



Centre de documentation, de recherche et d'information des peuples autochtones  
Indigenous peoples' centre for documentation, research and information  
Centro de documentación, investigación e información de los pueblos indígenas  
Исследовательско-Информационный Центр Документации Коренных Народов



# 2020 Activity Report

[www.docip.org](http://www.docip.org)



Rémi Orsier  
Docip Director

The year 2020 will be remembered for a global pandemic that is yet to be over at the time of this writing.

During this year, the Indigenous Peoples of the world have suffered, more than others, the consequences of the current situation as a result of the lack of access to basic services, the abandonment by the authorities of entire regions left to their fate, and the use of the current situation as a pretext to limit the respect of their rights.

In spite of this, they have once again demonstrated their undeniable capacity to adapt and protect themselves as best they can.

In order to prove itself worthy of this commitment, Docip has continued its support in 2020, despite the circumstances, because the voice of Indigenous Peoples is more essential than ever.

This support would not have been possible without the activism of indigenous representatives, the work of the foundation's employees, but also the dedication of hundreds of volunteers, including translators, interpreters, and note takers, all of whom we thank.

## Who is Docip ?

**Docip is a Documentation, Research and Information Centre established in 1978 as part of the initiative of the indigenous delegations participating in the first International Conference on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations in Geneva in 1977.**

Docip is a Swiss non-profit organization whose primary objective is to support and defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples, mainly within the UN, European institutions, and other international organizations.

Docip aims to facilitate the participation of indigenous representatives at the international level, notably by providing them with translation and interpretation services in 4 languages (French, English, Spanish and Russian).

In 2017, the Docip's collection of statements by indigenous representatives at the UN\* was awarded Memory of the World status by UNESCO\*.

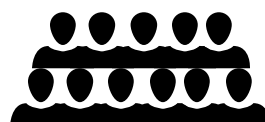
In order to provide comprehensive services Docip maintains partnerships with numerous international organizations and networks.



Geneva based



Office in Brussels

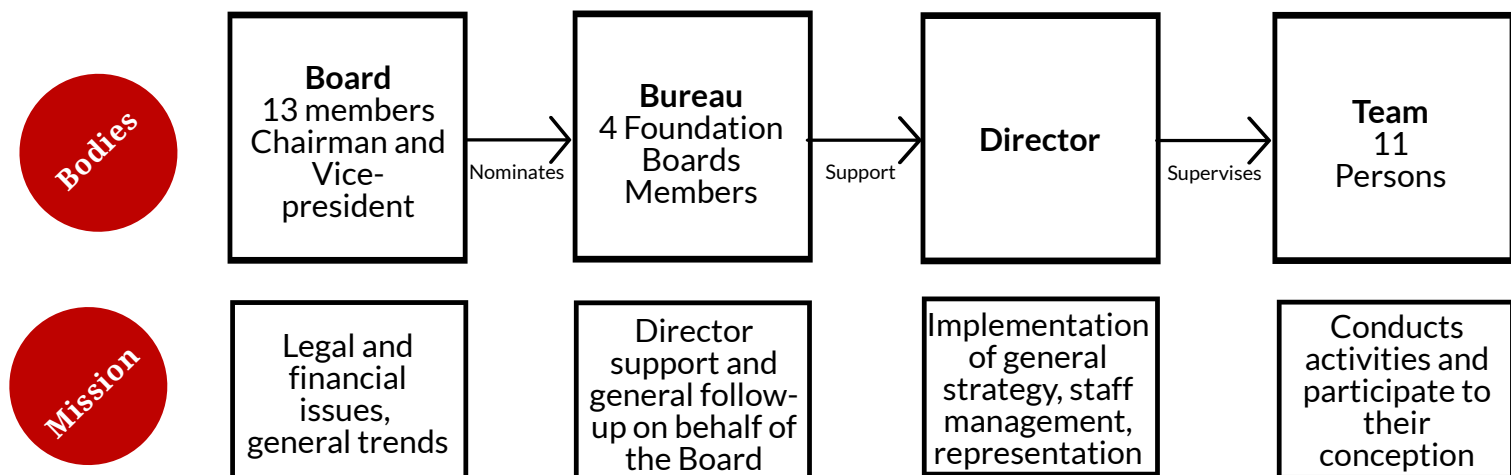


Team of 11 people  
(8.5 FTE)



More than 200  
volunteers

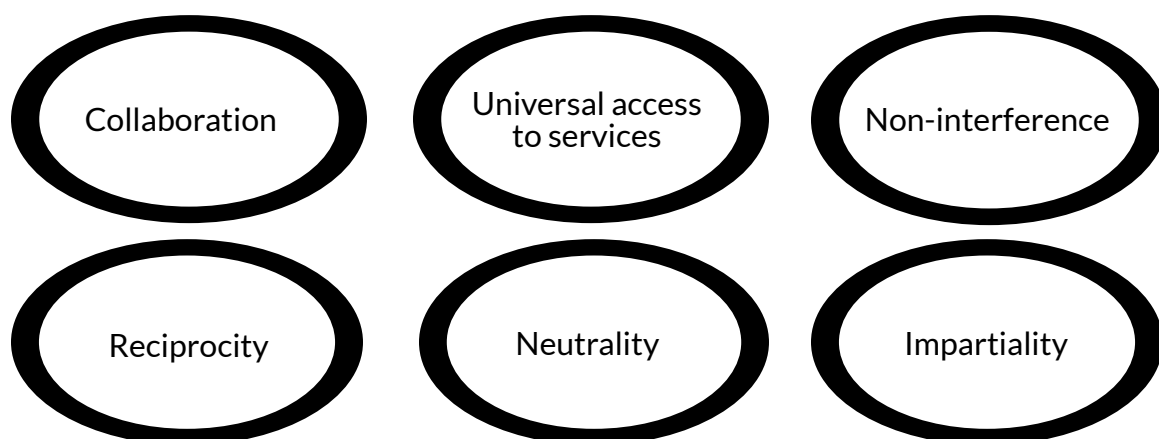
# Management



For More:

<https://www.docip.org/en/docip/principles-and-governance/>

## Operating Principles



## Areas of activity\*

### Technical Support page 4



#### Technical Secretariat

Translation and interpretation. This year's activity has been adapted by providing online services (UNPFII\*, EMRIP\*...)



### Information page 5

**Publications**  
on the latest news on the rights of Indigenous Peoples

**Documentation**  
of statements at conferences related to Indigenous Peoples' rights

**Real-time information** on Indigenous Peoples' rights (newsletter & social networks)

### Capacity Building page 6



**Training** for indigenous representatives on international law and the documentation of human rights violations

**Memory and oral history** training for indigenous youth to document the history of struggles and promote cultural transmission



### Legal Support page 7

Legal advice to indigenous representatives on **UN conferences and various mechanisms** (UPR\*, treaty bodies\*)

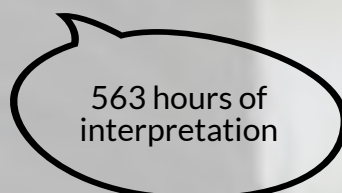
Legal advice before **European institutions** for indigenous representatives

\*a glossary is available on the back cover for all acronyms used.



# Technical Support in 2020

## Technical Secretariat



223 Volunteers



71 Events



Traditionally, the Technical Secretariat provides its services at major UN conferences. As the year 2020 was marked by the postponement or outright cancellation of UN conferences related to Indigenous Peoples' rights, Docip took the initiative to provide its services remotely by offering remote interpretation through online meeting platforms

The provision of these services has helped to sustain international indigenous peoples' rights activities in an inclusive manner.

The nature of these events varied greatly, of which ranged from internal organizational meetings to webinars with an attendance of up to several hundred people.

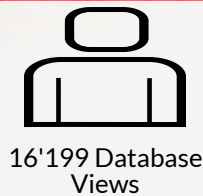
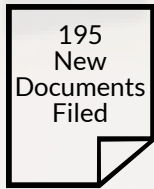
Docip also continued its work in document translation.

To carry out this work, Docip was able to count on the constant support of more volunteers than ever before, both interpreters and translators.

Docip also took the opportunity to develop strong partnerships with some indigenous organizations

# Information in 2020

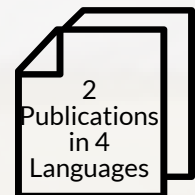
## Documentation



The documentation service collects, archives and makes available all indigenous contributions made during conferences related to the rights of indigenous peoples (collection registered in the UNESCO Memory of the World register), as well as monographs and articles of which a majority are stemming mainly from indigenous organizations or authors.

It also produces thematic bibliographic files before the main conferences in the four working languages of Docip

## Publications



Docip produces 3 publications annually:

- a summary on the activities of UNPFII (April-May, New York) which unfortunately did not take place in 2020.
- a summary on the activities of the EMRIP (July, Geneva)
- the Update, an annual publication on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2020, the floor was given to indigenous leaders to describe their experiences in face of the pandemic.

## Real-Time information



62 emails sent



1'026 Facebook posts



279 tweets



4'710 visits on the newsfeed

Docip sends daily and weekly information on conferences, mechanisms, and processes related to the United Nations, the European Union, and other international organizations concerning recent developments in the field of Indigenous Peoples' rights. An agenda containing the dates of conferences and information on participation is updated daily.

Questions from indigenous representatives are answered to facilitate their participation.

During this recent period of uncertainty the provision of reliable information through the use of real-time information updates proved to be particularly important as the service was kept consistently busy



# Capacity Strengthening in 2020

## Training

While the past year did not allow for the implementation of any courses due to the inability to travel, follow-up work continued with former recipients of previous courses.

For example, the organization that had sent trainees from Burundi in 2017 was supported in follow-up legal support activities. One of the Docip trainees has also become a minister in the national government, which bodes well for progress in terms of recognition of indigenous peoples' rights in Burundi.

Back home, Papua New Guinean and Solomon Islander 2019 trainees were able to share their new knowledge with members of their organizations and/or communities. Some were even able to meet with the highest authorities of their country (the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea).

In addition, the Solomon Islands interns became involved in the Universal Periodic Review of their country in order to obtain international recommendations regarding the respect of Indigenous Peoples' rights in their country.

Docip hopes to resume its training program in 2021.

## Memory and Oral History



Since the beginning of this Oral History and Memory Preservation Project, Docip has collected 249 videos totaling nearly 75 hours, 41 audio recordings totaling approximately 22 hours, and some 863 photographs.



97 Hours of  
Audio-Video Files

Work on editing, transcribing, and captioning the videos and recordings has been undertaken and is ongoing, with about one-third of the videos and three-quarters of the recordings having been processed.

In addition to the 2013 and 2015 symposia, 3 workshops were conducted in 3 different regions of the world (North America - South Dakota, 2015; South America - Argentina, 2016; Africa -Kenya, 2017).



Interviews  
in 13  
languages

A 4th workshop should have been held in Asia in 2020 but health circumstances caused the foundation to postpone it for 2021. 2021 should also see the launch of the platform so that it becomes accessible to the public.

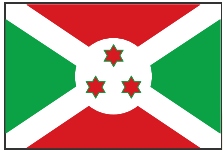
# Legal Support in 2020

## Legal Support at the UN



6 organisations supported before UN institutions

Despite the closure of some UN conferences and mechanisms, Docip was able to support six organizations in their advocacy efforts at the United Nations.



In Burundi and DR Congo, 2 organizations were supported in their training and awareness activities following the support they had received during technical secretariats in Geneva.



Similarly, 2 organizations were supported in Guatemala and Mexico. Due to the local situation and thanks to the flexibility of Docip's donor, these organizations were able to provide an emergency response in face of the health situation.

## Legal Support before EU institutions



Docip's Brussels Antenna facilitates relations between the EU and indigenous delegates who wish to inform the European institutions (Parliament, Commission, Council of the EU\* through the EEAS\*) on local issues impacting their community.



In 2020, 48 cases were presented to the European institutions with representatives from 5 continents and 25 different countries.



11 Indigenous representatives supported

27 information meetings were organized between Docip and EU officials or institutions.

11 indigenous representatives were supported to prepare their interventions through online events. In addition, 14 representatives were able to travel to Brussels before the pandemic for a consultation with the European External Action Service.



6 human rights defenders from 3 countries were supported so that they could benefit from adequate protection measures.



# In 2021...

The Docip Foundation will continue to adapt to the unstable environment by continuing its mission to support indigenous delegates.

Information will continue to be sent during the gradual resumption of activities related to international conferences, both specific to Indigenous Peoples' rights, as well as conferences and mechanisms related to these rights.

As the process of defining the Docip's internal strategic definition process has been disrupted by the current situation, it will continue and be completed in 2021.

All of the Foundation's employees are looking forward to meeting again with its indigenous partners to support their advocacy efforts.

Glossary	
(in order of appearance)	
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Paris)
UNPFII	UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York)
EMRIP	Experts Mechanism on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples (Geneva)
Treaty Bodies	Bodies attached to each of the nine core human rights treaties (Geneva)
UPR	Universal Periodic Review (Geneva)
EU	European Union
EEAS	European External Action Service

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Docip's actions are made possible thanks to the generous support of its donors. In 2020, they include:



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The Fondation would also like to thank for their support:



AVEC LE SOUTIEN  
DE LA  
VILLE DE GENÈVE



:innovage