110 ethnolinguistic groups found in ethnographic regions

- Igorot of the Cordillera
- Dumagat of the Sierra Madre mountain range
- Ayta (Aeta) of Central Luzon
- Mangyan of Mindoro
- Tumanduk of Panay
- Lumad of Mindanao

Within each are smaller groups based on tribal affiliation, language, or geographic reference, like the

- Ayangan of Ifugao
- Hanunuo Mangyan in Mindoro
- Agusanon Manobo of Agusan del Sur

Source: (NCIP)
**The Philippines Factsheet**

**Our Numbers Count**

Indigenous Peoples: **12%-17% (12.5M-17.8M)**

- 2017 national population of **104,733,524***


**Our Territories**

- Philippine Territory: 30M hectares
  - 26% Indigenous Peoples Ancestral Domain

- 2011 (NCIP)
  - 5.4 million hectares out of the 7.7 million hectares delineated by the government as of 2018

- 2016
  - 4.5 million hectares of land are currently covered by Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADT)
  - 4.5 million are covered by pending applications for CADT


**Population**

- 110 ethnolinguistic groups are identified as indigenous peoples

- 1.2 million ancestral domain holders are in 221 territories delineated under Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADT)

- Indigenous Peoples are found in:
  - 61% MINDANAO
  - 33% CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
  - Scattered in the other different provinces of the country (6%)

- 5 sites in Mindanao, late registration starting 2012 benefited more than 9,000 indigenous peoples by mid-2016 (UNFPA) showing the under-reporting of births of indigenous children

*Source: NCIP, 2009*
1987 Constitution
Sec. 5
“The State, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and national development policies and programs, shall protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to their ancestral lands to ensure their economic, social, and cultural well-being.”

Issuances from the Department of Education:
- Department Orders (DO): DO 62, s. 2011 - Adopting the National Indigenous Peoples (IP) Education Policy Framework
- DO 103, s. 2011 - Creation of Indigenous Peoples Education Office (IPsEO)
- DO 32, s. 2015 - Adopting the Indigenous Peoples Education Curriculum Framework
- DO 50, s. 2016 - Hiring Guidelines for Teacher I Position in Schools Implementing Indigenous Peoples Education Effective School Year 2016-2017

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The proper implementation of the IPRA is impeded by the lack of independence, capacity, and resources of the NCIP to implement their mandate. Further, the existence of laws in contradiction to provisions of IPRA are prioritized for implementation by the government as the

- Philippine Mining Act of 1995 liberalizing the Mining Industry with huge incentive to foreign companies and weak environmental and social protection including IP rights under IPRA
- National Integrated Protected Area System Law with prohibitions and restrictions to the use and management of IP over their lands and resources
- 1975 Revised Forestry Code (P.D. 705), and other DENR administrative orders related to the management and utilization of natural resources conflicting with the rights of indigenous peoples (IPs) specifically recognized and protected under the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act (IPRA).

Republic Act 8371, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act - enabling law that defines the 4 bundles of rights to be enjoyed by indigenous peoples: Rights to Ancestral Domains, Right to Self-Governance and Empowerment, Social Justice and Human Rights, and Cultural Integrity

Creates the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) as the primary government agency mandated to “protect and promote the interest and well-being of the ICCs/IPs with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions.”

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The right to life, integrity, liberty and security of the Lumad continue to be violated a year into the Duterte administration.
As of January 2016, there are at least 289 hydro power projects and 15 geothermal projects that have been awarded which are encroaching IP territories. With no genuine FPIC conducted, an estimated 17,000 Tumandok people are threatened of dislocation by the Jalaur River Multipurpose Dam to be built in Iloilo.

As of March 2015, there are at least 15 approved mining applications in areas occupied by IP covering an estimated 619,000.27 hectares of ancestral lands in the country.

Executive Order 546 of 2006 creates the force multipliers with the use of paramilitary forces in the implementation of peace and order and this is happening in many indigenous areas.

President Gloria Arroyo ordered the creation of Investment Defense Force (IDF) by the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 2008 “to protect vital infrastructures and projects from terrorists, including the New People’s Army and other rebel groups who stand in the way of development particularly in the rural areas.”
Development Aggression and Militarization in the Cordillera

Two Divisions from the Northern Luzon Command—the 5th and 7th Infantry Divisions—now operate in the Cordillera region. Active recruitment to paramilitary groups in the region like the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (CAFGU) and Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA) are being conducted aggressively.

Related to the issues on lands and resources is the fact that many of the ancestral domain of indigenous had been declared as national parks, protected areas, etc. before the IPRA and this impacts directly on the use, control and management of their lands and resources, ergo, their indigenous natural resource management practices, their food security and livelihoods, their health, and other needs that bear on their well-being. In a study published in mid-2015, the following were reported:

Country | Illustrative overlaps | Recent documented conflicts, illustrating the range of issues
---|---|---
Philippines | At least 96 of the 128 areas recognized for their biodiversity (“key biodiversity areas”) in the Philippines overlap with ancestral territories, including many sacred sites, of 99 protected areas (nearly 1 Mha) overlap with ancestral lands | Despite the formalization of indigenous management rights in protected areas, participation on the ground is hampered by sociocultural, practical, financial, and political barriers |
The Philippines has adopted the SDG framework in its Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022. Indigenous peoples are mentioned in several sectors, to wit:

1. **Fair and swift administration of justice**
   - Under the economic justice on streamlining rules on the disposition of land cases, the jurisdiction of the NCIP will be taken into consideration in relation to indigenous peoples ancestral domain claims;
   - For the delivery of fair and equal justice, victim legal protection and assistance shall be strengthened with indigenous peoples mentioned as one of those with special needs.

2. **Education**
   - Promotion of Philippine culture and values with the expansion of the Schools of Living Traditions to learn from various culture bearers of indigenous communities;
   - Create an enabling environment for conserving and enriching the collective memory of the nation with the meaningful participation of indigenous cultural communities.

3. **Indigenous and local knowledge to be promoted as part of good farm and fishery practice.**

4. **Acceleration of human capital development**
   - with the objective of improving the nutrition and health for all, appropriate educational interventions are provided, quality of higher and technical education and research for equity and global competitiveness is improved, with indigenous peoples identified as one of the priorities.

5. **Reducing vulnerability of individuals and families: indigenous peoples are especially mentioned in this sector as one of the disadvantaged sectors due to their vulnerability to exploitation and discrimination**

6. **Social protection statistical framework be implemented to track the status of vulnerable sectors, including indigenous peoples.**

7. **To reach demographic dividends, fertility rates be reduced with unmet demand for family planning and unwanted pregnancies be addressed with attention given to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of poor women, including indigenous women.**

8. **Just and lasting peace be attained:**
   - conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable communities be protected and developed by making government more responsive to peace, conflict and security issues including the protection of rights and promotion of interests of vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, in situations of armed conflict, observance of human rights and international humanitarian law, and conduct of interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

9. **Ecological integrity, clean and healthy environment is ensured:**
   - to sustain biodiversity and functioning ecosystem services in forest and watershed areas, land administration and management need to be improved with the delineation of ancestral domain and its waters accelerated including the provision of economic and cultural services to indigenous peoples within the framework of their sociocultural integrity and ecological balance;
   - expand the development of sustainable resource-based industries by developing a system for access and benefit-sharing of wealth from genetic resources and the traditional knowledge of indigenous communities.
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Fully implement the 1997 Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act to ensure that, in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, indigenous peoples’ rights to their lands, territories and resources are fully recognized and protected and that their free, prior and informed consent is obtained in respect of the adoption of any legislation, policy or project affecting their lands or territories and other resources.

2. Ensure the accountability of the NCIP to indigenous peoples and establish an effective grievance mechanism to address legitimate concerns of indigenous peoples in the implementation of IPRA and the mandate of the NCIP.

3. Take the steps necessary to ensure the registration of indigenous lands, including through improving the collective land title claim process.

4. Adopt appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of armed conflicts, including intertribal conflicts, and natural disasters on indigenous peoples.

5. Take all measures necessary to ensure the full access of indigenous peoples to health care, education and other basic services.

(E/C.12/PHL/CO/5-6)

Published by

Under the
Indigenous Navigator Initiative

With financial support from the European Union

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