

Introduction to the Indigenous Navigator

The Indigenous Navigator provides **a framework and a set of tools** for indigenous peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. And a data portal that compiles monitoring data, and make them easily accessible.

The Indigenous Navigator monitors the implementation of:

- The **UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**;
- **Core human rights conventions** as they pertain to indigenous peoples;
- Essential aspects of the **Sustainable Development Goals**;
- The outcomes of the **World Conference on Indigenous Peoples**.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007, and covers the full range of indigenous peoples' rights, including rights to lands, territories and resources; self-determination; participation in public affairs; health; education; general economic and social development; access to justice and customary law, etc.

Why monitor?

Documenting the human rights and development situation of indigenous peoples is a first step towards discussing it with duty-bearers and other external stakeholders. The Indigenous Navigator tools facilitate the systematic generation of quality data on indigenous peoples' human rights and development situation, which can be used for this purpose.



Since the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples does not entail an institutionalized data collection or monitoring mechanism, violations of indigenous peoples' rights are often not reported or addressed. The Indigenous Navigator has been developed in response to the need for quality data that can be fed into existing human rights and sustainable development monitoring processes at local, national and international levels.

Based on a systematic analysis of the provisions of the UNDRIP, the Indigenous Navigator offers a series of questions that serve to monitor their implementation. Replying to these questions, indigenous communities and organizations can generate data on their human rights and development situation, which can serve many purposes. Indigenous Navigator data can be used for advocacy purposes; for planning and programming of development interventions and social service delivery; for strategy and policy development; and for comparative analysis of situations in different countries, different communities and over time.

Experiences during the pilot testing of the Indigenous Navigator tools have shown that **applying the Indigenous Navigator tools** to generate data on the recognition, protection and fulfilment of the rights enshrined in the UNDRIP **has an empowering effect in itself**. Indigenous communities that have applied the tools to generate data on their situation are not only better equipped to enter into dialogue with duty-bearers and external stakeholders about the promotion of their rights, they have also developed a much higher level of awareness of their rights through the data-generation process.

By documenting and reporting on their situation, indigenous peoples can enhance their access to justice and to development – and strengthen their ability to hold States accountable.

The experiences from testing the Navigator tools show that community monitoring is an effective and engaging way of raising community awareness about rights.

A solid framework

The Indigenous Navigator is built on a **systematic analysis of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**, whereby it offers a comprehensive approach to *understanding* its provisions, as well as *monitoring* their implementation. A meticulous comparison between the UNDRIP and other human rights instruments is also built into the framework in order to show how the UNDRIP provisions reflect rights enshrined in other human rights instruments. Thereby, Indigenous Navigator data is directly **relevant for monitoring the full range of generally applicable human rights instruments** as they pertain to indigenous peoples (see training module 3: Monitoring the UNDRIP).

Recommended by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 16th session in April-May 2017, the Permanent Forum adopted a recommendation encouraging Governments, United Nations agencies, indigenous peoples and civil society organizations to use the Indigenous Navigator framework and tools in order to strengthen community-based monitoring of global commitments made under the Declaration, the World Conference and the Sustainable Development Goals. (E/C.19/2017/L.6)

In order to further make the Navigator **relevant for multiple purposes**, the monitoring framework has taken into account that some provisions of the UNDRIP are highly relevant for a rights-based implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Indigenous Navigator data can therefore feed into SDG monitoring, planning and programming (See training module 5: SDGs and Human Rights, and 6: Monitoring the SDGs).

Likewise, the monitoring framework takes into consideration the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) and the commitments States made in that context to step up efforts to implement the UNDRIP. The Indigenous Navigator data is therefore also relevant for monitoring whether States implement the commitments made at the WCIP (see training module 4: Monitoring the WCIP).

The Indigenous Navigator framework and tools have been developed to equip indigenous communities and organizations with accessible tools to monitor their rights - built on a solid analysis that has evolved over a series of consultations and feedback from communities. However, the tools are also relevant for NGOs, human rights institutions and specialists, development actors and others who need to anchor their work in the provisions of the UNDRIP. Without necessarily using the questions for data collection, they can, for example, make use of the series of indicators to monitor their own interventions; explore the links between the UNDRIP and other human rights instruments; design targeted programmes to reach the SDGs based on the UNDRIP, etc.

TESTED BY COMMUNITIES

The Indigenous Navigator tools have been tested by indigenous communities in Cameroon, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Suriname and Thailand. Experiences and lessons learned have served to better adjust the tools to the needs of communities.

The Indigenous Navigator can serve a number of purposes – for example:

- **Raise awareness** of indigenous communities about their rights and contribute to their empowerment and ability to claim their rights;
- **Guide and orient indigenous peoples' self-determined** governance and development strategies;
- **Hold States accountable** by evidencing their compliance with – or failure to meet – human rights obligations with regards to indigenous peoples;
- **Deliver data on** indigenous peoples' human rights and development situation to UN agencies and UN mechanisms addressing indigenous peoples' rights (UN Special Rapporteur, EMRIP, UNPFII);
- **Evidence** whether States are complying with the commitments they made at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (WCIP);
- **Guide and orient development policies and development programs**, including those designed to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to make the framework and tools accessible for all, training modules and detailed guidance on the monitoring questions included in the Indigenous Navigator Question Database are available on the website.