



EQUITABLE  
ORIGIN

# 2021 Annual Report

A higher standard. A better choice.™



Photo: Murray Cooper.

# Table of Contents

<b>Letter from the CEO</b>	<a href="#"><u>04</u></a>
<b>Indigenous Peoples' Rights</b>	<a href="#"><u>07</u></a>
The Resource Hub to Strengthen Indigenous Rights	<a href="#"><u>07</u></a>
Resource Hub Logo	<a href="#"><u>10</u></a>
E-Learning & Radio Programs	<a href="#"><u>10</u></a>
Digital Inclusion to Strengthen Indigenous Rights	<a href="#"><u>11</u></a>
Guides & Tools to Strengthen Indigenous Knowledge and other Resources	<a href="#"><u>12</u></a>
<b>FPIC-360°: Strengthening Free, Prior and Informed Consent</b>	<a href="#"><u>14</u></a>
<b>EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development</b>	<a href="#"><u>16</u></a>
<b>About Equitable Origin</b>	<a href="#"><u>18</u></a>
The Team	<a href="#"><u>20</u></a>
Our Board of Directors	<a href="#"><u>21</u></a>



## Mission

Equitable Origin partners with business, communities and government to support transparent, equitable, and sustainable development of energy and natural resources.

# Letter from the CEO

We are pleased to present our annual report detailing our progress during 2021. We continue living in unprecedented times in a world that is evolving rapidly. For EO, this year has been one of tremendous growth and opportunity. Although the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have continued to affect Indigenous Peoples, EO and its partners have continuously adapted in order to help strengthen Indigenous Peoples Rights to self-determine the course of their own development.

In 2021, EO projects and programs expanded and adapted with the changing needs of the communities we serve and the increasing interest in global sustainability. The EO team and our capacity have grown in response, adding expertise in Canada and Peru. This year, our work impacted an unprecedented number of communities globally and covered eight countries.

Together with the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin (COICA), EO continues to work on the

Resource Hub Platform to Strengthen Indigenous Rights and has had great success. To date, the platform has been used by over 4,000 people and we have identified over 1,200 resources for Indigenous Peoples in the region. Through the Resource Hub we delivered a three-month FPIC course for 22 Indigenous leaders from Ecuador, Peru and Mexico which has allowed the participants to gain valuable skills for asserting their rights.

Internet connectivity and access still remain a pressing challenge for Indigenous Peoples and EO has identified this as an opportunity to help connect the unconnected. Connectivity and digital inclusion allows Indigenous Peoples to assert their rights, gain access to education and critical health services, increase opportunities for civic participation and enables communication among communities.

Additionally, during COP26 it was clear that Indigenous Peoples are an important force in the fight against climate change and that they play a vital role in forest conservation. To help them preserve their forests, Indigenous

Peoples must be informed of their territorial rights and have access to resources that can often be found online. Through connectivity and the Resource Hub platform, we aspire to do just that.

Finally, 2021 has been an outstanding year for the EO100 Standard for Responsible Energy Development. We have continued to achieve milestones in applying EO100™ to energy projects in North America. In 2021, four sites were certified in the United States and three sites were certified in Canada. We also reviewed, revised and combined the technical addenda for Shale Oil and Gas and Conventional Oil and Gas, now the “Technical Supplement for Onshore Natural Gas and Light Oil Production.”

We aspire to continue providing meaningful ways to strengthen Indigenous rights and

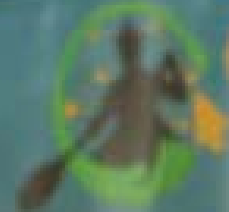
support responsible natural resource development in close partnership with our Indigenous, business and government partners. We are confident that we will continue expanding our programs and effectively achieving missions in years to come.

Soledad Mills  
Chief Executive Officer





CEFO  
INDIGENA



Defendiendo los Derechos  
de los Pueblos Indígenas

Instrumentos de  
Tratados



Defensa  
Litigativa



Normas  
Indígenas

Workshop: FPIC and Indigenous Peoples rights.  
Photo: André Izurieta

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

# Indigenous Peoples' Rights

## The Resource Hub to Strengthen Indigenous Rights



Since 2019, Equitable Origin and the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) have developed the Center for Strengthening Indigenous Rights, an online resource hub (“the Resource Hub”) that Indigenous Peoples can use to better understand, assert, and safeguard their rights in the context of natural resource development. In 2021, EO and COICA focused on expanding the reach of the

Resource Hub Project in Peru and Mexico with some activities in Ecuador along with COICA. Recognizing the direct impacts of COVID-19 to Indigenous Peoples, during this year EO and its partners focused on: digital and tangible content creation, E-Learning, connectivity and identifying a network of experts. The Resource Hub has made the following impressions and impacts:



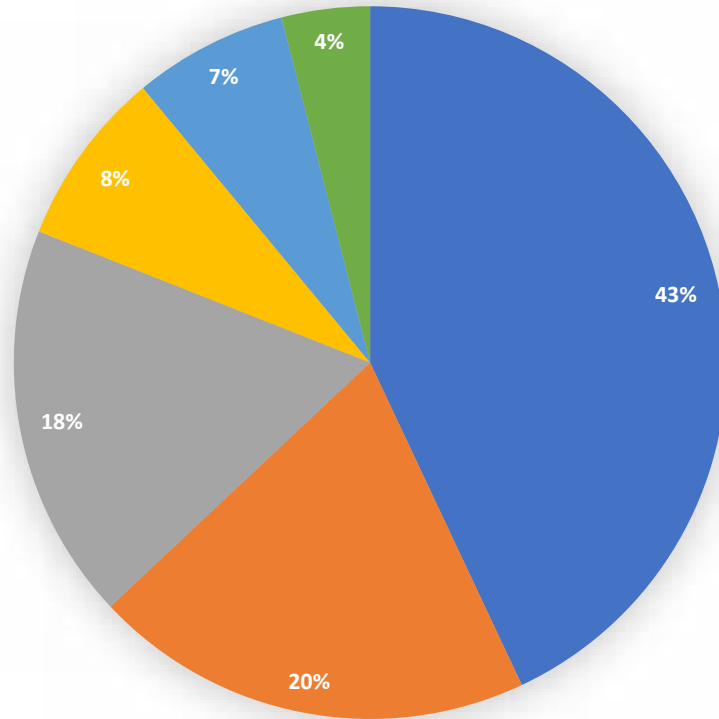
The Resource Hub to Strengthen Indigenous Rights / Homepage  
Photo: Muray Cooper



Resource Hub Statistics (From January 2021- December 2021)	
<b>Visits to the Resource Hub</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4,000 New users</li> <li>• 6,500 Sessions</li> <li>• 57% female / 43% male users</li> </ul>
<b>Countries</b>	Present in more than 90 countries (See pie chart below).
<b>Blogs</b>	80 Blogs published.
<b>Videos</b>	72 videos uploaded.
<b>Seminars and mingas</b>	6 seminars and mingas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Virtual Seminar: Strengthening the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Tools for Impactful Communication</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">How to Communicate with Impact?</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Virtual Workshop: Community Communications Guide</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples Seminar</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">COP26 Seminar.</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">The Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Computing Skills to Strengthen Indigenous Rights</a></li> </ul>
<b>E-learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent</a></li> </ul>
<b>Resources uploaded</b>	More than 1,200 documents, guides, tools and studies.



## | CEFO Footprint 2021



■ Ecuador ■ Mexico ■ Peru ■ Bolivia ■ Colombia ■ Brasil

Equitable Origin and **COICA** focused on expanding the **Resource Hub's** reach in Peru and Mexico, as well as working closely in Ecuador to strengthen the platform in the Amazon Basin. Our Indigenous partners in Peru, Mexico and COICA played an important role in the Resource Hub's development in 2021 and have been able to position the Resource Hub as an important tool that Indigenous leaders may use to learn and promote activities that strengthen their rights. Due to the COVID-19

pandemic, Equitable Origin and COICA quickly pivoted to focus on the creation of digital content, online educational modules, and communications to help strengthen Indigenous rights. As a result, since March 2020, the Resource Hub has focused on developing and disseminating information related to the right to information, health services, and the responses of communities in the face of the pandemic, including video interviews, blogs and webinars.

## Resource Hub Logo



In early 2021, we invited Indigenous artists and graphic designers to participate in a competition to design a new logo for the Resource Hub. We had a total of 26 entries from 5 different Latin American countries. The winner of the competition was Abel Apaza, a young Indigenous university student from Puno, Peru (Quichua). Abel was chosen by a Selection Committee made up of Tuntiak Katan

(COICA's Vice Coordinator), Soledad Mills (EO's Chief Executive Officer) and Antonio Medina (Red Indígena de Turismo de Mexico Representative). Abel's design was chosen since it incorporates an Indigenous world while linking Indigenous rights to the access of information through connectivity. As the winner of the competition, he was awarded with a tablet to continue supporting his creativity.

## E-Learning & Radio Programs

EO and COICA launched an e-learning course on "The Right to Consultation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent." The course was led by Tabea Casique (AIDSESEP/COICA Indigenous Leader) and Elizabeth Rodriguez, EO's educational coordinator. The course sought to strengthen the knowledge of the Indigenous participants to guide their communities and organizations in consultation processes on activities that affect their lives and territories and help them effectively defend their rights, pointing out the national and international mechanisms available for recourse. The course was taught by 11 Indigenous FPIC experts from Latin America of which 80% were

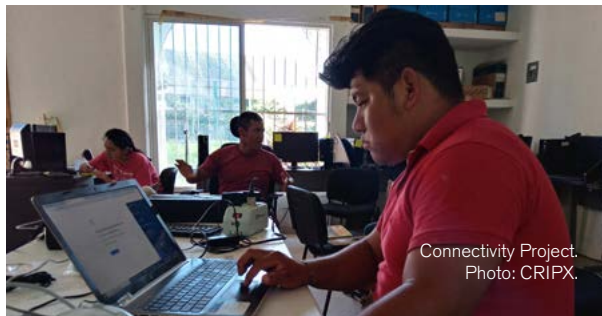
Indigenous. Course participants included 22 Indigenous leaders (9 Indigenous women) who are members of different Indigenous organizations from Mexico, Peru and Ecuador.

In 2022, EO aims to support Indigenous radios such as the "Madre de dios" radio station that broadcasts information in the Amazon region of Loreto, in Peru. We plan to launch 1-2 radio programs in cooperation with our Indigenous partner AIDSESEP. We are working with UNESCO Mexico to implement workshops with our Indigenous partners to strengthen community radios and communications.

## Digital Inclusion to **Strengthen Indigenous Rights**

Equitable Origin and the Consejo Regional Indígena y Popular de Xpujil (CRIPX) in partnership with HughesNet Mexico are using satellite technology to improve Internet access in Indigenous communities. In 2021, we continued the [pilot project](#) we launched in at the end of 2020, in the communities of La Mancolona and Nuevo San Jose in the State

of Campeche, Mexico. Thanks to the internet, we are helping support over 40 youth in the community to continue their education online. Before the pilot project, many community members had to travel two to three hours to the nearest city center of Xpujil to connect to the internet.



Equitable Origin is supporting the Red Indígena de Turismo's (RITA) initiative to establish a [Community Technology Training Center](#) in Teotihuacan, located in the State of Mexico. Setting up a computer center in this area

will allow several surrounding communities to gain access to the internet. EO and RITA plan to use the Center to host workshops and gatherings with Indigenous leaders from all over the country.

## Guides & Tools to Strengthen Indigenous Rights

- In 2021, EO published an Indigenous-led study conducted by Luis Canelos (Indigenous Quichua researcher from Pastaza Ecuador) on the state of connectivity of Indigenous Peoples as part of the Resource Hub. EO and COICA decided to conduct this study due to a lack of data about the status of internet access of Indigenous Peoples connectivity in Peru, Ecuador, Mexico and Colombia.
- In Mexico, EO, in collaboration with RITA and Natoure developed and launched a community communications guide. This guide is a simple tool for Indigenous organizations and communities to increase their capacities to create content on their experiences and world view of conservation and community development through different written and audiovisual media. Additionally, in cooperation with RITA, EO delivered two workshops on digital inclusion. The workshop was attended by a 30 Indigenous leaders from the Northern, Central and Southern regions of Mexico as well as a few participants from Peru and Ecuador.
- CRIPX and EO also held a Digital Literacy Workshop led by Indigenous experts. The objective was to help Indigenous Peoples strengthen their technological knowledge and skills. Over 30 participants from six nearby communities participated in the event.





Workshop: FPIC and Indigenous Peoples rights.  
Photo: André Izurieta.

# FPIC-360°: Strengthening Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

The right to FPIC is a key principle of international human rights law to protect Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods and territories and is therefore a requirement of many sustainability standards and international finance institutions. However, despite a growing body of knowledge around FPIC, there are limited resources designed specifically to help communities participate in the FPIC process or to guide assessors in verifying whether FPIC has been achieved.

Since 2017, EO, COICA and the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) have been working to develop a framework for monitoring Free, Prior and Informed Consent: **FPIC-360°**. The tool was developed based on the findings of workshops conducted with Indigenous communities in Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru and with input from a Community of Practice consisting of ISEAL members, Indigenous representatives, financial institutions, assurance providers and independent experts.

The FPIC-360° Tool seeks to enable consultation and consent processes that allow communities to meaningfully participate in, and take ownership of decision-making processes that impact their territories, resources,

livelihoods and wellbeing. The Tool provides a mechanism that guides and facilitates these processes while also generating data that can be used for verification and assurance purposes.

To make the framework user friendly, we created an **online platform** during the second phase of the project. The platform is aligned with the excel tool and allows project developers and communities to document the process from preconditions to the FPIC process itself and its long-term sustainability.

We developed a step by step e-learning course on **FPIC for Financial Institutions**. The Course included the basic framing of the FPIC-360° Tool and introduced the relationship between financial institutions and FPIC. The Course explores risks associated with failing to secure FPIC and benefits of assuring the process is conducted comprehensively, with a view to how the FPIC-360° Tool can be integrated into existing project appraisal and due diligence processes to improve implementation of environmental and social performance standards, and to safeguard Indigenous rights.



Oil Pump.  
Photo: Istock.

# EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development

## Overview

The [EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development](#) was developed through a three-year, multi-stakeholder consultation process in line with the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code of Good Practice. The Standard provides a framework for implementing and verifying enhanced environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance, greater transparency, more accountability, and better outcomes for local stakeholders in energy development projects.

The EO100™ Standard represents leading industry practices and references international standards for evaluating site-level ESG performance of energy projects.

The EO100™ Standard encompasses the following Principles:



Corporate Governance,  
Accountability & Ethics



Human Rights, Social Impacts  
& Community Development



Indigenous People's  
Rights



Health, Safety and Fair Labor  
& Working Conditions



Climate Change, Biodiversity  
& Environment



In 2021, the technical addenda for Shale Oil and Gas and Conventional Oil and Gas were reviewed and revised and combined into the Technical Supplement for Onshore Natural Gas and Light Oil Production.

As a part of the Technical Supplement, we are developing an overall GHG intensity quantification methodology and reporting framework. The vision for the GHG intensity reporting and disclosure is to eventually enable quantification of carbon intensity from well to sales point, which is key to achieving climate change targets and transitioning to a net zero economy

In 2021, an additional four sites were certified in the United States and three sites in Canada. The US certified sites belong to EQT Corporation, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Northeast Natural Energy and Seneca Resources and collectively represent approximately 7% of US natural gas production. The Canadian certified sites belong to Pacific Canbriam Energy, Vermilion Energy and Pipestone Energy Corporation. Together with the ARC Resources (formerly 7G) Kakwa River site, these Canadian certified sites collectively

represent approximately 6% of Canadian natural gas production.

In 2021, we partnered with MiQ to provide our clients with the opportunity for joint certification under both the MiQ methane standard and the EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development.

There is a proven market for EO100™ certified responsible production with transactions completed with energy distributors in the U.S. and Canada that have earned a premium price for the producer. Equitable Origin is working actively with partner organizations to further build the market for EO100™ certified responsible production across the energy value chain.

We expect to move towards certification of the entire natural gas value chain in the coming years. We are partnering with companies operating in the midstream segment and LNG segments of the natural gas value chain to develop Technical Supplements for the Midstream and LNG segments and pilot those for certification.



## About **Equitable Origin**

Equitable Origin (EO) is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)3 organization incorporated in the U.S. that supports companies, communities and Indigenous Peoples in ensuring responsible natural resource development. Since its founding in Ecuador in 2009, EO has worked with Indigenous Peoples, the private sector, other non-governmental organizations and governments to develop best practices and promote a rights-based approach to sustainable development throughout the Americas.

We seek to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determine the course of their own development. In collaboration with Indigenous organizations and other partners,

we created the world's first multistakeholder, independent, voluntary standards system for the energy sector, recognizing Indigenous Peoples as key rights-holders. We designed a tool for monitoring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes in projects that affect Indigenous Peoples' land, rights, and resources. And we developed the [Center for Strengthening Indigenous Rights](#), an online platform to share information with and among Indigenous Peoples.

Equitable Origin is currently active throughout North and South America, with staff in Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, the United States and Canada.



Workshop conducted with COICA:  
Strengthening of Indigenous Peoples rights.  
Photo: André Izurieta.



Development of the EO100™ Standard.  
Photo: André Izurieta.



Signing of the Cooperation Agreement with AIDSEP - Peru.  
Photo: Equitable Origin.



Workshop conducted with COICA:  
Strengthening of Indigenous Peoples rights.  
Photo: André Izurieta.

# The Team

Equitable Origin is governed by a multi-stakeholder [board](#) and benefits from a diverse [team](#) of professionals specialized in a variety of fields, including biology, human rights, economics, law, anthropology, ethnobotany, communications, international development, government affairs, social responsibility, public policy, and business administration. Our team

has extensive experience both engaging with Indigenous communities on the ground as well as with working with the private sector to develop and implement best management practices to reduce social and environmental impacts and ensure respect for Indigenous rights in large-scale, land-based development projects.



Soledad Mills  
Chief Executive Officer



David Poritz  
President & Co-Founder



Manuel Pallares  
Co-Founder & Senior  
Advisor



Pablo Yépez  
Director of Socio-  
environmental Affairs



Assheton Carter  
Vice President, Europe



Heather Jones  
EO100™ Program  
Director



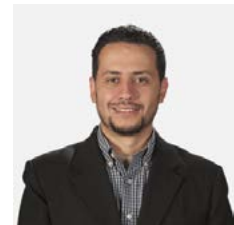
Bruno Taborga  
Program Manager



Joaquin Wray  
Peru Program  
Coordinator



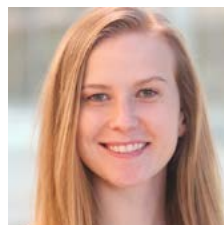
Kaki Comer  
Program Analyst



Galo André Izurieta  
Audio Visual &  
Communications Specialist



Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Consultant



Kathryn Hillis  
EO100™ Program  
Coordinator



Jennifer Stewart  
Principal Advisor



Abel Apaza  
Communications and  
Marketing Intern

# Board of Directors



Miguel Moyano  
Board Chair



Christopher Carlisle  
Board Member



Juan Carlos Jintiach  
Board Member



Tuntiak Katan  
Board Member



David Poritz  
Board Member



Todd Crider  
Board Member



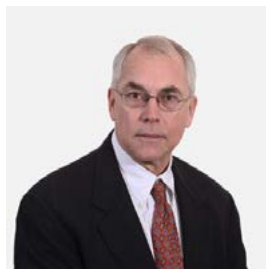
Marisol Rodriguez  
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Hannah Stutzman  
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Tracy Austin  
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