

Introduction



Central African Republic: Access to basic Health Services among IPs.

More than 370 million indigenous peoples live in some 70 countries, with millions still facing discrimination and often deprived of access to education and health services. Rights abuse is rife, and control over resources limited. Today, these persistent injustices prevent many from living and working in dignity. Indigenous peoples continue to struggle with the multiple challenges of discrimination, social exclusion and marginalization.

However, the situation is changing. Indigenous peoples are becoming actors in their own development process. In a relatively short period of time, they have gained recognition of their rights, greater access to public services and a strong new voice. For example, some indigenous women are voting for the first time. Children are finally receiving adequate health care and education. Greater access to their ancestral lands is being ensured.

Delivering as One

UNIPP is a joint initiative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Development Program (UNDP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) that has put a focus on indigenous peoples' issues at the global, regional and country levels for the first time.

Indigenous peoples have begun to enjoy these changes through mobilization and in collaboration with the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP - known as the Partnership). Since its inception, the Partnership has promoted a unique strategy built on alliances that place indigenous peoples in the forefront.

UNIPP addresses the specific concerns of indigenous peoples: economic and social development, culture, the environment and access to resources, education and health. Its "rights-based" approach is grounded in international law. It works to enhance the status of indigenous peoples and ensure their effective inclusion in societies. This brochure shows what has been achieved, what has been learned and where to go from here.



“Members of the UN family have come together in this alliance to work hard for the rights of indigenous peoples. Let's work together so that all people, indigenous or not, can live and work in dignity.”

Statement on the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples by actress and activist Q'Orianka Kilcher

Indigenous Women in the Central African Republic during IP Day.

What we have achieved

Since its launch in May 2011, the Partnership has initiated 110 activities in six countries: Bolivia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Nepal and Nicaragua, as well as one regional project in South-East Asia with initial funding from the Governments of Denmark, Finland and Ireland.

UNIPP-supported projects have raised the visibility of indigenous issues and increased government awareness, with several government development programmes taking these issues into account for the first time.

Projects have been designed with the participation and in consultation with indigenous peoples and governments, as well as civil society forging effective strategic partnerships, which are essential to ensure sustainability and adherence to international standards relevant to indigenous peoples at the country level.

UNIPP served as a catalyst in mobilizing additional resources amounting to US\$ 3.7 million to support regulation, legislation and consultations that encourage in several countries the participation of indigenous peoples in national development.

UNIPP has also played an important role in mainstreaming indigenous peoples' issues into the wider development agenda of UN agencies at the country level resulted in the training of more than 2,500 government officials, indigenous peoples and other key stakeholders.

In 2013, the General Assembly requested the United Nations system to further enhance coordination and intensify its efforts towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to the rights of indigenous peoples through UNIPP (A/C.3/68/L.30/Rev.1).

What we have learned



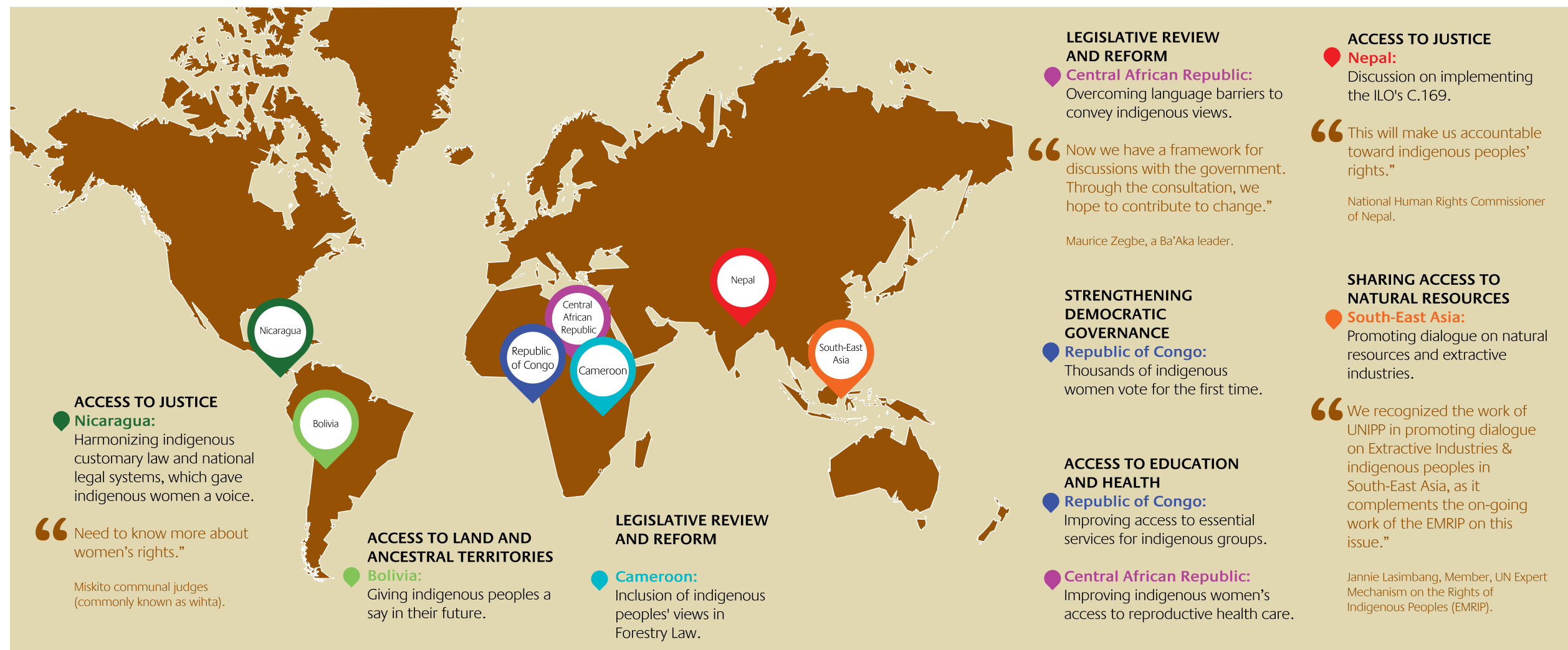
Community consultation meeting in Nepal.

Partnership is critical to the successful work of the UNIPP. By bringing together a variety of participants and stakeholders at the global, regional and country levels — with the strong participation of indigenous peoples themselves — the UNIPP has stimulated effective dialogue on issues ranging from development to legal reform and access to public services.

Indigenous peoples play a critical role in ensuring change for the better, raising the profile of their issues, and empowering them to participate more effectively in decision-making and national agendas.

Resources have a catalytic effect and can stimulate additional investment at the country level, enhancing the sustainability and success of UNIPP-funded projects. Coordination by UNIPP also enhances technical support for actions such as drafting of enabling legislation and policies, which develop new capacities on indigenous issues.

Finally, communicating indigenous peoples' issues more effectively and broadly helps ensure greater understanding, among key stakeholders, including governments, civil society and indigenous peoples, of the challenges being faced.



“ The Human Rights Council welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Partnership, and encourages the Partnership to carry out its mandate regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the mobilization of resources and in close cooperation and coordination with States, indigenous peoples, Human Rights Council mechanisms, United Nations bodies and agencies relating to indigenous peoples, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders”

A/HRC/RES/18/8

The way forward

The need to address the persistent social injustices facing indigenous peoples is at a critical juncture. Preparations are underway for the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and a review and resetting of the post-2015 development agenda. The year 2014 will mark the 25th anniversary of the ILO's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), a landmark legal instrument for engaging governments on the situation of indigenous peoples in their country.

Thus, the need for measures aimed at promoting indigenous peoples' rights and livelihoods across the globe must be articulated more strongly across the future goals of the post-2015 development framework.

The UNIPP can give voice to this conversation: by supporting the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights at the country level, by helping raise the profile of indigenous peoples with governments and increasing the allocation of resources; by creating a legal foundation for ongoing national legislative and policy processes and increase their chances of success and establish good practice in the region and neighbouring countries; and by raising awareness and understanding of governments and public opinion on indigenous peoples issues.



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The United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership: Delivering as One for indigenous peoples' rights

