaire respectively.

Each domain accounts for 10% of the total index value, which is 100. Within each domain, the value ranges from 0-10, depending on the level of recognition and implementation of indigenous peoples’ rights. A high level of recognition / realization of indigenous peoples’ rights is assigned a high score – and a low level of recognition / realization is assigned a low score.

Some domains are assessed with one question, others with two questions.

For example, if an indigenous language is “safe”, i.e. spoken by all generations with uninterrupted inter-generational transmission, the numerical score assigned to the reply is 10 points. If a language is extinct, the numerical score is 0 points.

Within the domain of State governance, two questions are asked to determine the index ranking, wherefore the total score of 10 points is assigned as follows:

- If the State has developed a national action plan, strategies or other measures, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, to achieve the ends of the UNDRIP, the numerical score is 5 points. If it has not, the score is 0 points.
- Likewise, if the State, in censuses and household surveys, collects disaggregated data to monitor the achievement of the MDGs/SDGs by indigenous peoples and individuals, the numerical score is 5 points. If it does not, the score is 0 points.

A full overview of domains, questions, indicators, and scoring guidelines is included in the Indigenous Navigator tool Index Values for Indigenous Peoples’ Rights and Development.

The Indigenous Navigator web portal will be updated with a function that automatically calculates the Index Values. Until that is available (towards the end of 2017), users can use the tool Index Values for Indigenous Peoples’ Rights and Development to make their own Indigenous navigator Community Index or Indigenous Navigator National Index.

Indigenous Navigator tool

*Index Values for Indigenous peoples’ Rights and Development. Calculate and illustrate the levels of recognition and realization of indigenous peoples’ rights in your country*