



IP CHAMPIONS

ADVANCING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Project aims to support indigenous peoples most at risk of **discrimination, marginalization and other forms of violations** of their nationally and internationally protected rights, by working on both the **supply** and **demand** side of the system for protecting and promoting indigenous rights in the Philippines, focusing on indigenous peoples in the **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)** and **Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)** due to their relatively high populations and the particular vulnerabilities and opportunities presented by the unique autonomy arrangements applying to their regions.

On the demand-side, the Project will support **40 advocacy champions** with the knowledge and skills needed to engage government institutions and actors constructively and continually, therefore leading to better policy and protection for indigenous rights. On the supply-side, the



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Project will empower **60 institutional champions** from relevant national and sub-national institutions with the knowledge and skills needed to operationalize their mandates in a manner that respects fundamental democratic principles and human rights. The Project also relates to **EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2020- 2024 (25.3.2020)** which mandates "**support for indigenous peoples by advocating for their participation in relevant human rights and development processes and by upholding the principle of free, prior and informed consent in all decisions affecting them.**"

The overall goal is to **enhance indigenous peoples' rights in the Philippines** by contributing to a situation where indigenous communities have empowered advocates who can demand rights, and where institutions responsible for upholding these rights have the knowledge and skills to respond to such requests to effectively fulfill their mandates. The project aims to contribute to this overall objective by working with two target groups: indigenous peoples' groups (particularly in Bangsamoro and the Cordillera) and relevant national and sub-national institutions.

Impact

Indigenous communities in the Philippines have empowered advocates who can demand rights, and institutions responsible for upholding these rights have the knowledge and skills to respond to such requests to effectively fulfill their mandates.



Intervention Logic

Outcomes

Indigenous leaders in Bangsamoro and Cordillera have enhanced understanding of the legal and institutional framework for indigenous peoples' rights in the Philippines and improve their advocacy capacity to engage in sub-national, national and international human rights processes.

Relevant national and sub-national institutions have increased knowledge about indigenous peoples' rights in the Philippines and of their own role in the protection of these rights.

Outputs

Preparatory consultations with indigenous peoples and representative organizations

IPCAT workshops for IP Champions in Bangsamoro and Cordillera publication launch

Mentoring and support for IP Champions advocacy plans in Bangsamoro and Cordillera

Forum for experience-sharing and evaluation of advocacy plans

Dialogues with sub-national and national government

National forum on IP rights and final publication launch

IPCAT workshops for indigenous peoples' institutional champions



Target Groups and Beneficiaries

The Project targets 40 indigenous rights champions, 20 each from indigenous communities in Bangsamoro and Cordillera. These champions will be selected through a competitive process relying on previous advocacy work and commitment to future work. Sixty (60) institutional champions will also be developed from relevant national and sub-national institutions in the Philippines. The champions will benefit the sectors they represent, making final beneficiaries: Indigenous communities throughout the Philippines; and national and sub-national institutions dedicated to indigenous peoples.

The Project will provide target groups and final beneficiaries with the skills and knowledge needed to perform their roles to a greater capacity in relation to indigenous rights. Currently indigenous rights are robust in the Philippines but there is confusion from both supply and demand side actors about the status of the legal frameworks for these rights and the best way to make the framework operational. By providing both supply and demand side actors with the tools they need to constructively engage with one another, the project will help both sides overcome knowledge, capacity and network constraints to work together to improve the future of indigenous communities around the Philippines. Indigenous peoples consulted in the design of this Action see that their

rights are at risk. They believe this Action is needed due to the challenges they are facing as their rights are not implemented, and as they must respond to the opportunities and risks presented by shifting legal frameworks.

International IDEA and the **Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG)** have working arrangements with the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs (MIPA) in the BARMM, the Regional Development Council (RDC) of the Cordillera Administrative Region as well as the committees of the Senate and House of Representatives dealing with IP rights and welfare. As the Philippines is a signatory to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and IP protection is guaranteed in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, these public agencies welcome this project to develop domestic public policies in compliance with international human rights standards.



About the Project Logo

The sun represents the 13 indigenous tribes from the BARMM and CAR. Its golden yellow color symbolizes excellence as the project is about building and supporting champions. The blue color represents the abundant waters of the tribes in the island provinces of BARMM. The green mountains represent the rich lands of indigenous tribes in mainland BARMM. The green stripes to its left are the rice terraces of the indigenous tribes in the Cordillera region.