

IBBY-UNESCO Collection of Remarkable Books for Young Readers in Indigenous and Endangered Languages

Selection criteria and participation process

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The United Nations General Assembly ([Resolution A/RES/74/135](#)) proclaimed the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022–2032), to draw global attention on the critical situation of many Indigenous languages and to mobilize stakeholders and resources for their preservation, revitalization and promotion.

The establishment of the IDIL 2022–2032 is a testament to the fact that Indigenous languages represent complex systems of knowledge and communication and should therefore be recognized as strategic resources for sustainable development, peacebuilding and reconciliation. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) serves as lead UN Agency for the implementation of the International Decade, in cooperation with UNDESA and other relevant UN Agencies.

As a global network of children's book specialists working to encourage the sharing of quality books from around the world, the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) endorses the fostering of bibliodiversity and linguistic representation as core aspects of its mission to bring children and books together.

Therefore, IBBY and UNESCO wish to join efforts to protect linguistic diversity in the field of children's literature by launching a global call for submissions to put together the IBBY-UNESCO Collection of Remarkable Books for Young Readers in Indigenous and Endangered Languages.

The IBBY-UNESCO Collection is a worldwide invitation to publishers, librarians, individuals and institutions (public and private) working for the promotion of books and reading, to discover and share books written for young readers in Indigenous and endangered languages.

An international committee, composed by IBBY and UNESCO, and influential international experts on children and young adult books who play a positive role in the empowerment of Indigenous identities and languages will select titles respecting the criteria below.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Books for children and young people (picture books, novels, biographies, graphic novels and nonfiction) presenting high-quality standards in terms of text and/or illustration;
- books published between January 2018 and December 2025;
- books originally published in an Indigenous and/or an endangered language, and original bilingual books including at least one Indigenous and/or endangered language;
- books expressing the intention of, or relation to, one or more of the 10 outputs of the Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages; and
- books and publications that adhere to UNESCO principles and respect political neutrality.

WHAT ARE THE 10 OUTPUTS OF THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

1. Inclusive, equitable, intercultural, quality education and lifelong learning environments and opportunities in Indigenous languages provided in formal, non-formal and informal educational settings.
2. Enhanced capacities among Indigenous Peoples for applying their languages and knowledge to the eradication of hunger and maintaining the integrity of Indigenous food systems.
3. Favorable conditions established for digital empowerment, freedom of expression, media development, access to information and language technology, alongside artistic creation in Indigenous languages.
4. Appropriate Indigenous language frameworks designed to offer better health provision, recognizing traditional systems of medicine, as well as promoting social cohesion and delivering humanitarian responses, especially during health crises, times of conflicts and natural disasters.
5. Access to justice and availability of public services guaranteed to Indigenous language speakers and signers.
6. Indigenous languages are sustained, as a vehicle of living heritage and biodiversity, whilst participation in – and access to – all forms of culture are enhanced for Indigenous Peoples.
7. Enabling environment is created for Indigenous languages, thereby contributing to biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecosystems management, land restoration, improving the marine

and coastal environment, reducing natural hazards, preventing pollution, and managing water resources.

8. Economic growth is strengthened by enhanced decent job opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and languages users.
9. Gender equality and women's empowerment are achieved through the preservation, revitalization and promotion of Indigenous languages; and
10. Public and private partnerships are firmly established to place on the global agenda a long-term commitment to the preservation, revitalization and promotion of Indigenous languages.

CRITERIA ON ENDANGERED LANGUAGES

The Collection is based on the following methodology:

- Out of use (0) includes languages that have presumably gone out of use after 1950;
- Critically endangered (1) spoken/used by < 25,000;
- Severely endangered (2) includes between 10,000 to 100,000 users left.
- Definitely endangered (3) has between 100,000 and 3.5 million.
- Potentially vulnerable (4) has between 3.5 million to 7 million.
- Endangered/Unsafe (5) ranges from small numbers to 7.5 million.
- Safe (6) is considered as implying non-endangerment as a consequence of high status and high presence. This last category will not be included for the purposes of the IBBY-UNESCO Remarkable Books for Young Readers in Indigenous and Endangered Languages.

PROCESS

Titles for the Collection can be submitted by the following nominating entities:

- IBBY Sections
- Publishers of original titles in Indigenous and endangered languages
- Other competent organizations and institutions, including and not limited to libraries, foundations, universities and research centres.

Submissions may be received from April to December 2025. All nominated titles are eligible to be considered in the Collection.

Each nominating entity can nominate up to 3 titles in the same language.

The nomination must be submitted digitally to IBBY and UNESCO at the following address ibby-unesco.collection@ibby.org and shall consist of:

- The complete submission form in digital format

- The PDF of the original edition*
- The PDF/PNG of the original book cover
- A PDF with the translation of the original text into English, French or Spanish.
- In addition, one physical copy shall be shipped to:

IBBY-UNESCO Collection of Remarkable Books for Young Readers in
Indigenous and Endangered Languages
UNESCO Publications (CPE/PBM)
7 place de Fontenoy
75007 Paris, France

* The digital file will be used solely for evaluation purposes and will be deleted after the selection process is completed.

If a book is chosen for the IBBY-UNESCO Collection, the publisher will need to provide an additional three physical copies of the book. The copy sent during the nomination phase will be added, which will be allocated to international travelling exhibitions.

TIMELINE

- Request for submissions: 31 March 2025
- Submission deadline (nomination form and book Pdf): 15 December 2025. One physical copy shall be submitted to UNESCO Headquarters.
- Selection of titles for the collection by an ad hoc international committee: First Quarter of 2026
- Notification of selection to nominating entities and submission of three additional copies of the selected books: End of April 2026
- Launch of the collection: 40th IBBY Congress, Ottawa, 6–9 August 2026

LAUNCH OF THE COLLECTION

The IBBY-UNESCO Collection of Remarkable Books for Young Readers in Indigenous and Endangered Languages will be formally presented at the IBBY 40th World Congress in Ottawa (Canada) on 6–9 August 2026 with an accompanying catalogue. The collection will be further displayed at international book fairs (Frankfurt 2026, Bologna 2027), and three touring sets will be available for IBBY local branches, UNESCO National Commissions and IBBY-UNESCO partners interested in promoting quality reading material for young readers. The permanent IBBY-UNESCO Collection will be hosted at the UNESCO Library at its Headquarters in Paris (France).

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