

A close-up photograph of a metal water tap with water splashing out of it, set against a blurred background of green foliage. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Water and indigenous peoples

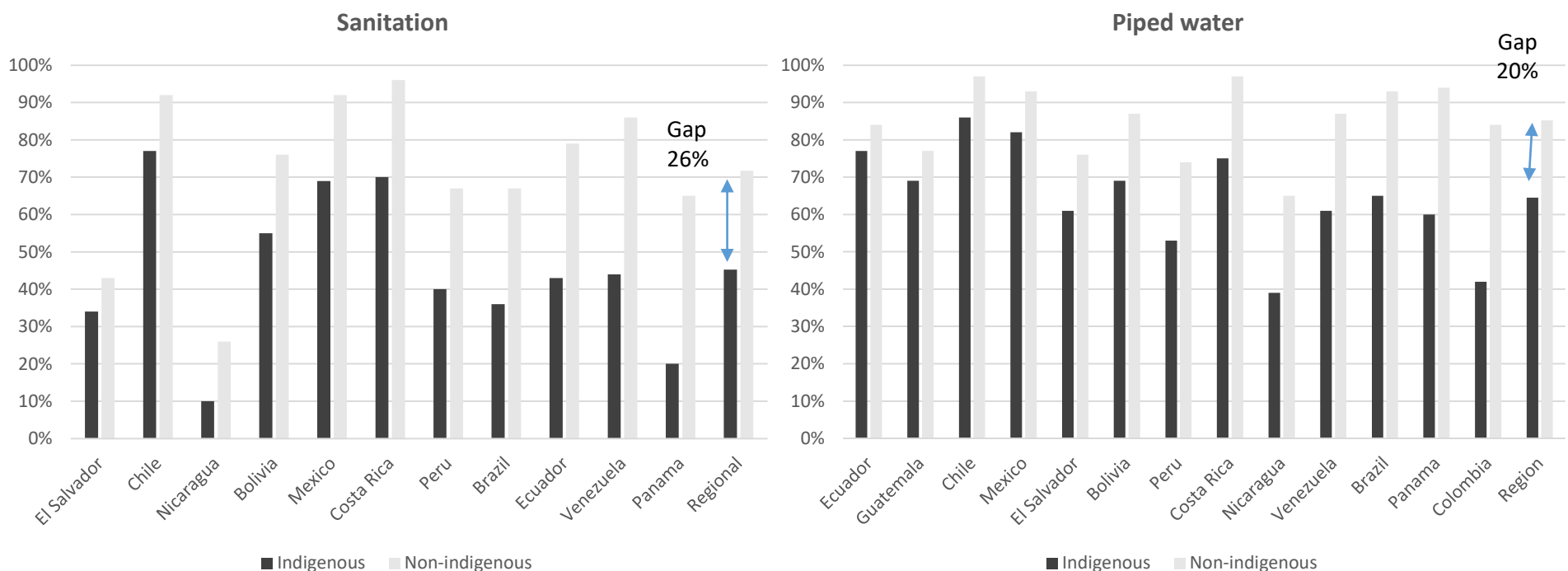
Indigenous peoples

- 5% of global population, but 15% of population living in poverty
 - Weak participation and representation in politics and decision making
 - Low economic power, and barriers to education and language use
 - When data exist, access is lower to W&S services, ejemplos:
 - Nicaragua - RAAN/RAAS 27% vs. National 75%
 - Paraguay - Chaco 65% vs. 80% National
 - ByH - Romaní 32% vs. National 82%
- Lack of systematic information

"Like with many other human rights, indigenous peoples suffer disproportionate violation of their human right to water and sanitation"

Catarina de Albuquerque, Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Water, 2011

Access Gap: example from LAC



Water and indigenous peoples



"Water and land are our mother, and our quality of life depends on them."

(Testimonial, comunidad Saklwas, Nicaragua)

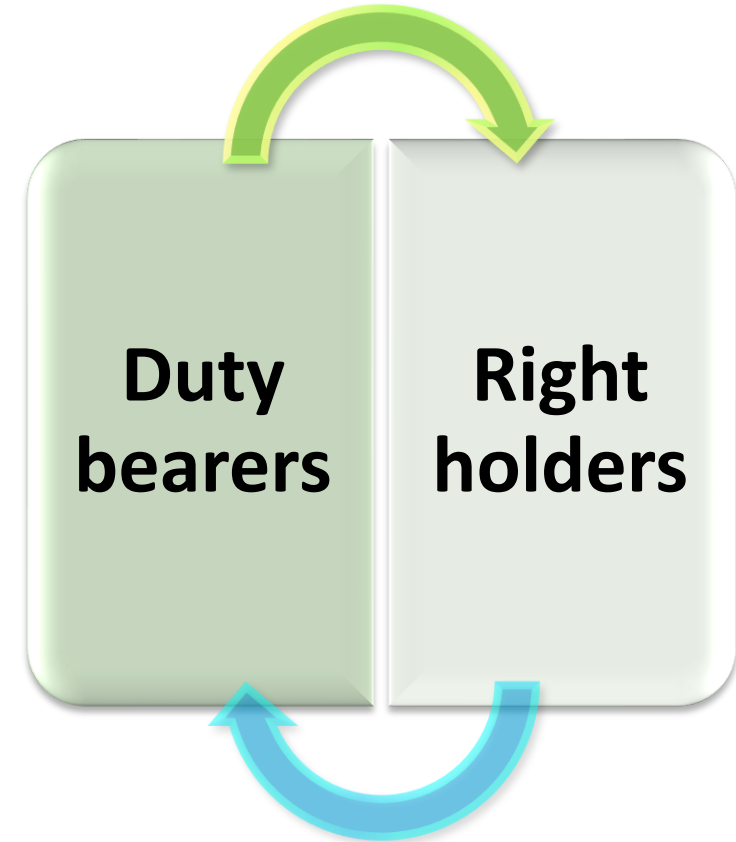
- Close spiritual and cultural relationship between indigenous groups and water
- resources hold extensive and detailed knowledge of ecosystems and environmental conditions
- Livelihoods depending on natural resources and ecosystems
- From remote places with high biodiversity- currently threatened

Related Rights

- The **right to water** entitles everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use.
- The **right to sanitation** entitles everyone to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, and socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity.
- The **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)**: elaborates on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the specific situation of indigenous peoples: their right to self-determination, cultural and institutional development, control over their land and resources, participation, etc.

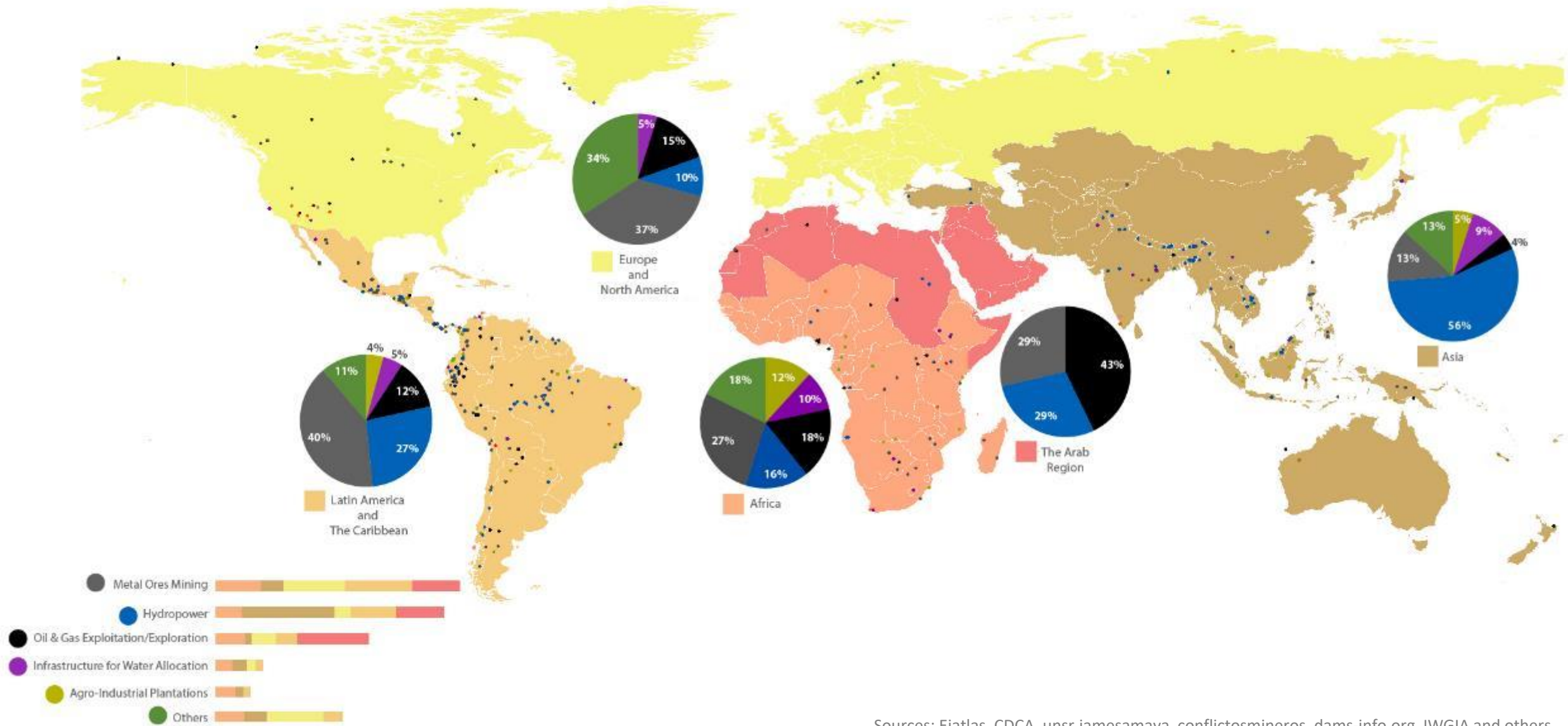
Principles of human rights

- States are duty bearers. People are right holders.
- Principles of:
 - Universality
 - Indivisibility
 - Non- discrimination
 - Transparency
 - Participation
 - Accountability,
 - Sustainability: Services must be available for present and future generations and the provision of services today should not compromise the ability of future generations to realize the human rights to water and sanitation



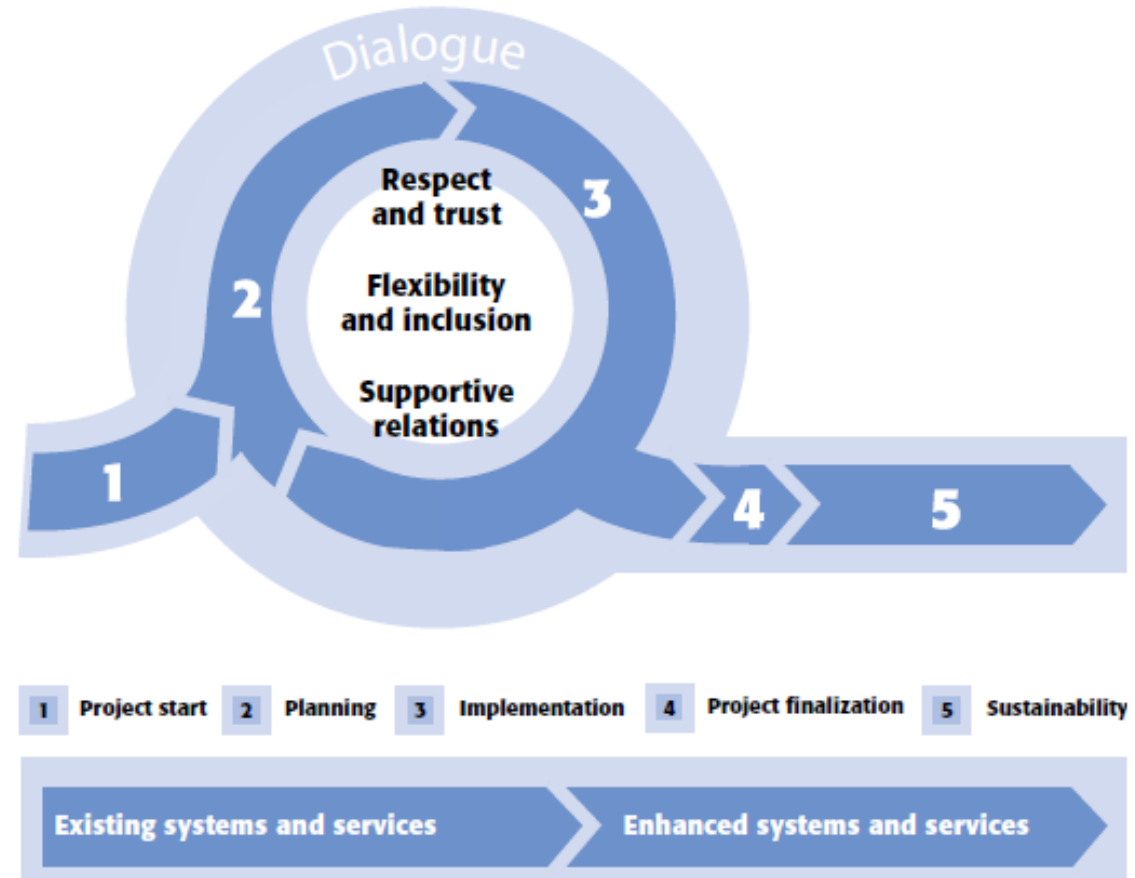
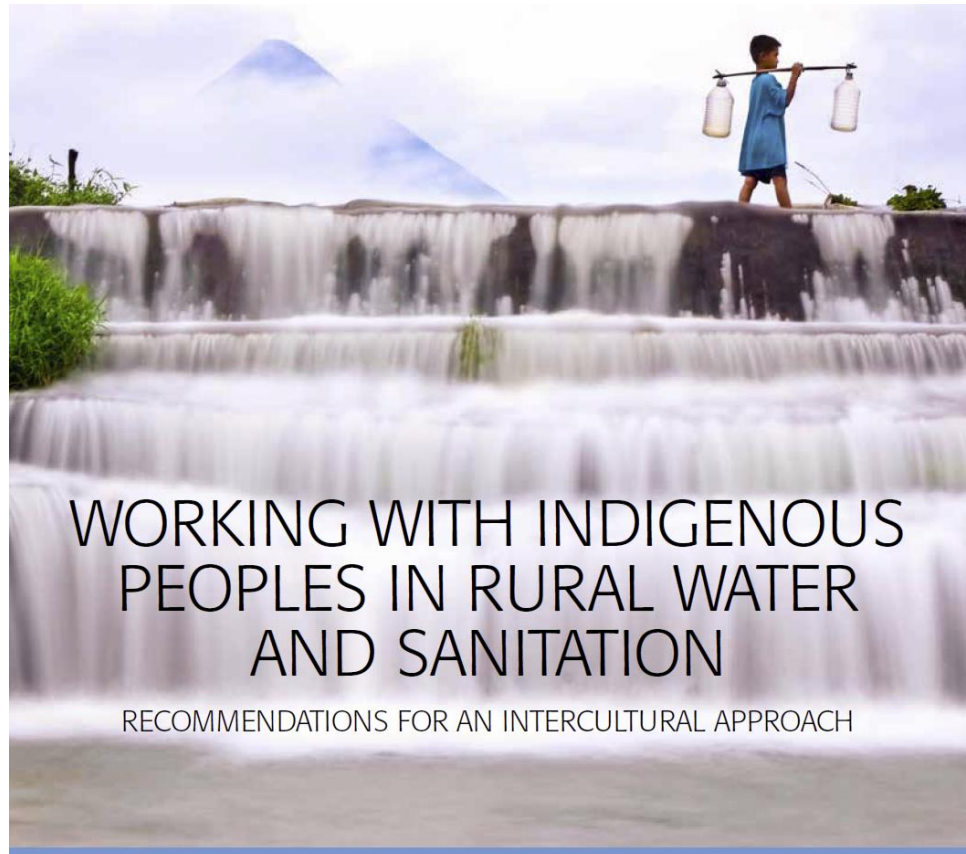
Water industry and conflicts; a mapping

384 Cases



Sources: Ejatlas, CDCA, unsr.jamesamaya, conflictosmineros, dams-info.org, IWGIA and others

Access to services: an intercultural approach



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Resilient nations.



How can inclusive policies be developed?

- Create opportunities for participation, put in place resources and needed capacities for it
- Take into consideration other world visions, values and knowledge around water and ecosystems
- Consider the rights of indigenous peoples to their land and water resources



Thank you

Alejandro Jiménez PhD,
Program Director Content Development
Water Governance, SIWI

