

Indigenous Peoples Development Programme (IPDP)



International
Labour
Organization

The Challenge

Indigenous peoples in the Philippines constitute 110 diverse ethno-linguistic groups. Many communities have long lived in an ancestral domain blessed with natural beauty and resources.



© ILO/ A. Barredo

Despite this however, they often face various development challenges such as poverty, discrimination and marginalization, as revealed during consultations and many reports. Limited access to basic services, socio-economic and political opportunities is an everyday reality for them.

Many families have also lost their lands after they became indebted as they struggle to meet their basic needs.

Enabling laws and policies that entitle indigenous peoples a full range of rights include the 1987 Philippine Constitution and Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA). However, these need to be fully and widely realized in practice.

The Response

In 1989, the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopted the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (ILO Convention No. 169). ILO Convention No. 169 is an holistic instrument, which seeks to promote and protect indigenous and tribal peoples, addressing all key aspects of indigenous peoples' (IP) rights. The range of rights contained in this instruments are inter-related and issues such as the right to consultation and participation are cross-cutting and have repercussions, for example, for the rights stipulated in sectors such as health and education.

Based on Convention No. 169, the ILO implements a programme on IPs rights and development with one main component: [The Programme to Promote ILO Convention No. 169 \(PRO 169\)](#)

Since 1994, the ILO has worked with indigenous peoples communities in the Philippines and, through time, it has incorporated lessons and good practices in succeeding projects. ILO Projects generally adopt the community driven, participatory development (CDPD) and culture sensitive approach which focuses on strengthening capacities of indigenous peoples to own and drive their project. The IPs are given the chance to develop their own capacity by taking greater responsibility for and leadership in their own development processes. The strategies are based on the letter, spirit and intent of IPRA and ILO Convention 169.

In this programme, the IPs are given the chance to develop their own capacity by taking greater responsibility for and leadership in their own development processes. This approach has been drawn from lessons and good practices generated under the previous "Inter-regional Programme to Support Self-reliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples through Cooperatives and other Self-help Organizations (INDISCO)."

The programme was designed to advance the IPs empowerment through a strategy that is based on the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) and the ILO Convention (No. 169) on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, 1989. It integrates the four pillars of the ILO's Decent Work agenda: protection of fundamental rights, creation of employment opportunities, promotion of social security and strengthening of mechanisms for social dialogue.

The IPs have long been seeking justice not just at the community level but at the national level as well. Instead of tagging IPs as marginalized sectors of the society, they can be considered as partners towards development. This starts by empowering them with the skills and knowledge that they need.

If basic services and socio-economic opportunities are more accessible, the IPs of Lake Sebu can certainly attain the development they deserve in the context of protecting their ancestral domain.

Objective

- To strengthen the capacity of IPs for self-reliance in the sustainable development and protection of their ancestral domains and of concerned service providers to help the IPs effectively respond to the development challenges they face.

Achievements

Recently completed projects in 2012-2013 included:

- Support to Tboli and Ubo people in Lake Sebu through a project called “Support to Poverty Reduction and Promotion of Human Rights Among the IPs in the context of Ancestral Domain Development and Protection”. The programme was implemented from April 2006 until December 2012 through the support of the Local Cooperation fund of the Embassy of Finland (see separate flyer on the project).
- Support to the three tribal groups in eight project sites covering the ancestral domains of Manobo, Mamanwa and Mandaya tribes facilitated convergence efforts to support IPs integrated development. The project, implemented in 2009 until 2012, was funded by the Government of Spain (see individual project flyer for details).
- In 2013 livelihood recovery for indigenous peoples communities in four municipalities — Veruela, Bunawan, Rosario and Talacogon in the Province of Agusan del Sur — which directly benefitted a total of 1,500 indigenous peoples hardest hit by typhoon Bopha. This tested culture and IP-sensitive approach to disaster response.



© ILO/ Franco

Relevant ILO Conventions and Recommendations

- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Rural Workers' Organizations Convention, 1975 (No. 141)
- Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

Key Statistics

- The total land area of ancestral domains covered by the IPDP-Caraga is 217,650 hectares.
- The total IP population of the eight project sites is 70,500.
- There are three tribal groups in the project sites: Manobo, Mamanwa and Mandaya tribes.
- The Municipality of Lake Sebu is composed of 19 villages.
- The IP population is around 30,000 in the Lake Sebu area or 56 per cent of its total population.
- The two major tribal groups in Lake Sebu are the Tboli and Ubo tribes.
- There are 14 host municipalities and two host cities for the project.

Contact

Ms Diane Lynn Respall
Programme Officer
Email: respall@ilo.org

International Labour Organization
Country Office for the Philippines
Tel: +632 580 9900
19th Floor Yuchengco Tower
RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue
Makati City 1200 Philippines
Website: www.ilo.org/manila

Final—November 2014