



# INDIGENOUS PROGRAMME

## 01

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## LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

### AEICD AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

There are around 60 million indigenous people in Latin America and the Caribbean. They make up more than 40% of the total population in countries such as Guatemala or Bolivia.

Their territories constitute a quarter of the land surface area, preserve approximately 80% of the planet's biodiversity, and are home to the lowest rates of deforestation due to the special relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the land on which they live.

Despite regulatory advances in the region, Indigenous Peoples continue to account for the highest percentages of poverty, food

insecurity and lack of access to basic rights and services such as health, education, justice, safe water and sanitation. In addition, indigenous women are disproportionately affected by this inequality, including their access to the labour market, and they often face multiple forms of violence.

For this reason, for more than two decades Spanish Corporation has applied a specific tool to contribute to the eradication of the aforementioned inequalities and to achieve to the realisation of the internationally recognised rights of Indigenous Peoples: The **Indigenous Programme**.

## A DISTINCT COOPERATION STRATEGY: THE INDIGENOUS PROGRAMME

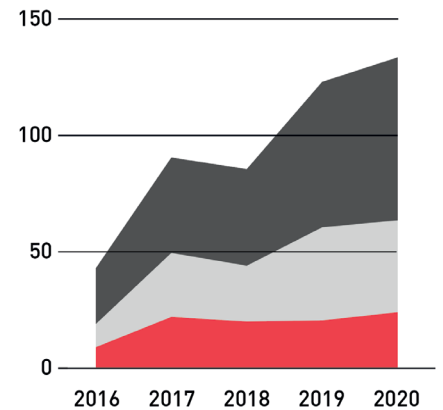
The Indigenous Programme was established in 1998, and strengthened its strategic approach in 2007, with the approval of the Spanish Strategy for Cooperation Strategy with Indigenous Peoples (ECEPI), which established lines of action with both horizontal and sectoral priorities, that remain in place to this day.

The Indigenous Programme coordinates and structures development cooperation interventions in favor of Indigenous Peoples undertaken by the different AECID units, in addition to the rest of the Spanish Cooperation actors. Additionally, it provides advice to ensure the use of the appropriate instruments for the specificity of the work they carry out with these Peoples.

In addition, it has a specific budget that guarantees stable and predictable funding in support of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, always focusing on human rights, gender, cultural diversity and environmental sustainability, and within the specific international frameworks for the protection of their rights.

The cumulative budget of the Indigenous Programme for the period 2008-2022 has shown an upward trend, reaching a total of €17,000,000, which has been allocated to funding projects and supporting the work of indigenous organisations, public entities and civil society organisations specially dedicated to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as collaborating with regional and international agencies for the implementation of interventions across the region.

## FINANCIAL TREND



Source: AECID, 2020

## NORMATIVE REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR THE INDIGENOUS PROGRAMME

### MAIN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination**, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 21 December 1965.
- **Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169)**, adopted by the International Labour Organization on 27 June 1989.
- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, adopted by the General Assembly on 13 September 2007.
- **Ibero-American Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2018-2028)**, which is monitored by the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC).

- **Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean**, which mandates states to assist Indigenous Peoples in preparing their requests for environmental information and obtaining a response, and requires states to ensure compliance with their international obligations as regards the rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also establishes that states shall ensure a safe and enabling environment for individuals, groups and organisations that promotes and defends environmental human rights, to ensure they can act free from threats, restrictions and insecurity.

- **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

### SPANISH FRAMEWORK

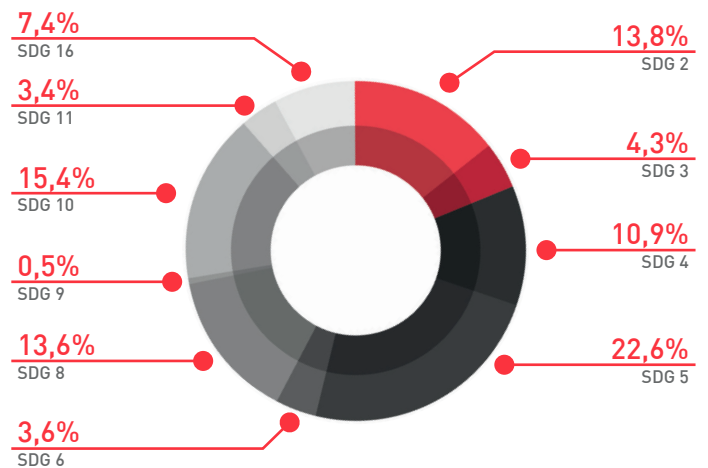
- **Spanish Strategy for Cooperation with Indigenous Peoples (ECEPI) (2007)**.
- **The different Spanish Cooperation Framework Plans**, which have reaffirmed respect for and promotion of cultural diversity and the human rights approach as basic cross-cutting principles of all Spanish Cooperation actions.
- **AECID guide for mainstreaming cultural diversity (2020)**.



### PRIORITY LINES OF ACTION

- 1 Strengthening of **Indigenous Peoples' own structures** and training and education of Indigenous representatives and leaders as a tool to boost their political participation, promote the access of Indigenous Peoples to positions of responsibility and guarantee their effective participation in decision-making processes.
- 2 Specific support for the work of **Indigenous women** for the effective recognition of their rights and against all forms of discrimination and violence, with the aim of promoting their autonomy and social, political and economic development.
- 3 Work in favour of the recognition and implementation by the region states of the **right to free, prior and informed consent** as an indispensable requirement to ensure the development, protection and effective wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples.
- 4 Promotion of the **participation of Indigenous representatives in regional and international organisations**, in order to increase and improve protection of and attention to the rights of Indigenous Peoples in both national and international spheres.
- 5 Support for Indigenous media and forms of communication, in addition to the production and dissemination of audio-visual and other products of Indigenous expression.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: DISTRIBUTION



Source: AECID, 2020



**ALLIANCES:  
STRATEGIC AECID PARTNERS  
IN SUPPORT OF  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

- The main international partner of the Indigenous Programme has been the **Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC)**, an international organisation for the equal representation of governments and Indigenous Peoples. It was launched in 1992 by the II Ibero-American Summit

of Heads of State and Government, held in Madrid (Spain).

- **United Nations: United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Labour Organization (ILO), and others.**
- **Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).**
- **The European Union**
- **Other Spanish Cooperation agents:** decentralised cooperation, NGO, universities, unions and others.
- Organisations in defence of human rights on an international scale.

These alliances, which also contribute to the achievement of SDG 17, are predominantly aimed at strengthening international support to partner countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and, above all, to the work of the true protagonists of the Programme: The Indigenous People, Peoples and their representative organisations.

**INDIGENOUS PROGRAMME  
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION PER COUNTRIES (2015-2021)**

**TOTAL AMOUNT (2015-2021)  
4.082.500 €**

