

How Latin American Indigenous Communities are Sharing Free Knowledge on Wikipedia in their Native Languages

Wikimania '17
August 12, 2017



Yatiña E'raajaa kimvn Conocimiento
K'ah óolal Na'oj sekuaa Sacha runa yachay

Global Voices Rising Voices

Digital inclusion

Indigenous Language
Digital Activism





approximately
522 Indigenous
Peoples

speaking
approximately
420 languages

around 10% of
the region's
population

Digital media & tools in indigenous languages of Latin America

Mozilla Firefox

Blogs

Videos

Podcasts

WhatsApp/Telegram Groups

Apps

Online Talking Dictionaries

Wikimedia Projects (Wikipedia)

There are Wikipedias in indigenous languages



*Quechua, Aymara, Náhuatl, Guaraní, Maya,
Kaqchikel, Nawat, Mapudungun, Wayuunaiki,
Namrik, Bri bri, Garifuna, Kichwa, Tarahumara,
Purépecha del oeste de la sierra, Seri, Paumari,
Mayo, Ñe'engatú, Guarajío, O'odham, Tupí, Popoloca,
Kiliwa, Araona, Amarakaeri, Otomí, Zapoteco del
istmo, Yaqui, Tseltal, Tzotzil, Quechua ancashino,
Miskito, Mazahua, Ese Eje, Mixteco, Huasteco,
Quechua de Margos-Yarowilca-Lauricocha*

We had questions:

Who
How
Why
Where
When



Project Grant

So....How are Latin American Indigenous Communities Sharing Free Knowledge on Wikipedia in their Native Languages?

They're not. . .

...yet

Project Grant

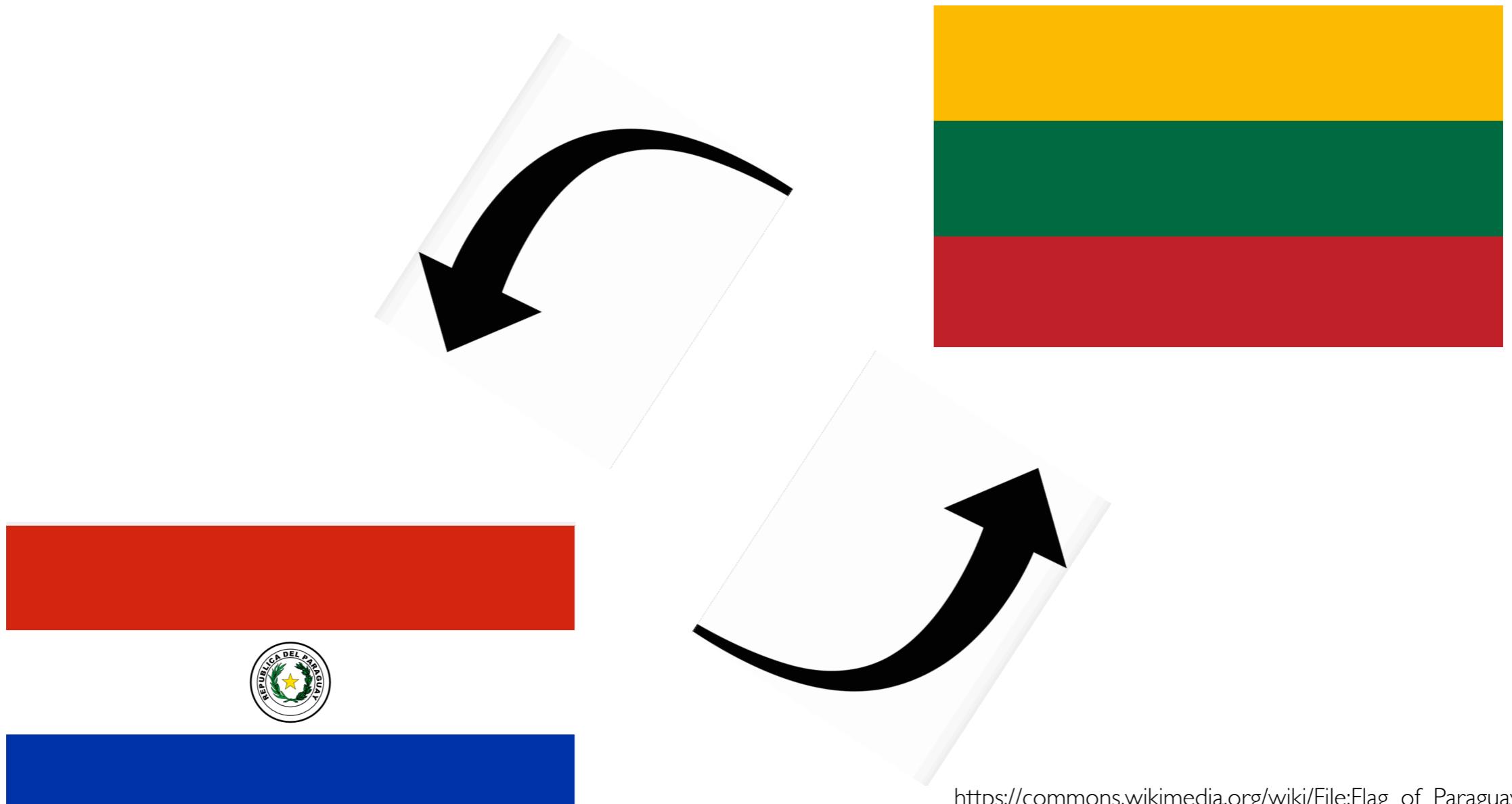
- Document the current state of at least 25 projects
- Analyze the current demand, impact, and potential use
- Identify best practices, lessons learned, and develop recommendations

Design

- Interviews
- Qualitative & quantitative data collection
- Surveys

Case Studies

Vikipetā (Guarani)



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Paraguay.svg
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Lithuania.svg
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Curved_Arrow.svg

Wikipidiyaman (Quechua)

AlimanRuna

> 1000 articles
approx. 35% of all the content

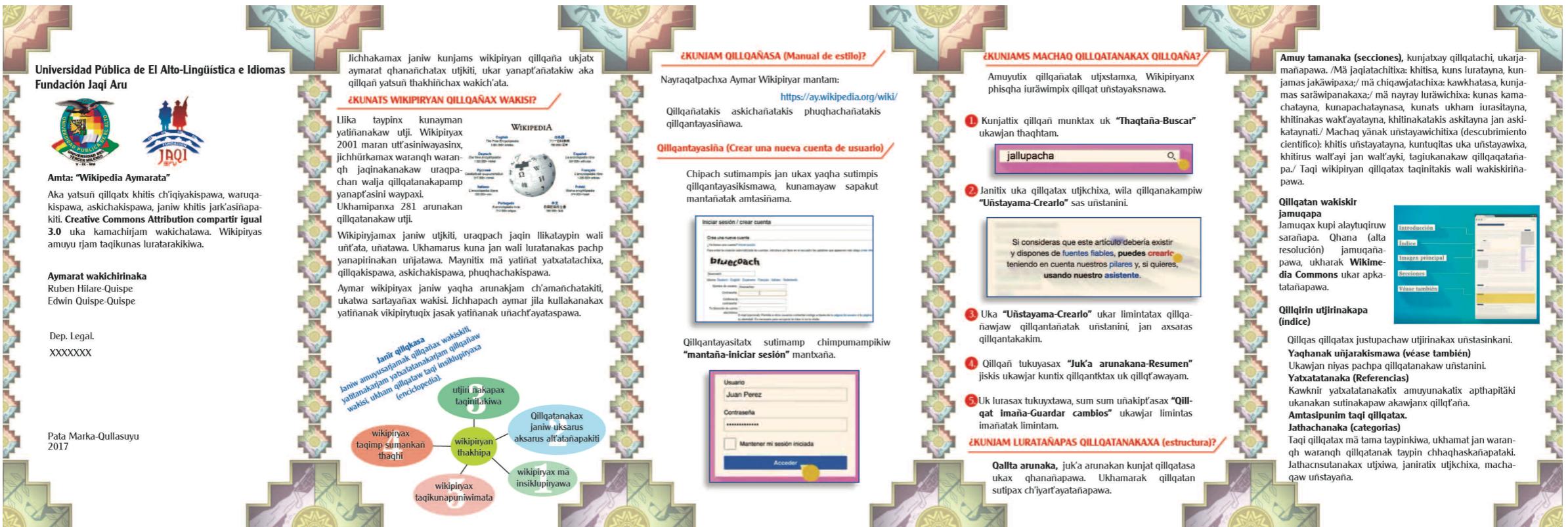
Runa = “Man”

Aliman = Aléman = German

Huiquipedia (Náhuatl)

Classical VS. Modern

Wikipidiya (Aymara)



Wikipedia' (Maya Yucateco)



CULTURA |

Centro Cultural Digital

Programa extramuros
JO'WÄÄ YANECH

KA T'ANIK YÉETEL KA TSÍIBTIK WÄÄ MAAYATAAN
A K'ÄAT WÄÄ ÄANTAJ UTIAAL U BEETAKAL
WIKIPEDIA MAYA.
TÁAN KPAYALT'ANTIKECH UTIAAL
A TÁAKPAJAL ICHIL JUMPÉEL MUUL MEYAJ
UTIAAL U BEETAAL WIKIPEDIA ICH
MAAYATAAN.

—
25 tak 29 tñ julio
09:00 tak las 13:00 hrs
—
Ketoten Casa Palomera
Yaan tu bejal 59 ichil 64 yobtel 66, Centro
Mérida, Yucatán

A colorful illustration of a Mayan deity or ruler, possibly Chaac, depicted in a traditional seated pose with hands held in a gesture of offering or prayer. He wears a detailed headdress with feathers and a patterned tunic.

TALLERES
EN ELCCD

Fundación para la Cultura Maya | BAKTUN
Plaza de la Reforma, esq Calle 57N, col. Juárez | tel. 1 800 243 17 | Metro Chapultepec | centroculturaldigital.mx

[https://mx.wikimedia.org/wiki/Informes/Julio_2016/Taller_de_est%C3%ADmulo_Wikipedia_en_lengua_Maya#/media/File:Taller_de_est%C3%ADmulo_Wikipedia_en_lengua_Maya_\(D%C3%ADa_2\)_-_2.jpg](https://mx.wikimedia.org/wiki/Informes/Julio_2016/Taller_de_est%C3%ADmulo_Wikipedia_en_lengua_Maya#/media/File:Taller_de_est%C3%ADmulo_Wikipedia_en_lengua_Maya_(D%C3%ADa_2)_-_2.jpg)

Wikipeetia (Wayuunaiki)

Wikimedia Venezuela



Wikipetya' (Kaqchikel)

Wp/cak/Nab'ey wuj

< Wp | cak
Wp > cak > Nab'ey wuj

Ütz ipetik chupam ri kaqchikel Wikipetya'

La enciclopedia libre

Peraj · To'ik

Sábado, 12 de ruwaqxaq ik' de 2017

32 tzijonib'äl en **Kaqchikel ch'ab'äl**

Lista de Wikipedias



Re jun peraj samaj re' richin rutojtob'exik ri Kaqchikel wikipetya' (Nich'ab'ex Iximulew). Wawe niqatz'ët wi ri rutikirib'äl. Richin nijikib'äx runuk'ik ri kaqchikel wikipetya' k'o chi k"iy wuj nitz'ib'äx. Toq xjikib'äx yan, ronojel rupam xtiq'ax chupam ri wikipetya' k'o wakami. Ruma wakami xa tajin nitojtob'ex, ronojel ri samaj niya' chupam k'o chi ke re' rub'eyal [[Wp/cak/Rub'i' ri samaj]]. Achi'el ta jun samaj chi rij ri kaqchikel nib'e' [Wp/cak/Kaqchikel](#). (Xa xe chi chupam, ri wikipetya', ri samaj xtub'ini'aj [[cak:Kaqchikel]])

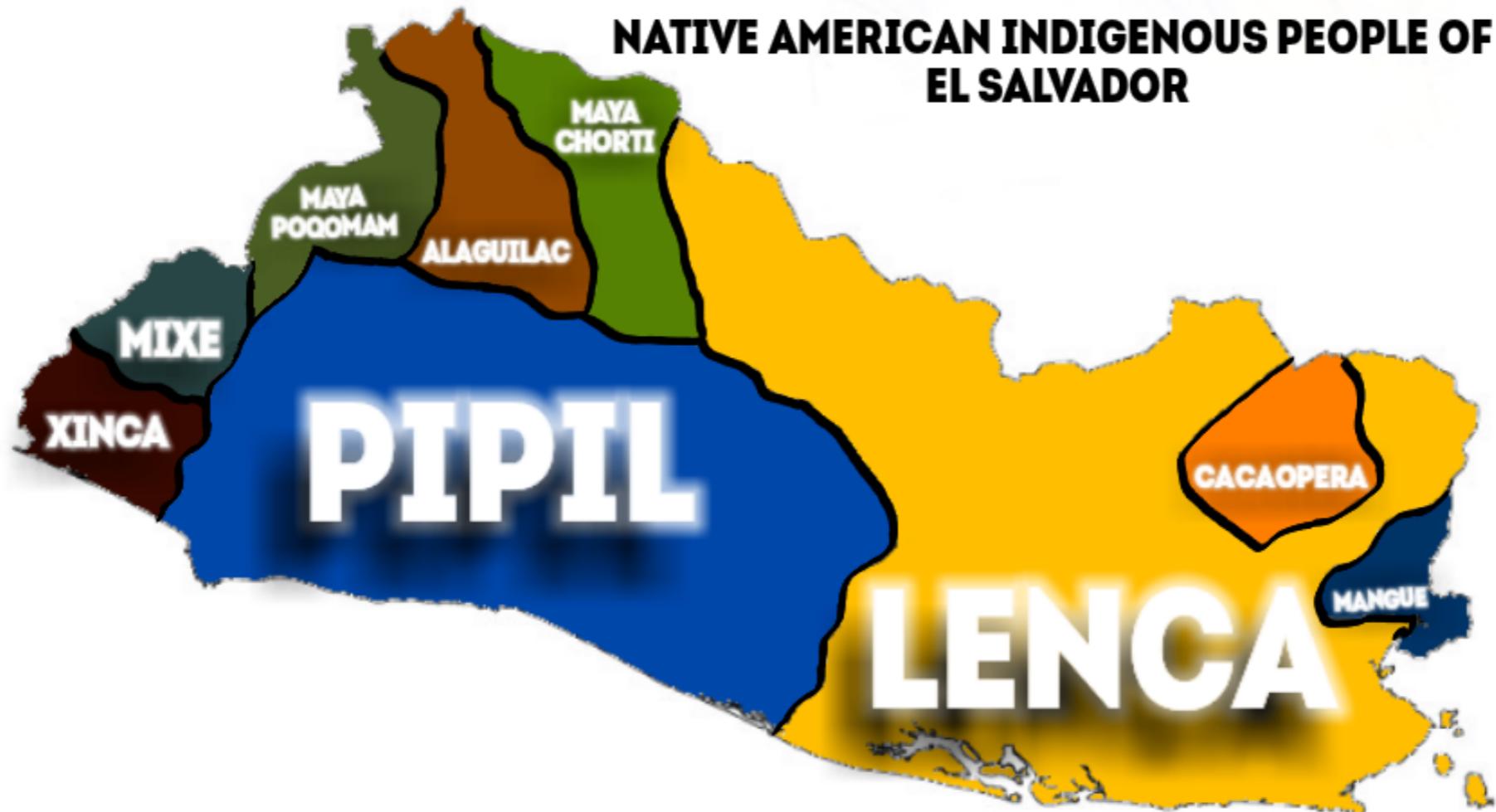
Esta serie de páginas es para una prueba de la wikipedia en lengua kaqchikel (Hablado en Guatemala). Su entrada en kaqchikel aquí se aprecia. La solicitud para la creación de la Wikipedia kaqchikel será aprobada siempre y cuando haya suficiente contenido de los artículos que van surgiendo. Cuando se apruebe, todo el contenido se trasladará a la actual Wikipedia. Debido a que esta es una prueba de wikipedia todos los artículos aquí debe comenzar con el formato [[Wp/cak/Nombre del artículo]]. Por ejemplo, un artículo sobre kaqchikel debe ser titulado aquí como [Wp/cak/Kaqchikel](#). Por supuesto, en la wikipedia, el artículo se titula como [[cak:Kaqchikel]]

This series of pages is a test of the Kaqchikel Wikipetya' (this language is spoken in Guatemala). Your entry in Kaqchikel here is appreciated. The application for the creation of the Kaqchikel Wikipetya' will be approved provided there is sufficient content of the articles that come up. When approved, all content will move to the new Wikipedia. Because this is a test of wikipedia all articles here must begin with the format Wp/cak/Article name. For example, an article on Kaqchikel should be titled here as [Wp/cak/Kaqchikel](#). (Of course, the wikipedia article is titled as [[cak:Kaqchikel]])

Matiox - Muchas Gracias - Thank you very much



Wikipediaj (Nawat Pipil)



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NATIVE_AMERICAN_INDIGENOUS_PEOPLE_OF_EL_SALVADOR_IN_CENTRAL_AMERICA_ISTHMUS.png

Potential Participation

Online survey - including 49% that speak a language

30% Didn't know it was possible

24% Don't know the “rules”

11% Concerned that traditional knowledge could be used with ulterior motives

Findings

- Low participation of native-speakers
- Projects started by non-native speakers (chicken or the egg)
- Writing is still the predominant way to add content. What about oral sources?
- Biggest challenge - incorporating native speakers.
- Trouble finding consensus about the way to write
- Indigenous languages have an oral tradition
- Efforts are often personal, isolated, and native-speakers often don't take a role in decision-making
- Excellent examples of affiliate collaboration
- Both native and non-speakers see it related to national identity
- Languages with greater academic research and documentation are most likely to have success
- Navigating the incubator can be complex
- The rules to opening an incubator project is fairly straightforward, but to “graduate” may not be
- Lack of sources haven’t been a major concern - little to no “traditional knowledge”

Recommendations

- Explore the creation of a User Group
- More structured coordination with local affiliates for mentoring and training (in Spanish)
- Encourage and facilitate more participation in conferences
- In-person community building
- Partnerships

Lingering Questions

- What if Wikipedia can be different things to different communities?
- Where will the conversation about the use of oral sources head?
- Is traditional knowledge compatible with open licenses?
- How to help facilitate native speakers in leadership positions?

Is it worth it?

Thank you

Eddie Ávila
eddie@globalvoices.org