



WHAT IS THE RIGHT TO SAY NO?

The **Right to Say NO (R2SayNO)** is a call by communities for the right to a good and decent life, to health and wellbeing, to control over seeds and respect for collective land rights, to living a caring interdependent relationship with nature, to being free from all forms of violence, and to enjoying public and social services. It is a **NO** to a destructive economic system which harms people, land, and nature so that powerful companies can profit.



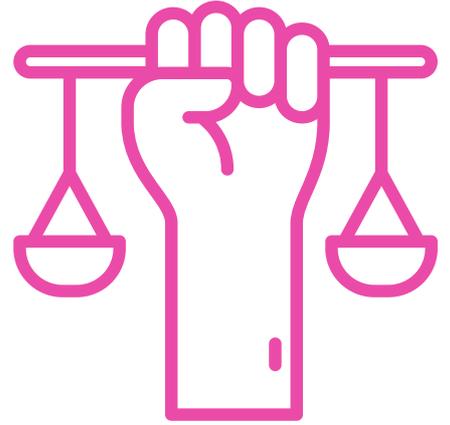
When communities say **NO**, they are defending nature and their daily reliance on different species of plants, fish, animals, and insects for their very survival. In their resistance against nature's destruction, indigenous and traditional communities and self-identified groups are speaking for and protecting 'voiceless' nature.

This dominant destructive approach to 'development' is based on the large-scale exploitation of natural resources, which is a major cause of the growing **climate crisis**, destroys people's livelihoods, pollutes water and air, causes health problems, and creates more violence between people.





The **R2SayNO** stands **FOR** decision-making by communities. Saying **NO** supports the right of communities to make decisions about their own future. At the same time, saying **NO** challenges the power of companies and governments who take away a community's land and resources. The **R2SayNO** is driven from below by movements and communities who come together to insist on their right to make decisions and control their development.



The **R2SayNO** is **FOR** the rights of girls and women to be involved in decision-making about a project that will impact them the most. It is women who are at the frontlines of the harm caused by extractives projects. Their voice in decision-making is very important if we are to live in a just and fair world.

HAVE
YOUR
SAY!

When communities and groups say **NO** to large-scale natural resource exploitation they are saying **YES** to a different idea about development. They are defending what they have and how they live – their land and history, the way they produce and exchange, their social life and community, and the nature upon which their life depends. But their **YES** goes beyond what they have now to their dreams of what they want for their family and community.

As communities and groups defend nature against big projects which destroy species and people, they are defending the right of future generations to exist, create family, and build community.



FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

FPIC is an inclusive process that empowers affected communities. It is important that all community members are involved throughout the process, **including women, men and young people**. Communities have a right to know and make decision when it comes to project that affects them.

FREE



Free from manipulation or coercion

PRIOR



Occurs before any decision-related activity and gives typical decision-making processes enough time to complete

INFORMED



Enables the transmission of clear, accurate, and objective information

CONSENT

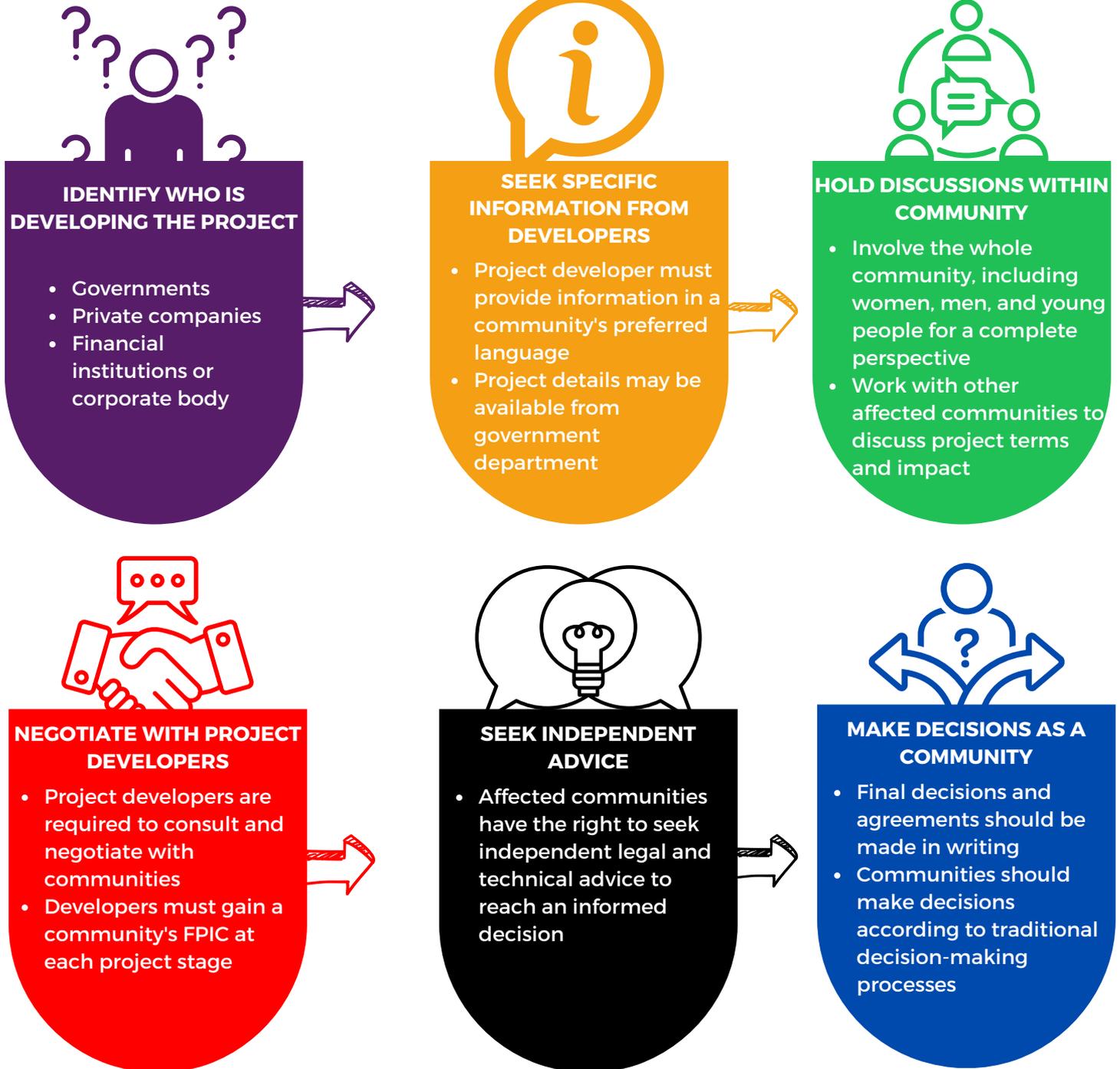


Permits communities to accept or reject a project

The lives of people are significantly harmed by oil, gas, and mining projects. Community involvement can leave a long-lasting and beneficial legacy for both communities and companies.



FPIC PROCESSES:



ONGOING COMMUNICATIONS

- Permanent forums can provide an effective means of for ongoing consultations and negotiations
- Project may impact a community for many years



Oil, gas and mining projects often have **significant negative impacts** on people's lives. Involving communities the right way can mean a lasting and positive legacy for communities and companies



Local communities and indigenous peoples often have to fight for their **rights and recognition** from governments and corporations. When they are not recognized, there are many negative implications.



If at any stage the community or group decides that the project has not fulfilled its promises or negative impacts arise that were never considered, **they may withdraw their consent.**

Many communities across Africa, and the Niger Delta are resisting big projects and saying NO. It is their language of resistance and grows from the bottom-up. This is the power of the **R2SayNO.**



FPIC is a collective right for indigenous peoples under international law, and it is emerging as practices for safeguarding the human rights of all communities affected by extractive industry projects.



The **R2SayNO** is crucial to deal with inequalities between communities, and powerful corporations and state power on the other.



Kebetkache Women Development & Resource Centre

is a community gender-based non-governmental organization working in Nigeria and the African region to promote women's rights and environmental justice. Kebetkache is rooted in communities in the Niger Delta and is recognized for its in-depth knowledge of the issues working in communities in the region especially around women's rights, democracy and good governance, peace and security and climate change. Kebetkache works extensively with women in rural communities of the Niger Delta region, in mobilizing and facilitating engagement with various levels of Stakeholders.

Kebetkache is committed to supporting women to achieve gender equality. We help women to understand their rights through sensitization, capacity development, research, mentoring, and movement building targeted at increasing their skills and creating opportunities that will help them solve identified problems.

We put our mission in practice by wide range of strategies which include training and capacity building, advocacy, and awareness creation, encouraging community ownership of initiatives, fostering women's unity, and building common women agenda across ethnic and linguistic divides, partnership building, research, and documentation.



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