

# Community Radios to Promote Indigenous & Ancestral Knowledge for Climate Change Adaptation

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# Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias

## Association mondiale de radiodiffuseurs communautaires

### World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters



- ▶ International network of more than 10,000 community radios; established in 1983 in Montreal, Canada.
- ▶ Defends freedom of expression through community broadcasting.
- ▶ Conducts policy advocacy, awareness raising and capacity development.
- ▶ Partners with UN agencies, inter-governmental bodies, donors and grassroots level CSOs to promote community radios.
- ▶ Regional offices in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and Europe.





## Brief Introduction of Community Radio

- ▶ Community radios come in various forms and structures.
- ▶ Operational model is shaped by national and local realities.
- ▶ Community radio is a non-profit making broadcasters.
- ▶ It is owned and operated by local communities.
- ▶ Basically a volunteer run operation.



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## Brief Introduction of Community Radio

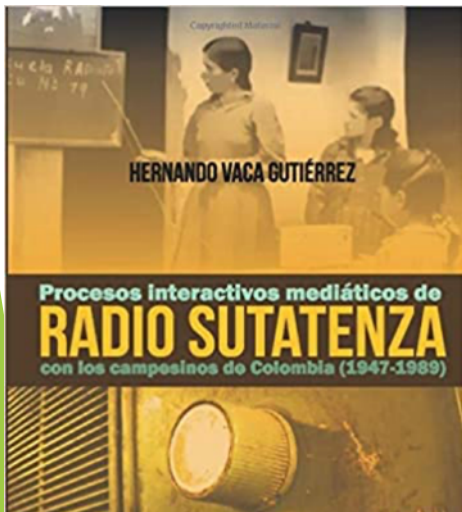
- ▶ Community radio represents media plurality, democratization of media, access to all and free speech.
- ▶ It supports community development by supporting local agriculture, education, businesses, health care systems, etc.
- ▶ For millions of ordinary citizens, it is the only rescue in times of disasters and emergencies including the ongoing pandemic!
- ▶ Community radio has many names: farmer's radio, educational radio, rural radio, alternative radio, people's radio, independent radio, minority radio, and so on.



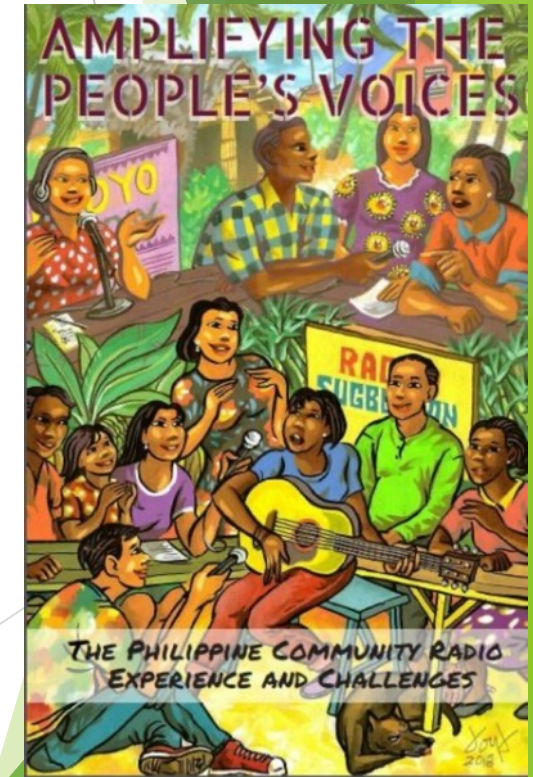


# Indigenous People and Community Radio

- ▶ Community radio is also known as Indigenous Radio.
- ▶ The Indigenous Aymara and Quechua people of Bolivia were the early community broadcasters.
- ▶ Community radios serve people with limited access to other means for communication.
- ▶ Community radio is culturally, socially and linguistically closest to indigenous communities.



A Community Radio  
Speaks the Language of the Community





# Indigenous People and Asur FM, India



Asur FM broadcasts in Asur tribal language, listed by UNESCO as '*definitely endangered languages*.' Indigenous and ancestral knowledge disappear with disappearing languages.

Photo: <https://asurnation.in>



# Indigenous People and Gurbaba FM, Nepal



Three times a week, community Radio Gurbaba, situated in Western Nepal, broadcasts 'AjuBat,' a program to record & transfer indigenous & ancestral knowledge from village elders about traditional ways of dealing with adverse climatic conditions such as drought, famine, etc.

Photos: CR Gurbaba, Bardiya

# Indigenous People and Community Radio, Guatemala

Community radio is at the heart of a community project run by a local Indigenous women's NGO in Guatemala. The project will preserve Mayan history, identity, and culture by documenting and popularizing ancestral Mayan ecological knowledge for climate change resilience and mitigation.

Source: <https://waccglobal.org/guatemala-mayan-climate-change/>



Photo: [culturalsurvival.org](http://culturalsurvival.org)



## The Path Forward

- ▶ Community radios of the Hindukush Himalayan region have partnered with knowledge based institutions to enhance capacity for creatively promoting indigenous knowledge.
- ▶ The partnership includes learning about the value of indigenous and ancestral knowledge in the context of climate change adaptation.
- ▶ It will lead to broadcasting of interesting radio programs across the Himalayan region to record, preserve and attract younger generation to the ancestral knowledge.

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Thank you! Muchas gracias! Merci beaucoup!