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| Danish organisation | Amnesty International Danmark |
| Title of the intervention | Revitalising the Human Rights of the Indigenous People of Tekoha Sauce, Paraguay |
| Partner name(s) | Primary partner: Amnesty International Paraguay  Secondary partners: Pytyvohára Sauce Platform, Association of Indigenous Guaraní Communities of Alto Paraná, Association Yvy Paraná Rembe´ýpe of Alto Paraná and Canindeyu, Association of Indigenous Communities of Itapúa |
| Amount applied for | 499,999 kr. |
| Country(ies) | Paraguay |
| Period (# of months) | April 15th – Dec 31st 2022 (8 ½ months) |

**INTRODUCTION**

Amnesty International's (AI) two global priorities for 2022-2030 are: freedom of expression and civic space, and equality and non-discrimination. The latter includes a focus on securing climate justice, promoting gender and intersectional justice, and combatting the systemic and multidimensional discrimination that the most vulnerable groups face, such as Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

AI Denmark's (AIDK) international interventions have two thematic focus areas: 1) Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and 2) Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) Rights. The interventions on SGBV are geographically located in West Africa, while our IP interventions are focused in South America, presently through the existing partnerships with AI Peru (AIPE) and AI Brazil (AIBRZ), and with plans to extend it to AI Paraguay (AIPGY), also. In these countries, Amnesty has a strong track record working on IPs' rights, including through partnerships with indigenous communities and organizations, research, and campaigning and advocacy around specific human rights violations. With the support of CISU, these partnerships will focus on human rights education (HRE) as a tool to empower IPs, their communities, and organizations. Through the use of participatory and bottom-up approaches, we will learn from their lived experiences, their worldview and way of life and how they perceive and defend their rights. We will also support their learning about possible interfaces of these shared values within their culture and human rights framework to facilitate their advocacy with decision-makers and other duty-bearers. And we will work together with them to support them in developing their capacity to claim their own rights and engage in advocacy with decision-makers and other duty-bearers.

In the coming years, AIDK intends to explore the work on IPs' rights in Greenland. AIDK seeks to learn from this intervention to develop respectful and culturally sensitive relationships with indigenous rights activists and communities. Exchange and learning will be formalized through ongoing virtual meetings to ensure knowledge acquisition. By connecting our thematic approaches internationally and nationally through horizontal partnerships, AIDK strengthens learning across countries, cultures and between the Global South and the Global North. Through a dual exchange of values, inspiration and knowledge, human rights defenders and activists, especially youth and girls/women from the South and North, can support each other with valuable knowledge and experiences, resulting in greater awareness, research and advocacy and ultimately stronger human rights impact.

1. **OBJECTIVE AND RELEVANCE**

**Main purpose of the intervention:** The intervention aims to strengthen the individual and collective capacities of the Avá Guaraní Tekoha[[1]](#footnote-2) Sauce community in Paraguay, who were evicted from their ancestral lands to make way for the construction of the Itaipú Hydroelectric Plant. The intervention will support the community’s struggle to protect their human rights and regain their ancestral territory through a collaboration between AIDK, AIPGY, the Tekoha Sauce community, an alliance of 7 Paraguayan organizations which support the cause of the Tekoha Sauce (the Pytyvohara Sauce Platform (PSP), of which AIPGY is a member), and indigenous organizations ACIGAP, AYPRAPC and ACIDI[[2]](#footnote-3).

**Challenges that need to be addressed and results achieved so far:** For IPs in Paraguay, communities’ ancestral land is the basis of their culture, their spiritual life and their survival. One of the main threats they face is the lack of control and access to their ancestral territories, which puts their physical and cultural survival at risk. One of the main causes of dispossession is the extraction and exploitation of resources located in these territories, activities which are carried out in most cases without adequate processes of free, prior and informed consent. AI has identified the arbitrary application of different norms to forcibly evict IPs in Paraguay who are opposing natural resource exploration and extraction projects and claiming their territorial and environmental rights, as well as rights linked to access to land. Indigenous defenders of human and territorial rights are systematically threatened, their legitimate acts of protest and mobilization are criminalized and prosecuted[[3]](#footnote-4).

In the last 50 years, the Eastern Region of Paraguay has been affected by major environmental and social transformations as a consequence of the construction of hydroelectric dams and agribusiness development. This model of "progress" and development generated an alarming rate of deforestation that had a direct impact on rural, indigenous and peasant societies, with the elimination of around 70,000 km²of forests. In the 1970s, 38 communities of the Avá Guaraní Indigenous People were displaced from their ancestral territory by the construction of the Itaipú hydroelectric plant[[4]](#footnote-5), located on the border between Brazil and Paraguay. An estimated 500 families had to seek refuge in other communities far from the river. The socio-environmental, cultural and territorial impacts on this group of the Avá Guaraní people have been devastating, given that the communities, since time immemorial, occupied vast territories along the coast of the Paraná River, located between the departments of Alto Paraná and Canindejú.

Tekoha Sauce is one of the communities of the Ava Guaraní people who were forcibly displaced from their ancestral territory by the construction of the dam’s reservoir. This eviction was carried out in violation of national and international standards on the rights of indigenous peoples, and the community was relocated to an area that did not meet the needs of their traditional way of life. Since then, the community has asked the state authorities for comprehensive reparation for the damages caused since the first eviction, without receiving a satisfactory response. According to Article 28 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, this compensation could include lands, territories, resources, monetary compensation or other legally recognized measures. The Tekoha Sauce community has also claimed the right to have access to ancestral territory that was not flooded by the hydroelectric dam. Receiving no resolution from the authorities, in 2016 the community returned to a portion of their ancestral land. As a result, they have suffered from threats and attempts to discredit their territorial claims and their indigenous defenders[[5]](#footnote-6), as well as further eviction attempts.

The community’s leaders have actively defended the rights of their community in the context of the land dispute and the call for comprehensive reparations. They have been accompanied by the Association of Indigenous Guaraní Communities of Alto Paraná (ACIGAP) and the Pytyvohára Sauce Platform. Together they have promoted institutional advocacy processes before State bodies such as the Paraguayan Institute of Indigenous People, the Human Rights Directorate of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Commission on Indigenous Peoples of the Chamber of Senators, and international organizations such as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), UNESCO and the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In 2019, the Itaipú Binacional company filed a further eviction lawsuit against the community. For the time being, the court has not issued any decision on the merits of the case, so the strategy of support and defense of the community continues. Even in adverse circumstances and in a situation of extreme precariousness, the families that make up the Tekoha Sauce persist in their struggle and demand that the Paraguayan state repair the damage caused by the dispossession of their ancestral territory. Currently, the community’s 43 families are temporarily settled in precarious and highly vulnerable conditions on a small strip of land between the Limoy Biological Reserve which belongs to the energy company, Itaipu Binacional, and large-scale agricultural farms (soy, wheat and GM maize). The community is prohibited from hunting, fishing, building new houses and from using wood from the reserve, which violates their rights to subsistence and traditional practices, and puts their survival in danger. They also have to endure periodic fumigations from the neighbouring commercial farms with pesticides without the corresponding protections required by law. In the highly vulnerable situation in which they subsist in the camp, women face situations of extreme precariousness, violence and intimidation by non-indigenous people. It is they and the children who spend more time in the community, while the men who go out to look for temporary jobs. Due to the isolation of the community and the absence of the state, access to health and education services is very limited, especially access to health services.

**Context of the intervention**

Paraguay is considered a stable context, ranked within the “warning” category in the 2021 Fragile States Index[[6]](#footnote-7).

**Paraguay’s Indigenous Population:** The indigenous population of Paraguay is 117,150 people with 19 peoples grouped into five linguistic families, settled in 493 communities[[7]](#footnote-8). The Atlas of Indigenous Communities (2015) reveals that indigenous communities own 1,163,127 hectares of land. Of this total, 351 communities have made a formal claim to the authorities to have their land titled, representing approximately 70%. Indigenous peoples in general keep their ethnic identity alive, they feel, first and foremost, as Mbya, Ayoreo, Avá Guaraní, Aché, Paï Tavyterá, Nivaclé, they do not identify themselves as Paraguayan.

**Poverty and marginalization:** IPs in Paraguay have experienced a long history of systemic discrimination and human rights violations. In the absence of public policies on the part of the State, the social, cultural, political and economic conditions for indigenous communities have worsened in recent decades, creating a profound gap of inequality which separates the IPs from the rest of the population. 8 out of 10 IPs live in poverty, compared to a poverty rate of 24% amongst the whole Paraguayan population[[8]](#footnote-9). Chronic malnutrition is double the value in indigenous children compared to non-indigenous children. Similarly, the frequency of anemia in non-indigenous children is 46%, while in indigenous children it is 74%[[9]](#footnote-10). Compared with other citizens, IPs are also more likely to be underpaid, have lower levels of education, die in childbirth and have a lower life expectancy. Indigenous women suffer triple discrimination, because they are women, because they are poor and because they are indigenous.

**Institutional, legal and political conditions:** Despite the existence of binding international instruments on the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, the adoption of culturally appropriate policies is deficient, especially with regard to access to lands and territories in sufficient quantity and quality and the implementation of the right to consultation and free, prior and informed consent. The lack of political will is coupled with a weak public institutional framework to guarantee the human and territorial rights of indigenous peoples. Paraguay is the State in the region with the highest number of convictions by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights relating to indigenous peoples, and which are yet to be fully implemented. The state is characterized by bureaucracy and excessive delays in justice that affect the legal security of indigenous community lands. This reflects the persistent discrimination of the Paraguayan state towards IPs and the insufficient conditions to achieve real and effective participation that would allow them to assert their interests before the respective bodies or agencies. Despite the harsh reality affecting the indigenous population, there has been a progressive decline in recent years in terms of a shrinking budget allocation for the government’s Paraguay Indigenous Institute (INDI). This has limited the purchase of land and the implementation of social programmes and projects to progressively reverse the extreme poverty affecting indigenous communities.

**Strengthening civil society organizing:** This initiative seeks to strengthen the capacities of indigenous defenders, women and youth leaders from the Tekoha Sauce community to defend their rights, especially territorial, cultural and environmental rights. It will also promote the articulation of indigenous communities of the Ava Paranaense group and their community organisations by creating spaces for dialogue, exchange of experiences and construction of proposals for joint action. Finally, it will strengthen the efforts of the inter-institutional Pytyvohára Sauce Platform which supports the struggle of the Tekoha Sauce.

**Climatic and environmental conditions:** The Tekoha Sauce community is located in the District of Minga Porä, Alto Paraná Department, Paraguay, in the ecoregion of the Atlantic Forest of Alto Paraná (BAAPA). The Atlantic Forest is one of the ecoregions included in the Global 200[[10]](#footnote-11). It is a complex of 15 terrestrial ecoregions that runs along the Atlantic coast of Brazil and extends westward into the Eastern Region of Paraguay and northeastern Argentina. They are among the most threatened forests on Earth, with only 7% of their original cover surviving in a highly fragmented landscape. The conservation of the last remnants of forest of the BAAPA in Paraguay is due to the protection from indigenous communities who, despite the intense pressure for productive land, resist in their communities, thus contributing to the mitigation of climate change. The project activities do not include the physical transformation of the environment and will not have a direct impact on the environment. Criteria of sustainability and **respect for the environment** will be included in all activities and in the internal management processes of all partners (rationalisation of the use of resources, waste management, etc.) The project's main objectives include respect for the rights of indigenous peoples over their lands, territories and resources. Indigenous peoples, through the application of their traditional knowledge and customary sustainable uses, contribute to the conservation of the environment and biodiversity.

**2. THE ASSOCIATION/PARTNERS**

**Experiences, capacities and resources of participating partners and other actors**

**Pytyvohára Sauce Platform (PSP):** The PSP *(“Those institutions who allied themselves to help Sauce”)* was formed in 2015 by an alliance of 7 human rights, indigenous, women's, academic and religious organizations that support the case of the Tehoka Sauce: The organizations that make up the platform are the following: Amnesty International Paraguay (AIPGY) <https://amnesty.org.py/>; Federation for Self-Determination of Indigenous Peoples (FAPI) <https://fapi.org.py/>; Southern Women's Fund (FMS) <https://www.mujeresdelsur.org/en/home/>; SUNU Intercultural Action Group <https://gruposunu.org.py/>; Centre for Anthropological Studies of the Catholic University (CEADUC); National Coordination of Indigenous Pastoral (CONAPI[) http://www.conapi.org.py/](http://www.conapi.org.py/); Asociación Indigenista del Paraguay (AIP). All the organizations have extensive experience in the promotion and defense of human rights and the rights of IPs in Paraguay. Since the formation of the platform, these organizations have worked together with the Tehoka Sauce and the indigenous organizations the community belongs to, to jointly analyze and establish strategies of action in defense of the individual and collective rights of the Tehoka Sauce community. The modality of inter-institutional and interdisciplinary work, according to the assessment of leaders and members of the community, has been key to supporting the difficult process that the community faces in its claim for its ancestral lands. Therefore, the initiative has been designed to strengthen this alliance. **Association of Indigenous Guaraní Communities of Alto Paraná (ACIGAP):** ACIGAP was formed in 2004 and represents 18 indigenous Guaraní communities including Tekoha Sauce, with a population of 2,584 people (approximately 500 families). The organization’s purpose is to defend the right of indigenous communities to preserve their ethnic identity and self-determination, according to their own cultural values, and to promote their development and quality of life. **Association Yvy Paraná Rembe´ýpe of Alto Paraná and Canindeyu (AYPRAPC).** AYPRAPC represents 4 Guaraní indigenous communities with a population of 850 people (approximately 170 families). **Association of Indigenous Communities of Itapúa (ACIDI).** ACIDIrepresents 22 communities with a population of approximately 2,000 persons (400 families) from the department of Itapúa in south-east Paraguay. They work to claim reparation and territorial restitution in the face of the impact of the construction of the Yasyreta Hydroelectric Plant. **Amnesty International Paraguay (AIPGY):** AIPGY is a Paraguay human rights organization which forms part of the AI global movement. The organization prioritizes the protection of human rights defenders, the right to freedom from discrimination, the rights of IPs, sexual and reproductive rights, economic, social and cultural rights, monitoring of compliance with international mechanisms for the protection of human rights and international solidarity. For the development of its work, it works with local organizations, in working groups with the State itself and in close accompaniment with the victims. **Amnesty International Denmark (AIDK):** AIDK has 16 years of experience with participatory methodologies for HRE and gender and has been supporting capacity development for other AI sections around the world on these issues. During the last 3 years AI DK has been working strategically towards developing support for IPs rights in partnerships with other national Sections, and currently in collaboration with AI Brazil and AI Peru.

**Previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed into the development of the proposed intervention. (i)** As members of the AI global movement, AIDK and AIPGY both participate in global AI campaigns and initiatives. This will be the first joint project between the two sections. (ii) The organizations members of the PSP, which includes AIPGY, have been collaborating together for over 5 years in defense of the rights of the Tekoha Sauce community, mainly through advocacy (all), promotion of the rights of IPs and legal defense (FAPI), socio-anthropological research (CEADUC, SUNU, CONAPI), social accompaniment and assistance (FMS, Grupo Sunú, and AIPGY), awareness-raising and campaigns (AIPGY). (iii) ACIGAP and AYPRAPC are both members of FAPI (which is in turn a member of the PSP) and articulate actions to promote the rights of the Guaraní IPs, mainly the rights to land and territory. Among their common actions is the support for the territorial claim of the communities affected by the construction of the Itaipu Hydroelectric Plant.

**Contributions, roles and responsibilities of partners and other actors:** Project strategies and decision making will be defined by the PSP together with representatives of the Tekoha Sauce community, ACIGAP and AYPRAPC, and with advisory support from AIDK, guaranteeing the participation and ownership of all actors in the implementation process. **Pytyvohára Sauce Platform (PSP):** The initiative will be implemented with the support of its members, who will be involved in different activities according to the required expertise and capacities. The modality of the participation of the different partners will be via specific consultancies: 1) Design and implementation of training programme on rights and communication for advocacy with a participatory, gender and intercultural approach. (FAPI-CEADUC-AIP-SUNU). 2) Support in the dissemination of the project, its advocacy actions, replicate the awareness and advocacy communication campaign (all, AIPGY accompanies and advises considering its experience in campaigns). 3) Co-organize and support meetings for dialogue, exchanges and definition of proposals with ACIGAP and AYPRAPC (FAPI). 4) Advisors on gender (FMS) and interculturality (FAPI). **ACIGAP and AYPRAPC:** 1) Participate in decision making relating to project strategies. 2) Support the processes of training, promotion of citizen participation and advocacy. 3) Promote the proposals generated in the spaces of intercultural dialogue and construction of their own proposals. **AIPGY:** 1) Responsible for the implementation of the project in Paraguay and for the local coordination with the PSP. 2) Leads the design of the training programme, and the production of educational content and resources, especially those related to human rights issues and training for advocacy and mobilization. 3) Contribute their experience in awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, and the protection of human rights defenders. **AIDK:** 1) Support AIPGY in the design of HRE trainings utilizing participatory methods, gender, intergenerational and intercultural approaches, based on experiences from other international projects. 2) Mutual capacity building together with AIPGY and PSP on the learnings during the project. 3) Facilitating sharing of learning between CISU-funded projects on IPs rights in Latin America. 4) Responsible for communicating the intervention to CISU including narrative and financial reporting and building the bridge between CISU and the partners in Paraguay.

**Developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.** The intervention will enhance the working of the PSP and strengthen the existing collaboration between the Tekoha Sauce community, the PSP, ACIGAP, AYPRAPC, and the new relationship with AIDK. Technical exchange and collaboration between partners on HRE and diversity will contribute to horizontal learning and capacity development in both Paraguay and Denmark. It will specifically focus on strengthening institutional knowledge on how to more effectively promote an intersectional approach to human rights training that can be adapted to specific cultural contexts.

**3. TARGET GROUP, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

**Primary target groups: (>100 people):**

* 50 (35% women) leaders, indigenous defenders of the Tekoha Sauce and representatives of the indigenous organisations of the Ava Paranaense group of the Avá Guaraní People, ACIGAP and AYPRAPC.
* 10 young people (50% women) from Tekoha Sauce.

2 Indigenous organizations of the Avá Paranaense Group of the Ava Guaraní People of Paraguay (ACIGAP and AYPRAPC).

22 leaders and representatives of the Association of Indigenous Communities of Itapúa (ACIDI).

20 non-indigenous defenders belonging to the member organizations of the PSP.

**Secondary target groups (>100,000 people):**

* 140 people from 30 families from the Tekoha Sauce community.
* 19 other Ava Guaraní communities linked to ACIGAP and AYPRAPC, approximately 2,500 people.

22 Indigenous communities linked to ACIDI from the department of Itapúa, approximately 2,000 people.

20 Paraguayan authorities and decision makers from amongst the following: public sector actors - Paraguayan Indigenous Institute (INDI), Institute of Rural Development and Land (INDERT), Foreign Ministry, Environment Ministry, Finance Ministry, departmental and municipal governments, Supreme Court, Justice Ministry, and human rights commissions of the parliament; private sector actors – Itaipú Hydroelectric Company, Yasyreta Hydroelectric Company.

At least 100,000 persons from the Paraguayan population reached through the communication channels of the PSP.

Women’s participation: Culturally, political and organizational roles are traditionally designated by the community to men according to the profile that they consider necessary to successfully perform their functions, such as understanding Spanish and knowing how to read and write. There is also a concern that women may suffer harassment outside of their communities. The role of women is traditionally focused more within the spheres of the family and community, although these roles and customs are changing with new generations. For this reason, the project has established what is an ambitious target of 35% women’s participation within most project activities. In the case of activities specifically targeting young people we will be aiming for 50%. According to the latest census of families in the community, there are 75 women (40% of the population), of whom 29 are minors.

Participation of target groups: Underlying the proposed methodology is respect for IPs' *right to self-development*, understood as the right of IPs to define their own development priorities and strategies and to control their economic, social and cultural development processes. The right to self-development implies the right of IPs to participate fully and effectively in all phases of projects and programmes that affect them and, as far as possible, to manage these programmes. With these premises, the intervention has been designed in a participatory manner in collaboration with referents and members of the beneficiary community in accordance with their own decision-making methods and priorities. Likewise, the partner organizations, indigenous organizations and communities included in the project will actively participate in its implementation and in the evaluation of the activities.

In November ‘21 a workshop was held with the PSP and representatives of Tekoha Sauce to jointly establish the lines of action that will be prioritized in the initiative, the construction of the main indicators, the definition of the content to be prioritized in the training programmes, the establishment of objectives and final results, the construction of strategies that involve young people and women from the community in all phases of the process, as well as roles of the organizations of the PSP. Additional consultations were carried out in the Sauce Community and with the PSP in February ’22.

The participation of the communities at all levels of the intervention is considered fundamental to guarantee their empowerment and appropriation of conceptual and technical tools, as well as that of the indigenous organizations to which they are linked, ACIGAP and AYPRAPC, with whom after the project they will continue with the implementation of action plans for the defense and promotion of the territorial, cultural and environmental rights of the communities of the Ava Paranaense group.

Benefits to the target groups: (i) Empowerment of indigenous communities and organizations to connect human rights and the applicable legal framework with traditional culture and cosmovision, and to identify human rights violations, define priorities and action plans for the defense of rights. (ii) Improved skills of indigenous defenders, mainly leaders, youth and women to claim their rights, generate and strengthen alliances that contribute to the strengthening of the Tekoha Sauce, as well as the communities of the Ava Paranaense Group. (iii) Strengthened leadership and empowerment of indigenous communities and organizations through intercommunity and intercultural meetings for the joint analysis of the situation of the territorial struggle, the strategies undertaken to claim rights against hydroelectric companies and exchanges of knowledge and good practices. (iv) Strengthened capacities of young defenders of Sauce in communications strategies, including the documentation of the community situation from the perspective of ESCR, recording testimonies and knowledge of the former inhabitants of the territories and the struggle of the Tekoha Sauce to make their territorial, cultural and environmental rights effective. (v) Increased awareness among national and international public opinion and state authorities about the human rights situation of the Ava Paranaense group.

Overall goal: Indigenous peoples and organizations in critical ecosystems in South America can more effectively combat exclusion and discrimination, and protect their territory, environment, rights, and traditions, contributing to global efforts to combat climate change. Outcome: Indigenous leaders and defenders of the Tekohá Sauce of the Avá Paranaense group and their local organizations, as well as other indigenous communities negatively affected by hydroelectric projects in Paraguay, have strengthened capacity to protect their human rights and their right to reside upon and make use of their ancestral territory, in accordance with Paraguayan and international law. Outputs: (1) Indigenous defenders, women and youth leaders, have increased knowledge and awareness of human rights and indigenous peoples’ rights, with an emphasis on territorial, cultural and environmental rights, and are equipped with skills to claim them. (2) Indigenous communities of the Ava Paranaense and Mbya Guaraní groups and their community organizations are more connected through the generation of spaces for dialogue, exchange of experiences and construction of proposals for joint action to vindicate their territorial, cultural and environmental rights. (3) Ava Paranense youth have learnt to effectively communicate and raise awareness with national and international public opinion and state authorities regarding their fight for their territorial, cultural and environmental rights.

**Intervention strategy: Human rights approach:** Recognizing the indigenous population of Tekoha Sauce as subjects of rights, with the capacity to organize themselves to defend their individual and collective rights, as well as to participate in public affairs and strengthen coexistence without discrimination and with equity. **Educational approach:** The proposed intervention is based on the premise of connecting indigenous education with human rights education, action-oriented learning and community mobilization. The methodologies used for the trainings are based on popular education and the experience of working in indigenous communities. In this sense, the knowledge of both the communities and academic specialists who can work from an intercultural perspective is brought into play. The construction of documents based on collective knowledge production strategies constitutes the Sauce Platform's commitment. In this way, all training and research actions contemplate the exchange and transfer of intercultural knowledge, in order to achieve a constant empowerment of communities and indigenous peoples, and in order to also inform Amnesty’s human rights work in relation to IPs. **Intercultural approach:** This allows us to establish a dialogue about the cultural knowledge of Guaraní peoples (Ava and Mbya Guaraní) and to value their experience in the defense of their rights. Respect for and promotion of cultural diversity governs the implementation of activities. The territorial analyses will be carried out in the Tekoha Sauce located in part of their ancestral lands claimed by the Ava Paranaense Group and will promote dialogue and participation of the target population. Intercultural dialogue, on a territory that is traditionally indigenous but currently controlled by non-indigenous people, can lead to conflict and lack of understanding. To address these difficulties, specialized consultancies in intercultural mediation and participatory methodologies are foreseen. The field teams will be **intercultural** and **multidisciplinary**. This diversity will allow for a holistic approach, generating complex knowledge, achieved through the integration of different perspectives. **Intergenerational approach:** Thiswill allow us to actively involve the indigenous youth of Tekoha Sauce in the different stages of the design and implementation of the intervention and to count on their contribution and accompaniment in the development of the intervention together with the leaders and referents of the grassroots organizations, generating and strengthening new youth leadership. **Gender and intersectional approach:** Allows us to question the gender roles that hinder the exercise of women's rights in indigenous communities and to establish the necessary conditions for women to exercise their right to participate in the decisions taken in their communities and in the defense of their rights. We will also take into account multiple discriminations that help to understand how different combinations of identities influence access to rights and opportunities. The training and exchange processes will combine the appropriation of concepts and tools linked to women's struggles and those that have been concentrated in the hands of men (access to and management of power, external relations of the communities, etc.). Pedagogical strategies for training and gender mainstreaming will be included. In this way, the participation of women will be done in a qualified way and with an agenda recognized by the partner organizations and the organizations and communities participating in the project. Field teams will be gender-equitable. **Exchange of information and experiences:** The methodology used promotes the exchange of information and experiences between indigenous and non-indigenous communities, peoples and organizations, fostering intercultural dialogue and the construction of a joint vision for the defense of human rights and the environment.

**Planned activities:**

**1.1 Start up visit to the Avá Paranaenses communities.** This preparatory activity which involves socialization and consultation of the actions and results that the project intends with the communities, fits with the Guarani culture of "guata" (walking) to visit and find oneself among relatives and other forciblydisplaced Guarani. This preliminary tour will be carried out with the presidents of AICGAP and AYPRAPC in the communities in which the families displaced by the construction of Itaipú went to take refuge. **(Month 1)**

**1.2 Design of training plan and materials.** Design of a prototype modular training plan for defenders/leaders, leaders and male and female members of Tekoha Sauce based on a training needs assessment carried out with the community and local organizations. It is envisaged that relevant topics will include individual and collective rights, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights (ESCER), legal first aid, participation, action, mobilization and public policy advocacy. Existing training modules designed by AI Peru for the empowerment of young indigenous women in the Amazon funded by CISU will be reviewed and adapted where relevant. A training booklet will be developed to support the training process. **(Month 1-2)**

**1.3 Delivery of human rights workshops.** 3modular workshops will be organized on issues such as individual and collective rights, ESCER, legal first aid, and participation, action, mobilization and advocacy in public policies. The participation of 30 indigenous leaders and defenders (35% women) from Tekoha Sauce and representatives of ACIGAP and AYPRAPC is foreseen. Each module will be delivered over two days in the Tekoha Sauce community. The inclusion of representatives of ACIGAP and AYPRAPC in addition to members of the Tekoha Sauce community will enable us to engage with other indigenous communities that have been similarly affected by the construction of the Itaipú hydroelectric plant. **(Months 2 to 4)**

**1.4 Action plan development.** 1 workshop will be held on participatory design and implementation of action plans with a focus on mobilization and advocacy. Once the modular plan foreseen in activity 1.2 has been developed, this workshop will seek to articulate knowledge on HR with theoretical and practical elements on public policy advocacy, which implies carrying out actions ranging from cooperation to confrontation with governmental actors with the objective of influencing governmental decisions on social problems. This workshop is expected to involve the same target group as activity 1.2. **(Month 4-5)**

**1.5 Review, validate and finalize training process.** Based on the experience of delivering the workshops and feedback from project stakeholders, the training plan and materials will be adjusted and finalized. They will be shared with the member organizations of the PSP and other organizations working on indigenous people’s rights in Paraguay, as well as with other Amnesty sections in South America supporting IPs. **(Month 5-6)**

**2.1 Spaces for reflection and dialogue between Avá Paranaenses communities and organizations.** A meeting will be organized over 2 days in Tekoha Sauce for reflection and dialogue between communities and organizations of the Avá Paranaense Group of the Ava Guarani People, from Paraguay and across the border in Brazil, who have been affected by the construction of the Itaipú hydroelectric plant. The objective of the meeting is to strengthen territorial awareness and community ties and exchange experiences, good practices and agendas for the defense of territorial, cultural and environmental rights. 50 people (35% women) are expected to participate, including representatives of Tekoha Sauce, ACIGAP, AYPRAPC, and Ava Paranaense communities and organizations on the Brazilian side. **(Month 4 and 5)**

**2.2 Cultural memory and territorial mapping workshops.** Workshops will be held as a mechanism for the reconstruction of collective identity and documenting the experiences the community has undergone. The process will include the development of a map of the ancestral territories of the Ava Paranaense Group. The products will be used for dissemination with other stakeholders. 30 people, leaders, religious leaders, young men and women from Tekoha Sauce, ACIGAP and AYPRAPC will participate. Each workshop will last for 2 days. **(Month 5 and 6)**

**2.3 Alliances with other indigenous groups affected by hydroelectric projects.** A meeting will be organized for intercultural dialogue and analysis of the Ava and Mbya Guarani indigenous peoples affected by the construction of hydroelectric dams in Paraguay, in order to establish alliances and define joint advocacy agendas. This will be the first meeting of IPs affected by the construction of hydroelectric dams in Paraguay, both claiming historical reparation from the Paraguayan State. The establishment of a joint advocacy addendum based on a joint declaration to be presented to state and hydroelectric authorities will increase the visibility of the problems and proposals of the affected peoples and strengthen the processes of struggle. The participation of indigenous leaders and defenders from Tekoha Sauce, ACIGAP, AYPRAPC and ACIDI is planned (50 people - 35% women - who will meet in an indigenous community for two days) **(Month 6)**

**3.1 Training plan for young people in community communication.** Design of a training plan for young Ava Paranaense men and women in community communication for human rights action. For indigenous peoples, communication has been and continues to be a source of cultural formation, recognition and survival. Examples of this can be found in everyday oral history, in the symbolic aesthetics represented in weavings, dances, ceremonies and ceramics, among others. The new forms and mechanisms of communication become real options for the democratisation of communication and a tool to fight discrimination and exclusion of Indigenous Peoples. This is why Tekoha Sauce sees the importance of having young communicators in the community and has therefore requested the inclusion of spaces for training in the management and production of communication materials, information and knowledge of digital tools, which demonstrates the importance that indigenous leaders are giving to communication and its strategic nature for the achievement of more democratic societies**. (Month 1-2)**

**3.2 Communications training and AV material development.** Implementation of the training plan with 10 young people (40% women) utilizing a research-action approach that generates communication materials aimed at making the community's reality visible, disseminating the proposals and demands of the Ava Paranaense. This will include the production of at least 3 short audiovisual films with mobile phones, 8 podcasts and 1 community photo-memory. The training will comprise 5 workshops x 2 days each. **(Month 2 to 6)**

**3.3 National and international dissemination of communication materials.** Disseminationat national and international level of the materials produced by the Ava Paranense youth through the media channels of the organizations of the PSP. AI Paraguay will use its social media channels where it has over 125,000 followers (FB, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube). **(Month 7 and 8)**

**3.4 Action during Human Rights Week.** With the materials produced by the young people, it is planned to carry out a campaign to visibilize and raise awareness about the situation of HRDs in the Sauce Community and their proposals to advance towards the reparation of the damage caused by the construction of the hydroelectric dam. During Human Rights Week, community and public presentations of the videos produced by the young people will be organized, as well as travelling photographic exhibitions in venues such as the communities of the Ava Paranense Group, National Congress, Plaza de la Democracia, and the Juan de Salazar Cultural Centre of Spain. **(Months 8-9)**

**A participatory evaluation, that documents and disseminates our results and lessons learned.** In the last month of the project, a participatory evaluation is being planned with representatives from the participating indigenous community and local organizations (50 people x 2 days). In line with Amnesty’s experience in participatory evaluations with indigenous communities, the methodology will be centered on dialogue and include specific spaces with women and youth. We also plan to document our lessons learned and to prepare surveys that identifies our good practices and may provide recommendations for future programming. The documentation and evaluation process will end in a report that we will socialize through AIPGY, the member organizations from the PSP, and AIDK**. (Month 8 and 9)**

**Planning, coordination, monitoring and reporting.** A project implementation group that consists of technical and thematic project staff from AIDK, AIPGY and the PSP-members will be established to oversee planning, coordination and monitoring of the project activities. AIDK will coordinate the final report to CISU, while AIPGY will implement the project in Paraguay and prepare quarterly progress plans that they will share with the project implementation group. AIDK will manage the finances and will make quarterly disbursements to AIPGY ahead of implementation.

**Contingency plan for COVID-19.** Currently, COVID-19 infection prevention measures are being developed in what the National Executive, through the Ministry of Health, calls the "Safe Mode of Living". Within the framework of this modality, gatherings of up to 100 people are allowed, respecting biosecurity measures such as the use of masks, hand washing and the use of disinfectant alcohol, avoiding crowds in enclosed spaces, maintaining the necessary distance of 2m. Considering the above, the local partners will implement the INDI and Public Health protocols and will provide biosecurity supplies accompanied by an educational and informative reminder of all health measures to prevent contagion.

**Protection, safeguarding and well-being:** Amnesty has comprehensive and intersectional policies and mechanisms for the protection of HRDs at risk. As a movement, we are in the process of connecting and reinforcing our different safeguarding and protection policies, protocols and strategies for working with children and youth, with a specific focus on mental health and well-being. At the same time, Amnesty is committed to focusing our work on anti-racism and anti-discrimination, to actively combat and transform inequality, discrimination and privilege.

Intervention-related information work in Denmark

AIDK’s communication priorities will be to promote messages around land rights, IP rights and environmental rights. More specifically, we will raise the awareness around indigenous communities and their rights, by using the Tekoha Sauce as a case, and inform about the cultural, financial, and land rights issues they face, because of the hydroelectric plant that operates on the border between Brazil and Paraguay and impacts several communities in both countries. AIDK has a large communication reach with many well-established communication platforms. This includes our quarterly members-magazine (68,000 members), five thematic monthly newsletters (80,000 subscribers), our homepage [www.amnesty.dk](http://www.amnesty.dk/) (30,000 visitors), Facebook (128,000 followers), Instagram (16,000 followers), and Twitter (7,000 followers). As a minimum, we plan to develop at least one news that raise awareness on the community and their specific human rights case, and at least one news that communicate one of the project’s results. The two news-stories will be published in one member-magazine, one thematic newsletter, and at our homepage, whereas our social media accounts will be used to push the news and to create debate and awareness. Further, AIDK seek to engage Danish activists through stories and virtual learning-exchanges between student activists in Paraguay and Denmark at our virtual learning platform “Act for Rights”. The platform has previously been developed with support from CISU and other partners.

1. *Tekoha,* means territory, “the place where we find ourselves”. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. For a full list and description of PSP member organizations and IP partners please see section 2 “The Association/Partners” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Amnesty International, “A Recipe for Criminalization: Defenders of the Environment, Territory and Land in Peru and Paraguay” (2018) [Ignoradas y sin protección (amnesty.org)](https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/AMR0181582018ENGLISH.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Itaipu Hydroelectric Dam is the world’s second largest operational hydroelectric power plan in terms of installed power. [The Itaipu Hydroelectric Dam Project, Brazil (power-technology.com)](https://www.power-technology.com/projects/itaipu-hydroelectric/#:~:text=Itaipu%20Hydroelectric%20Dam%20is%20the%20world%E2%80%99s%20second-largest%20operational,to%20meet%20the%20demands%20of%20the%20two%20countries.) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Amnesty International, “Urgent Action: Indigenous Community at Risk of Eviction” (2018) [Paraguay: Indigenous community at risk of eviction (amnesty.org)](https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/AMR4506142019ENGLISH.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. [fsi2021-report.pdf (fragilestatesindex.org)](https://fragilestatesindex.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/fsi2021-report.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. STP.DGEEC. III National Population and Housing Census. Census of Indigenous Communities. Final Results, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. [Paraguay (ifad.org)](https://www.ifad.org/en/web/operations/w/country/paraguay) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. National Report on Food and Nutrition of FAO, INDI and MAG," 2014. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. List of global ecoregions or bioregions identified as priority for conservation by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)