

A lush green forest with a river and a person in a boat. The forest is dense with various types of trees and foliage. A person is seen in a small boat on the river, moving away from the viewer. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge

ANNUAL REPORT
2022–2023

Forest Tenure
Funders Group

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Opening Statement



Foreword from president Darren Walker on behalf of the Ford Foundation, 2023 Chair of the Forest Tenure Funders Group

Two years ago, I was honored to travel to COP26 in Glasgow to help launch the \$1.7 billion pledge for Indigenous and local community tenure rights and forest guardianship.

The pledge is an overdue recognition of the importance of respecting and promoting Indigenous, local community, and Afro-descendant (IP, LC, and AD) tenure as a matter of basic fairness, human rights, and planetary survival. In 2023 alone, more than 20 new pieces of academic research have reinforced what we know to be true: When Indigenous Peoples and local communities have legally recognized, secured, and enforced rights, they protect their lands and forests. Deforestation rates are lower.¹ Biodiversity is higher.² The health of ecosystems³—and, indeed, of people⁴—improves. This is further confirmation that we cannot combat climate change unless we celebrate and support the communities protecting forests.

- 1 FAO and FILAC (2021). *Forest governance by Indigenous and tribal peoples: an opportunity for climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean*. <https://www.fao.org/americas/publicaciones-audio-video/forest-gov-by-indigenous/en/>
- 2 Schuster et al. (2019). Vertebrate biodiversity on Indigenous-managed lands in Australia, Brazil, and Canada equals that in protected areas. *Environmental Science & Policy* 101: 1–6. <https://www.rcinet.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2019/07/Schuster-et-al-Indigenous-lands.pdf>
- 3 Fa et al. (2020). Importance of Indigenous Peoples' lands for the conservation of Intact Forest Landscapes. *Front Ecol Environ*. <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/fee.2148>
- 4 IPBES workshop report: biodiversity and pandemics. https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-12/IPBES%20Workshop%20on%20Biodiversity%20and%20Pandemics%20Report_0.pdf

As this report shows, the pledge is increasing support for IP, LC, and AD tenure rights and forest guardianship. In 2022, pledge signatories provided **\$494 million** in aligned funding. This is \$172 million more funding than in 2021. In 2021 and 2022 combined, we provided **\$815 million in funding—almost half of our \$1.7 billion, five-year goal**. I'm proud that we are on track to meet, and perhaps even exceed, our commitment and remain optimistic that this funding will generate powerful impact for communities and the planet.

While acknowledging this progress, I must mention that donor practices and priorities, and the broader global architecture for development assistance and climate finance, are not changing fast enough. Stated simply, funding remains insufficient, inequitable, and inflexible. These points are worth discussion.

1. Funding is insufficient.

Scientists tell us that protecting and restoring forests and other ecosystems will deliver about one-third of the mitigation needed to avoid climate change's most catastrophic impacts.⁵ But funding for forest protection remains woefully inadequate, at less than 1% of overall climate finance.⁶ Total funding for forest and land use sector climate solutions hovers around \$133–143 billion per year and must, at a minimum, triple by 2030 to meet global climate goals.⁷ The biodiversity conservation funding gap is even larger—funding needs to increase by at least \$700 billion per year.⁸ Governments, philanthropists, and the private sector need to step up to fill these gaps.

2. Funding is inequitable.

The financing gap is even more dire for IPs, LCs, and ADs. Prior to the pledge, funding for tenure rights and forest guardianship stood at just \$270 million per year—0.04% of total annual climate finance, and far less than other climate actors and climate solutions receive.⁹ Even when the pledge is fully implemented, funding will still fail to provide what these organizations need and deserve. For example, one analysis estimates that securing an additional 400 million hectares—the remaining territory needed for IPs, LCs, and ADs to have recognized rights to half the world's tropical forests—requires \$1 billion per year over 10 years.¹⁰

5 Griscom et al. (2017). Natural Climate Solutions. *PNAS*. <https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.1710465114>

6 Forest Declaration Assessment Partners (2023). *Off Track and Falling Behind*. <https://forestdeclaration.org/resources/forest-declaration-assessment-2023/>

7 UNEP (2021). *The State of Finance for Nature*. <https://www.unep.org/resources/state-finance-nature-2021>

8 Paulson Institute (2020). *Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap*. <https://www.paulsoninstitute.org/conservation/financing-nature-report/>

9 Rainforest Foundation Norway (2021). *Falling Short*. https://d5i6is0eze552.cloudfront.net/documents/Publikasjoner/Andre-rapporter/RFN_Falling_short_2021.pdf?mtime=20210412123104

10 See the targets established by Path to Scale, <https://www.pathtoscale.org/>.

3. Funding is inflexible.

Much of the existing climate finance remains stuck in complicated global funds and sluggish bureaucratic systems.¹¹ Bottlenecks prevent rapid responses and release funding to IP, LC, and AD organizations slowly; leakage in the “financial plumbing” further reduces the flow of funds so that money arrives to communities in a slow drip. Insufficient investment in institutional strengthening for IP, LC, and AD organizations compounds the problem; they need additional support to meet donors’ administrative, governance, and financial management requirements.

These three points converge in an important shortcoming: In 2022, an unacceptably small volume of funding—only \$8.1 million—flowed directly from pledge donors to IP, LC, and AD organizations. While this improves marginally on 2021 funding levels, I am disappointed by our slow progress on this point, and I know our IP, LC, and AD partners will be, too. We know the picture is complicated, as much more funding reaches these organizations indirectly, but in ways IPs, LCs, and ADs still influence and control (for example, through close partnerships with regranters and allied NGOs). Still, we make no excuses: Donors, including us at the Ford Foundation, must do better. I am committed to ensuring that IP, LC, and AD organizations have increased access to direct funding and encourage other funders to do the same.

Our challenge is large—perhaps larger than we realized. Yet there are signs of positive shifts, indicating that donors are beginning to address some of these shortcomings. The funding data and donor statements show that pledge signatories are scaling up support for territorial governance, strengthening tenure security, and pursuing community forestry and other self-determined economic development strategies. Funders are deepening partnerships with tropical forest country governments and opening new spaces for dialogue with IP, LC, and AD organizations and networks. IP, LC, and AD movements are establishing new organizations and funds. And decision-making power is moving in the right direction—from funders to communities closest to the problems. This exciting progress gives me hope for the future.

Ford was proud to chair the Forest Tenure Funders Group in 2023, and we are serious about our role in helping ensure that pledge signatories meet the \$1.7 billion commitment by 2025. Supporting frontline communities and organizations fighting climate change is integral to creating a safer, more equitable planet for all of us.



Darren Walker
President, Ford Foundation

¹¹ Charapa Consult (2022). *Funding for Rights*. <https://charapa.dk/wp-content/uploads/Directing-Funds-to-Rights-Full-report.pdf>

Executive Summary

This second Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG) annual report analyzes progress against the five-year, \$1.7 billion commitment to the tenure rights and forest guardianship of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) in tropical forest countries announced at COP26.

In the 2022 calendar year, FTFG members provided **\$494 million in pledge-aligned funding**, a \$172 million increase over 2021 funding. **Total spending to date exceeds \$815 million**—almost half of the pledge total—putting us on track to meet or exceed the pledge commitment. Compared with a historical baseline of \$270 million per year (including \$140 million from bilateral and philanthropic funders),¹² **funding for IP and LC tenure rights and forest guardianship is increasing.**

Around \$8.1 million directly reached IP and LC organizations in 2022. This is slightly more than in 2021 (revised analysis shows we previously overestimated 2021 direct funding; the correct figure is \$7.3 million). Still, because other types of funding increased by a larger amount than direct funding did in 2022, the percentage of direct funding decreased from 2.9% to 2.1%. The continuing low level of direct funding is disappointing. This report discusses direct funding obstacles and suggests how donors and IP and LC organizations can partner to overcome them.

¹² Rainforest Foundation Norway (2021). *Falling Short*. https://d5i6is0eze552.cloudfront.net/documents/Publikasjoner/Andre-rapporter/RFN_Falling_short_2021.pdf?mtime=20210412123104

There are encouraging signs:

- Private funders are channeling more support directly to IP and LC organizations. In 2022, about **8.5% of philanthropic funding moved directly to IPs and LCs**, representing a slight increase from 2021 (and higher than the 1% that moves directly from bilaterals).
- **The number of IP and LC organizations receiving direct funding increased from 27 in 2021 to 39 in 2022.**
- Although data were only available for a subset of grants, about **60% of the analyzed amount reached IP and LC organizations both directly and indirectly, but in ways they still influence and control.**
- Pledge signatories' case studies illustrate **increased investment in IP and LC capacity building, new direct grants to IP and LC organizations, and widespread interest in supporting emerging IP- and LC-led funds.**



Other report highlights:

› **Additional funding in Africa and Asia:**

In 2022, pledge funding increased for global work and for efforts in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Support for work in Africa increased by \$56 million. Funding for Asia remains lower than for other regions but doubled from a low 2021 base.

› **Efforts to increase direct funding:**

As part of our commitment to address direct funding barriers, FTFG members commissioned two analyses. Both provide detailed recommendations and unpack key nuances around scaling up direct funding.

› **Consistent thematic focus:**

Over two-thirds of categorized funding supported territorial governance, tenure security, and sustainable management and natural resources use. A smaller portion went towards efforts to advance new rights recognition processes and to bolster the role of IPs and LCs in national land and forest tenure reform agendas. This is similar to 2021 findings.

› **Stronger evidence base:**

An expanded body of peer-reviewed research documents the importance of IP and LC tenure rights and forest guardianship for global climate, biodiversity, and development goals.

› **Improved reporting:**

We improved categories used to track pledge funding by theme, provided a more granular breakdown of spending by geography, and added new indicators designed to track IP and LC influence and control over spending. We also identify data gaps, including the need for deeper understanding of our support for women, youth, Afro-descendants, and land and environmental defenders.

The second half of the report contains statements and case studies from pledge signatories. These show how the pledge is influencing donor practices and highlight innovative efforts to scale up support for IP and LC tenure rights and forest guardianship.

More information about the pledge and the FTFG is available on [our website](#).

SECTION 1

Introduction



At the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, 22 governments and private funders¹³ announced a **\$1.7 billion pledge to support the tenure rights and forest guardianship of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs¹⁴) between 2021 and 2025.**



The pledge aims to mobilize greater and more effective donor support for tropical forest communities in **ODA-eligible countries**. IPs and LCs protect tropical forests; preserve vital ecosystem services; and make global contributions to climate change mitigation, biodiversity preservation, and inclusive and sustainable development. Despite their contributions, only a fraction of these communities have secured rights to own, manage, and control their lands and resources. Many also lack access to the support and services necessary for protecting forests and pursuing sustainable livelihoods.

In response to these challenges, pledge signatories agreed to:

- › Channel support to IPs and LCs, including through capacity building and financial support for group activities, collective governance structures and management systems, and sustainable livelihoods
- › Support activities to secure, strengthen, and protect IP and LC land and resource rights, including support to community-level tenure rights mapping and registration work, national land and forest tenure reform processes and implementation, and conflict resolution mechanisms

We also committed to:

- › Renewing, in partnership with governments and other stakeholders, collective and individual efforts to further recognize and advance the role of IPs and LCs as guardians of forests and nature. There is a particular focus on strengthening land tenure systems, protecting the land and resource rights of IPs and LCs, and protecting Indigenous and community defenders of forests and nature
- › Promoting the effective participation and inclusion of IPs and LCs in decision-making, which includes consulting and partnering with them in the design and implementation of relevant programs and finance instruments. We recognize the specific interests of women and girls, youth, people with disabilities, and others often excluded from decision-making
- › Encouraging other donors to significantly increase their support for this agenda

¹³ The total number is now 25, as three additional donors joined at COP27.

¹⁴ We use Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) for consistency with the language used when the pledge was announced; however, many donors also support Afro-descendants, *quilombolas*, *ribeirinhos*, and other traditional peoples living in and around tropical forests.

To be clear, the pledge is not a new fund and does not have a central allocation mechanism. Individual donors decide how to administer their contributions and how to implement other pledge commitments. In addition, the pledge consists of both allocated and unallocated funding. This means some donors have already allocated funding through commitments to existing projects or delivery channels, including via open calls for proposals that predate the pledge. As a result, only part of the \$1.7 billion will be spent on “new” initiatives, though there may be opportunities to scale up direct support for IPs and LCs within existing projects.

The Forest Tenure Pledge is linked to the overarching COP26 **Global Forest Finance Pledge** (GFFP) and the **Congo Basin Pledge**.¹⁵ All three focus on protecting forests and recognising IPs and LCs as important forest guardians. The GFFP only involves bilateral donors, while the IPs and LCs Forest Tenure Pledge and the Congo Basin Pledge include bilateral donors and philanthropic organizations. Where donor funding pledged under the GFFP also contributes to the objectives of the IPs and LCs Pledge and/or the Congo Basin Pledge, this funding may be reported under all three pledges. In 2022, we estimate that around \$167 million of funds reported as part of the IPs and LCs Forest Tenure Pledge were also reported under the GFFP pledge.

BOX 1

Advances in land rights recognition

- › The pledge was signed in the context of increasing global recognition of IP, LC, and AD land and resource rights. While encouraging, the pace of this recognition is far too slow. An analysis of 74 countries—comprising 85% of global land area—found that the land area legally recognized as owned or designated for use by IPs, LCs, and ADs increased by 103 million hectares (mha) between 2015 and 2020. In these countries, governments recognize IP, LC, and AD ownership over 11% of total land area and more limited rights over another 7%. Still, at least 1,375 mha of customary land remains unrecognized.¹⁶
- › Further analysis is needed to indicate the percentage of unrecognized land that is tropical forest. The **Path to Scale coalition** identifies advancing rights recognition over an additional 150 mha of tropical forest by 2025 and 400 mha by 2030 as key targets.

¹⁵ Both produce their own annual reports; see **GFFP (2021)** and **Congo Basin (2021)**. 2022 reports will be available via the **Forests & Climate Leaders' Partnership**.

¹⁶ Rights and Resources Initiative (2023). *Who Owns the World's Land? Second Edition*. <https://rightsandresources.org/publication/who-owns-the-worlds-land-2nd-ed/>

About the Forest Tenure Funders Group

The Forest Tenure Funders Group is an informal donor working group that coordinates and collaborates to deliver pledge commitments. It is open to all pledge signatories and other donors working to advance IP and LC forest tenure rights. The group also facilitates dialogue among IPs and LCs, donors, and other stakeholders.

FTFG priorities over the pledge period include:

- › Reviewing our current funding, support models, and disbursement channels to identify effective mechanisms to assist with pledge implementation
- › Establishing ongoing interaction with IPs and LCs—at global and national levels—to facilitate constructive dialogue, accountability, and joint solutions
- › Facilitating linkages between pledge donors and other networks; in 2023, these included the Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership (FCLP), the Inter-Donor Group on Environment and Climate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (GIBEC), and the Funders of the Amazon Basin (FAB)
- › Developing guiding principles and practices to help donors advance their pledge commitments
- › Ensuring that the global climate and biodiversity agendas advance the rights of IPs and LCs and highlight their role as forest guardians¹⁸
- › Providing accountability and transparency on pledge implementation, including annual public reporting

The FTFG meets quarterly to advance these priorities and holds at least one in-person meeting per year. Ford chaired the FTFG in 2023, with the Government of Norway serving as Vice Chair. Norway will chair in 2024.

BOX 2



Pledge signatories and Forest Tenure Funders Group members

Federal Republic of Germany
Kingdom of Norway
Kingdom of the Netherlands
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

Children’s Investment Fund Foundation
The Christensen Fund
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Ford Foundation
Good Energies Foundation
Oak Foundation
Sobrato Philanthropies
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Protecting Our Planet Challenge¹⁷

Arcadia
Bezos Earth Fund
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Bobolink Foundation
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
International Conservation Fund of Canada
Nia Tero
Rainforest Trust
Re:wild
Rob Walton Foundation
Wyss Foundation

¹⁷ The Protecting Our Planet Challenge (POP) members signed the pledge as a group.

¹⁸ See Box 3 for recent additions to the evidence base that underpins this goal.

BOX 3

Making the case: new research on tenure and forests in 2023

Ensuring that climate and biodiversity discussions focus on IP, LC, and AD tenure rights and forest guardianship is an FTFG priority. The growing body of peer-reviewed literature on this topic helps make the case. Research findings demonstrate a strong connection between IP, LC, and AD rights and climate, biodiversity, human rights, conflict resolution, and public health outcomes and illustrate why sustained and increased donor support for the pledge is justified and necessary. A selection of relevant findings published this year address:

Rights recognition and deforestation, restoration, and biodiversity

Formalizing Indigenous tenure in Brazil's Atlantic Forest improves forest outcomes, reducing deforestation and/or increasing restoration.¹⁹

From 2001–2020, Indigenous Amazonian forests were a strong net carbon sink. In contrast, forests outside Indigenous territories had high forest loss and were a net carbon source. Ninety percent of *quilombola* (Afro-descendant) forests in Brazil were also a net carbon sink.²⁰

In contrast to non-Indigenous lands, tenure-secure Indigenous territories in the Brazilian Amazon reduce deforestation and generate higher rates of secondary forest regrowth on previously deforested areas.²¹

Unresolved tenure issues present a significant barrier to achieving global reforestation goals.²²

Tenure-secure Indigenous lands are deforestation barriers in the Dry Chaco region of Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay, preventing forest loss in deforestation hotspots.²³

Compared to unprotected areas, any advance in recognition of Indigenous tenure in the Brazilian Amazon inhibits the loss of natural vegetation; this occurs regardless of the stage of recognition.²⁴

In Uganda, overlapping tenure rights are associated with higher deforestation rates compared to private and customary land without overlapping claims.²⁵

When armed conflict occurs in biodiversity hotspots in Indigenous and non-Indigenous lands, forest cover and biodiversity is less affected in the former, suggesting IPs moderate ecosystem degradation before, during, and after conflict.²⁶

19 Benzeev et al. (2023). Formalizing tenure of Indigenous lands improved forest outcomes in the Atlantic Forest of Brazil. *PNAS Nexus* 2(1). <https://academic.oup.com/pnasnexus/article/2/1/pgac287/7005261>

20 Veit et al. (2023). Indigenous forests are some of the Amazon's last carbon sinks. World Resources Institute. https://www.wri.org/insights/amazon-carbon-sink-indigenous-forests?utm_source=miragenews&utm_medium=miragenews&utm_campaign=news

21 Baragwanath et al. (2023). Collective property rights led to secondary forest growth in the Brazilian Amazon. *PNAS* 120(22). <https://www.pnas.org/doi/abs/10.1073/pnas.2221346120>

22 Rakotonarivo et al. (2023). Resolving land tenure security is essential to deliver forest restoration. *Communications Earth & Environment* 4. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-023-00847-w>

23 Camino et al. (2023). Indigenous lands with secure land tenure can reduce forest loss in deforestation hotspots. *Global Environmental Change* 81. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959378023000444>

24 Duarte et al. (2023). Reducing natural vegetation loss in Amazonia critically depends on the formal recognition of Indigenous lands. *Biological Conservation* 279. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320723000368>

25 Walker et al. (2023). Overlapping land rights and deforestation in Uganda: 20 years of evidence. *Global Environmental Change* 82. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378023000675>

26 Beattie et al. (2023). Even after armed conflict, the environmental quality of Indigenous Peoples' lands in biodiversity hotspots surpasses that of non-Indigenous lands. *Biological Conservation* 286. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320723003890?via%3Dihub>

BOX 3 (cont.)**Territorial governance**

Peruvian forest conservation improves when communities have strong leaders, institutions, and community enforcement mechanisms; support from local government; and legal rights to manage forests.²⁷

Informal rules—they tend to be more specific but also more flexible—are at least as effective as state regulations in governing community-based forest enterprises in the Peruvian Amazon.²⁸

Collective titling across 10 countries is associated with more cooperative behavior among local resource users; this includes higher trust, more self-governing institutions, and more equitable resource extraction.²⁹

Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the Bolivian, Ecuadorian, and Brazilian Amazon display “forest-based self-cultural identification,” viewing forests not only in terms of subsistence and income sources but also as linked to identity, territorial attachment, and worldview.³⁰

Global policy and governance

Indigenous Peoples and local communities have made important contributions to the negotiations of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including integrating a strong rights-based approach into the new Global Biodiversity Framework.³¹

The IPCC is increasingly recognizing the role of Indigenous Peoples in mitigating climate change, and the latest AR6 report includes numerous references to Indigenous knowledge; still, the IPCC must move from framing IPs primarily as vulnerable to climate change to viewing them as vital contributors to climate action.³²

Fires and public health

The Brazilian Amazon’s Indigenous forests remove particulate pollution from forest fires; protecting Indigenous territories helps prevent 15 million cases of respiratory and cardiovascular infection and disease per year, saving \$2 billion in health costs.³³

Indigenous governance is key to forest fire prevention and management in Bolivia.³⁴

- 27 Van der Zon *et al.* (2023). Community enforcement and tenure security: a fuzzy-set qualitative comparative analysis of twelve community forest management initiatives in the Peruvian Amazon. *World Development* 161. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0305750X22002613>
- 28 López-Vargas *et al.* (2023). Interactions between formal and informal institutions governing community and small-scale timber enterprises: the case of the Ampiyacu river basin in the Peruvian Amazon. *Forest Policy and Economics* 157. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S138993412300165X>
- 29 Kaur *et al.* (2023). Collective forest land rights facilitate cooperative behavior. *Conservation Letters* 16(4). <https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/conl.12950>
- 30 Londres *et al.* (2023). Multidimensional forests: complexity of forest-based values and livelihoods across Amazonian socio-cultural and geopolitical contexts. *World Development* 165: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0305750X23000189>.
- 31 Parks and Tsioumani (2023). Transforming biodiversity governance? Indigenous peoples’ contributions to the Convention on Biological Diversity. *Biological Conservation* 280. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320723000332>
- 32 Carmona *et al.* (2023). Analysing engagement with Indigenous Peoples in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s Sixth Assessment Report. *Npj Climate Action* 2. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44168-023-00048-3>
- 33 Prist *et al.* (2023). Protecting Brazilian Amazon Indigenous territories reduces atmospheric particulates and avoids associated health impacts and costs. *Nature Communications Earth & Environment* 4. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-023-00704-w>
- 34 Rodríguez *et al.* (2023). Decolonizing wildfire risk management: Indigenous responses to fire criminalization policies and increasingly flammable forest landscapes in Lomerío, Bolivia. *Environmental Science and Policy* 147: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1462901123001624>.

BOX 3 (cont.)**Gender, inclusion, and power**

Empowerment efforts in Brazilian extractive reserves can increase the role women play in community timber enterprises, leading to more expansive changes in gendered power relations.³⁵

Social forestry in Indonesia offers significant opportunities to involve and benefit women.³⁶

Gender barriers—limited control over resources, exclusionary institutions and norms, and intense

yet largely invisible labor burdens—limit the benefits that women receive from fisheries, aquaculture, livestock, and forestry.³⁷

Ethiopia's restoration policy—and the majority of research and analysis supporting restoration efforts in Ethiopia—could be improved through additional attention to gender and inclusion, including women's contributions at the community level.³⁸

Youth, inclusion, and power

Young people in Mexican communities with community forest enterprises feel connected to “traditional” rural practices, but interest in community forestry is diminished by low and unstable income and benefits, limited access to credit and equipment, forestry's physical demands, and bureaucratic processes that delay permitting.³⁹

Indigenous youth in Bolivia express deep connections to territory and want to play a more active role in its governance.⁴⁰

Future threats

An assessment of Indigenous rights and tenure security, respect for self-determination, and funding for conservation and sustainable development found that 60% of Indigenous lands in 64 countries are threatened by industrial development.⁴¹

Nearly 70% of energy transition mineral projects are located on or near Indigenous or peasant land, with high co-occurrence of risks related to water, food insecurity, and conflict.⁴²

35 Espada and Kainer. (2023). Women and timber management: from assigned cook to strategic decision-maker of community land use. *Land Use Policy* 127. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0264837723000261>

36 Akbar et al. (2023) Empowering women in social forestry: Indonesia's contribution to the climate accords. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Advanced Research in Social and Economic Science*. <https://www.atlantis-press.com/proceedings/icarse-22/125986109>

37 Elias et al. (2023). Beyond crops: toward gender equality in forestry, fisheries, aquaculture, and livestock development. CGIAR Gender Impact Platform Working Paper 12. https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/129708/GenderWorkingPaper_12.pdf?sequence=2

38 Abera et al. (2023). Assessing the application of gender perspectives in land restoration studies in Ethiopia using text mining. *Environmental Development* 46. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211464523000544>

39 Jurjonas et al. (2023). Intergenerational perceptions of the collective action challenges facing Mexican community forests. *Land Use Policy* 134. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0264837723003794>

40 Sarigumba et al. (2023). Understanding the role of youth in Indigenous territorial governance. *Frontiers in Environmental Science* 11: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/James-Robson-3/publication/374872730_Understanding_the_role_of_youth_in_Indigenous_territorial_governance/links/65333b965d51a8012b58730e/Understanding-the-role-of-youth-in-Indigenous-territorial-governance.pdf

41 Kennedy et al. (2023) Indigenous Peoples' lands are threatened by industrial development; conversion risk assessment reveals need to support Indigenous stewardship. *One Earth* 6. [https://www.cell.com/one-earth/pdf/S2590-3322\(23\)00340-8.pdf](https://www.cell.com/one-earth/pdf/S2590-3322(23)00340-8.pdf)

42 Owen et al. (2023). Energy transition minerals and their intersection with land-connected peoples. *Nature Sustainability* 6. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-022-00994-6>

SECTION 2

Pledge Spending Progress



This report covers the time period from January to December 2022. In this section, we examine progress toward delivering on the pledge’s \$1.7 billion funding commitment.

Methodology

To track funding, each donor was asked to provide a list of 2022 calendar year pledge-aligned spending, compiled and coded in a common format. Donors calculated grant funding according to their own reporting systems and submitted data, where possible, on the total funding amount with a breakdown by geography, primary and secondary thematic areas, and funding mechanisms.⁴³ Donors also estimated the percentage of each project or grant that directly aligns with the pledge, in cases where only a portion was aligned. Contributions towards the pledge were reported in each donors’ currency and converted to U.S. dollars (USD) using the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) annual average conversion rate. All report amounts are in USD unless otherwise stated.

By initial agreement, the FTFG does not publish information about individual members’ financial commitment to the pledge nor about specific allocations and grant recipients. Some individual members have released separate and more detailed information about how they are meeting their pledge commitments.

Our impact-measuring approach has evolved over the past year based on internal discussions and conversations with our IP and LC partners. While total annual pledge-aligned funding is an important indicator of progress, we are also concerned with how funds are used—and, specifically, how much funding is channeled directly



⁴³ Not all signatories are able to report their spending progress with this level of detail. For example, Protecting Our Planet Challenge (POP) members—who signed the pledge as a group—reported a single aggregated disbursement figure, consistent with previous practice. Oak Foundation did not report 2022 data.

to IP and LC organizations. We know that direct funding is limited, but the line between “direct” and “indirect” is not clear cut; quantifying direct funding requires some subjective interpretation by both donors and IPs and LCs. In addition to a direct funding indicator, we use additional indicators to track how pledge funding is used. These include the number of IP and LC organizations receiving pledge-aligned funding and how much pledge-aligned funding ultimately reaches IP and LC organizations—including via trusted partners and intermediaries—in ways they can influence and control.

Progress overview

In 2022, pledge donors provided⁴⁴ nearly **\$494 million** to support IP and LC forest tenure rights. This brought **total funding over the pledge’s first two years to over \$815 million. With 48% of the \$1.7 billion funded, we are on track to meet or exceed our commitment by 2025** (see table 1).

TABLE 1: 2021 and 2022 disbursements against the pledge

	2021	2022	Cumulative
Total bilateral donor funding	\$179,288,205	\$332,492,199	\$511,780,404
Total private donor funding	\$142,341,542	\$161,465,741	\$303,807,283
Annual total	\$321,629,748	\$493,957,939	\$815,587,687
Percentage of pledge total	19%	29%	48%

Previous analysis by Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN) found that funding for IP and LC tenure rights and forest guardianship averaged \$270 million per year between 2011 and 2020.⁴⁵ Funding from bilateral donors and philanthropies—excluding multilaterals, as none are pledge signatories—averaged \$140 million over the same period.⁴⁶ Our data are not directly comparable to the RFN data. They report disbursements, while our data mix commitments and disbursements; we also have direct access to donor data while they relied on public reporting. Nevertheless, the \$494 million in funding for IP and LC tenure rights from our bilateral and philanthropic signatories in 2022 **suggests that pledge donors are contributing to an increase in funding relative to the historical baseline.**

⁴⁴ Totals provided include disbursements and, in some cases, formal allocations and commitments. In this report and in other discussions of the pledge, we use “disbursement,” “spending,” “funding,” and related terms to refer both to allocated and disbursed funds.

⁴⁵ Rainforest Foundation Norway (2021). *Falling Short: Donor Funding for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to Secure Tenure Tights and Manage Forests in Tropical Countries*. https://d5i6is0eze552.cloudfront.net/documents/Publikasjoner/Andre-rapporter/RFN_Falling_short_2021.pdf?mtime=20210412123104

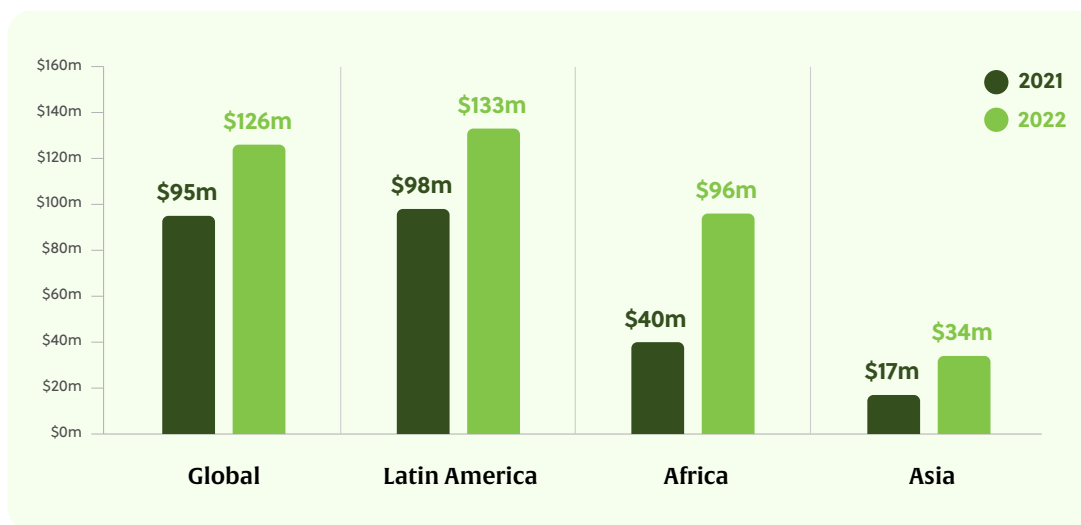
⁴⁶ In a few cases, donors have reported funding to multilaterals as pledge-aligned funding, as in the case of support to the World Bank’s EnABLE trust fund.

Funding by geography⁴⁷

Funders indicated that 32% of their funding supported global work, while the remainder supported action at the local, national, or regional level (see figure 1).⁴⁸ Of the funding designated by region (i.e. “non-global” funding), the largest share went to Latin America (51%), followed by Africa (36%) and Asia (13%).⁴⁹

Between 2021 and 2022, funding increased for each region; **the most significant increase—approximately \$56 million, representing a 139% increase over 2021—was for Africa. Funding for Asia doubled from 2021**, yet the proportion of overall funding going to the region increased only marginally. As we indicated last year, donors continue to underinvest in the region. Efforts in Latin America and globally received a smaller proportion of funding than in 2021, though still more funding overall.

FIGURE 1: Geography, 2021 and 2022



When data were available, we also examined the geographical breakdown of funding at a sub-regional level. The data show that in Latin America, the largest portion of funding goes to Amazon Basin countries, while a much smaller proportion supported work in Mexico and Central America (\$8.2 million, or 6% of funding in Latin America) and other countries in South America. In Africa, the largest portion of funding went to Congo Basin countries (\$40 million, 42% of funding in Africa), with East Africa also receiving a significant share of the funds (\$31 million, 32%). Much smaller shares went to Southern and West Africa.

⁴⁷ All disaggregated figures in this and the following subsections are calculated using a standardized format to code grants and other funding collected from pledge signatories. Some funders did not code their grants; we obtained coding for \$390 million in 2022 disbursements and based percentage figures on this total.

⁴⁸ For multi-country or multi-region projects, spending was, when available data allowed, divided into the regional categories according to a percentage breakdown of fund distribution. In cases where this breakdown was not available, multi-region projects were included under the “global” category.

⁴⁹ Regional percentages here are calculated based on the total sum of non-global funding.

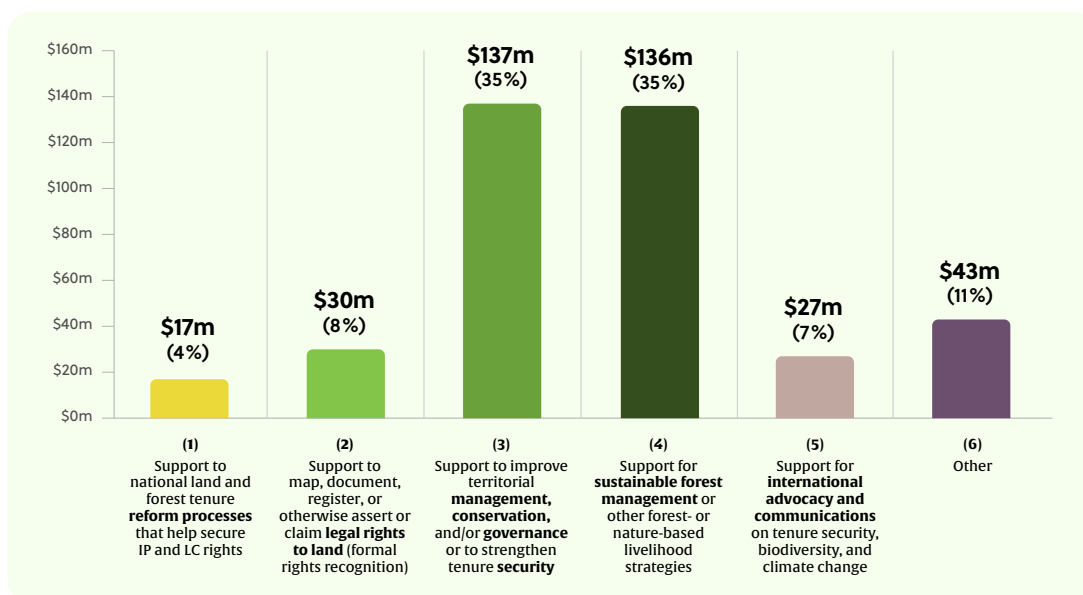
Funding by theme

Donors categorized each grant or project into one of six thematic categories,⁵⁰ including an “other” category.⁵¹

1. Support to national land and forest tenure reform processes that help secure IP and LC rights
2. Support to map, document, register, or otherwise assert or claim legal rights to land (formal rights recognition)
3. Support to improve territorial management, conservation, and/or governance or to strengthen tenure security
4. Support for sustainable forest management or other forest- or nature-based livelihood strategies
5. Support for international advocacy and communications on tenure security, biodiversity, and climate change
6. Other

Over two-thirds of pledge-aligned funding supports territorial governance and tenure security (theme 3, 35%) and sustainable management and use of natural resources (theme 4, 35%). Only 12% of funding supports efforts to advance new rights recognition processes (theme 2, 8%) and to bolster the role of IPs and LCs in national land and forest tenure reform agendas (theme 1, 4%). Figure 2, below, shows the funding breakdown by primary thematic area.

FIGURE 2: Primary Thematic Area



⁵⁰ These thematic areas differ from the thematic areas identified in the 2021–2022 report. This reduced the percentage of funding coded as “other” but complicates direct comparison between years.

⁵¹ Some funders used the “other” category for work that other funders placed into specified themes. These include capacity building and strengthening of Indigenous organizations (which other funders coded as theme 3), support for the rights and political participation of Indigenous women and youth, and support for Quilombolas. In future years, further revision to the thematic areas might help ensure consistency across and accurate capturing of all funders’ work.

BOX 4

Data gaps in funding for key themes

Our analysis by thematic area provides information about broad funding focus but does not allow us to track work on more specific topics. Collecting more granular data is difficult, because funded projects and organizations often work on many topics, and the proportion of work in specific areas is difficult to document or estimate. But, this does mean we know less than we would like about how we are addressing important topics. Two examples—gender-inclusive or gender-transformative work and support for protection of land and environmental defenders—are discussed here.

Gender and tenure rights

The pledge text acknowledges the importance of specific support for women, who face discriminatory norms, legal systems, and practices that often prevent them from realizing the benefits of secure tenure.⁵² These might include:

- › Patriarchal views that land is a “male concern”; that women should not inherit land; and that women cannot understand land documents or records
- › The invisibility of, restrictions on, or ownership claims to women’s labor
- › Marriage, divorce, and inheritance laws that restrict women’s property rights
- › Policies related to land registration, land use, land redistribution, consultation/ consent, and other related issues that fail to account for gender

Breaking this cycle of vulnerability and discrimination requires both legal reform and changes to social norms and behaviors. Doing so offers women social, economic, and political opportunities and can catalyze broader gender equity development goals. Unfortunately, we do not have specific data on the proportion of pledge funds supporting women or gender justice goals. We do know that gender and gendered impacts are too rarely considered in funding decisions and that only 2% of climate finance is intended to directly or principally support gender equality.⁵³ Some of the case studies in section 3 illustrate connections between pledge goals and gender justice.

52 Landesa (2023). *Land Empowers: A life-cycle look at how women's and girls' relationship to land can lead to transformation or discrimination*. <https://cdn.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/Land-Empowers-Life-cycle-approach-to-girls-and-womens-land-rights.pdf>

53 Patel et al. (2023). Gender, climate finance and inclusive low-carbon transitions. IIED Issue Paper. <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2023-09/21601IIED.pdf>

BOX 4 (cont.)

Threats to land and environmental defenders

The pledge text acknowledges the sometimes life-threatening work of IP, LC, and AD land and environmental defenders and the increasing threats, harassment, and violence they face, but we lack data on pledge-aligned support for their protection. In 2022, at least 177 defenders died protecting their lands and resources—one every other day. More than one-third of the murdered defenders were Indigenous, 22% were peasant farmers, and 7% were Afro-descendants. Since 2002, more than 1,910 defenders have been killed.⁵⁴

And yet, globally reported killings and attacks are only the “tip of the iceberg.” In Colombia, for example, for every defender killed in 2021, 40 others were attacked.⁵⁵ Particular sectors like agribusiness and mining tend to be heavily implicated.

Defenders opposing mining operations have faced intimidation and threats. Communities defending their land from transition mineral mining projects are seeing an increased risk of threats and attacks.⁵⁶

Civil society researchers are documenting cases of violence against defenders, sometimes putting themselves at risk in the process, but crucial gaps remain in state-reported data. In fact, since 2015, only three (out of 162) countries who submitted a Voluntary National Review reported a killing or attack against a human rights defender. Better data collection mechanisms are needed, built in partnership with civil society. Similarly, reporting agencies must make defenders more visible in official numbers.⁵⁷



54 Global Witness (2023). *Standing Firm: The Land and Environmental Defenders on the Frontlines of the Climate Crisis*. <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/standing-firm/>

55 Alliance for Land, Indigenous and Environmental Defenders (2021). *Uncovering the Hidden Iceberg*. https://allied-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023_9_the_hidden_iceberg_philippines_and_colombia_single_page_1.pdf

56 Business & Human Rights Resource Centre (2023). *Below Ground: Human Rights and Renewable Energy Value Chains in the Andes*. https://media.bhrrc.org/media/documents/2023_TM_in_Andes_EN.pdf

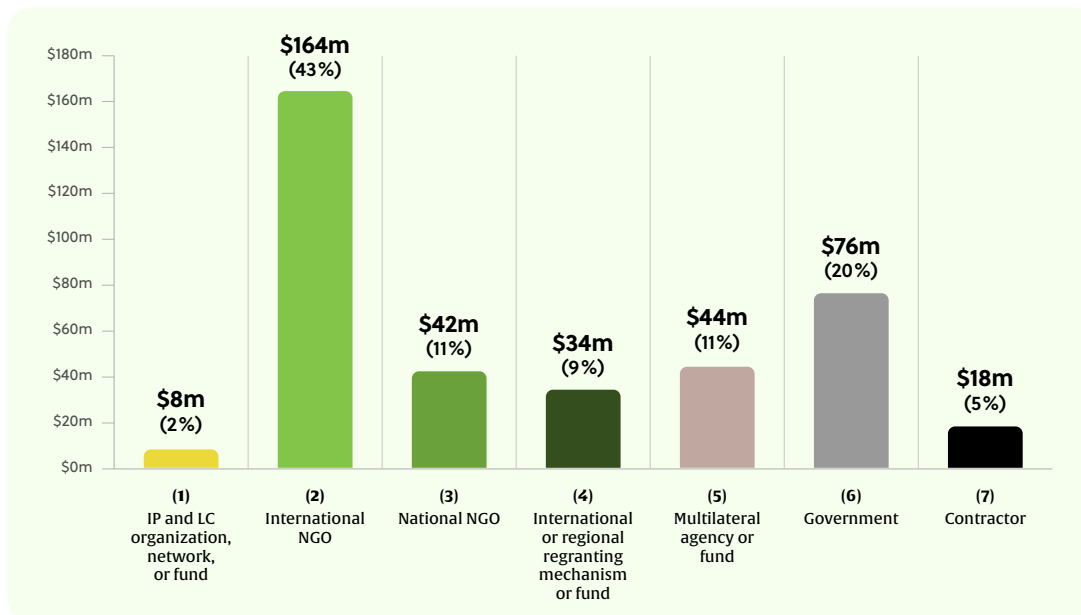
57 International Land Coalition (2023). *A Crucial Gap: The Limits to Official Data on Attacks Against Defenders and Why It's Concerning*. <https://www.landcoalition.org/en/resources/a-crucial-gap-2023/>

Funding by delivery partner

Finally, in order to understand how pledge-aligned funding was allocated, donors provided a spending breakdown by delivery partner type (see figure 3).

Over half of all categorized funding went to international and national NGOs. Compared to 2021, the percentage of funding going to national NGOs and governments increased by around 5%, while the share of funding going to international NGOs decreased by 8%, and the percentage of funding to multilateral agencies remained constant.

FIGURE 3: Primary Delivery Partner



Our 2021 annual report estimated that 7% of funding was channeled directly to IPs and LCs. A second analysis, using a more rigorous definition of direct support, compels us to revise last year's figure downward—to 2.9%, or about \$7.3 million.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ This enables us to make a more accurate comparison, even though our methodology complicates direct comparisons between years. Because our data include disbursements and commitments and because many grants in the dataset involve multi-year funding, direct year-on-year comparisons are difficult, especially in terms of funding "availability" to the field. The entirety of multi-year projects is counted towards the pledge in the year in which the commitment was made; this means that some direct grants shown in our 2021 data may have been disbursed, in part or in full, in 2022 and beyond. Additionally, we only have data on the delivery partner for 78% of 2022 funding (see [footnote 43](#)). Thus, the overall volume of direct funding to IP and LC organizations is likely higher than reported. Finally, the reporting lag means it will take additional time to change funding practices in response to report findings. For example, when we released our 2021 funding analysis, almost all 2022 grants had already been made.

About \$8.1 million in funding directly reached IP and LC organizations in 2022, an increase over 2021. While the volume of direct funding increased in 2022, the volume of other funding increased by a greater amount, causing the proportion of direct funding to decrease; only 2.1% of 2022 funding was direct.

We are disappointed that direct funding is not increasing more quickly. Reasons for this include:

- › Donor risk perceptions and risk aversion, especially when managing public funds
- › IP and LC organizations have limited, albeit growing, capacity to apply for and manage international funding
- › IP and LC organizations may not be able to meet the significant administrative requirements that direct funding mandates
- › Some IP and LC organizations cannot receive direct funding because they lack legal identities or bank accounts; others may prefer to receive funding via trusted partners
- › Limited donor administrative capacity constrains the total number of grants that can be developed and managed; intermediaries or regrants are appealing for this reason





We must shift donor policies and practices to respond to these challenges (see box 5); this takes time. But important changes are already underway.

- › Private funders are channeling more support directly to IP and LC organizations. In 2022, about **8.5% of philanthropic funding moved directly**, representing a slight increase over 2021 and versus about 1% of bilateral funding. Foundations can adjust their funding faster than bilaterals. And, if foundations can help IP and LC organizations build experience with and capacity for managing direct funding, it may make it easier for them to attract bilateral funding in future years. The FTFG has discussed the different roles that bilaterals and private funders play, and we recognize that foundations have an important role to play as early direct funding leaders.
- › **The number of IP and LC organizations receiving direct funding increased from 27 in 2021 to 39 in 2022.** This may demonstrate that funders are developing a deeper knowledge of the IP and LC organizational landscape and funding needs. This larger pipeline of directly-funded IP and LC organizations should make it easier to increase funding volumes in future years.
- › We are also pleased to see more IP and LC organizations having conversations with allied international and national NGOs—including those sometimes referred to as “intermediaries” or “regranters”—about making indirect funding more fit for purpose and ensuring IPs and LCs have more influence and control over funding that is indirectly received.

This year, the FTFG discussed how to best conceptualize, calculate, and report on funding to and for IP and LC organizations. We recognize that many funding recipients have close, trusted partnerships with IP and LC organizations, co-designing projects and proposals and providing subgrants. The “direct funding” framing and accounting is limited in that it fails to capture this regranting support—as well as technical expertise and in-kind support that flows to IP and LC organizations through partners. A grant to an international NGO, for example, would appear as \$0 in direct funding even when 75% or more of the grant funds may ultimately flow to IP and LC partners; this might be the very reason the donor funded that NGO.

Because most donors do not track funds beyond the initial grant, it is difficult to quantify such “indirect” funding. Still, we asked funders for a best guess approximation of the portion of each grant that reaches IPs and LCs in ways they can influence or control. We received estimates that account for approximately \$132 million of the 2022 pledge disbursements.⁵⁹ Responses indicate that **about 60% of the total funding analyzed (\$79 million)—reached IP and LC organizations in ways they can influence and control.**

The case studies in Section 3 also point to important incremental changes that should help increase direct funding and catalyze more fundamental shifts. These include increased investment in IP and LC capacity building (directly and via trusted intermediaries), new direct grants to IP and LC organizations (even if their initial size is small), and initial steps to build the architecture of IP- and LC-led funds.

Donors and IP and LC organizations see the lack of direct funding as a shared problem that must be addressed collectively—and one that will require changes in systems, practices, and worldviews. We are committed to continuing dialogue with our IP and LC partners to identify new ways to scale up direct funding in the pledge’s remaining years. The signatories’ statements, compiled in the next section, preview some of the ways this might happen. For example, several donors note that IP- and LC-developed and controlled funds are building their financial and administrative capacities and track records and starting to attract initial or increased donor investment. We expect that these funds will play an important role in attracting and channeling increased direct funding in the future.



⁵⁹ This is roughly 27% of total pledge spending.

BOX 5

Strategies for scaling up direct funding

FTFG members are committed to addressing barriers and obstacles to scaling up direct funding and have commissioned two analyses to inform thinking.

First, Charapa Consult organized discussions with more than 200 Indigenous Peoples' organizations—through regional workshops in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and outreach at global events—to understand their experiences with and aspirations for funding. Those views are compiled in workshop reports and synthesized in *Directing Funds to Rights: Principles, Standards, and Modalities for Supporting Indigenous Peoples' Tenure Rights and Forest Guardianship*.

This report offers reflections and recommendations in many areas, including:

- › Defining funding priorities
- › Conducting consultation, participation, and free, prior and informed consent
- › Enhancing transparency, monitoring, and accountability
- › Involving representative institutions and strengthening institutional capacities
- › Maximizing donor impact and effectiveness
- › Harmonization and operational requirements
- › Modalities for channeling funds
- › Exploring the role of intermediaries
- › Promoting Indigenous-led funding mechanisms

Second, we commissioned an analysis from Indufor, *Forging Resilient Pathways: Scaling up Funding in Support of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Tenure and Forest Guardianship in the Global South*. Indufor's recommendations cover six potential conditions of systems change: policies, practices, resource flows, relationships and connections, power dynamics, and mental models.

The organization recommends prioritizing long-term donor engagement and working to dismantle the obstacles IP and LC organizations face in accessing funding, including donor policies and financial hurdles.

Organizational health assessments should be paired with resources and support for comprehensive capacity-building, enabling organizations to develop skill sets and roles that strengthen the broader ecosystem. Where intermediaries are used, they should prioritize accountability and transparency to IPs and LCs and aim to facilitate and strengthen trust-based relationships between donors and organizations. Donors should ensure that there are shared definitions and frameworks and work towards encouraging donor collaboration and learning spaces with IP and LC organizations.

BOX 5 (cont.)

Indufor offers a useful typology of the different kinds of organizations working on IP and LC tenure rights and forest guardianship, based on the scale at which they work and their level of accountability to IPs and LCs. The 10 case studies showcase the diversity of pathways for supporting tenure rights and forest guardianship, including providing examples of high levels of IP and LC ownership and control over indirect funding.

We are also grateful to other experts who have reflected on pledge implementation and offered broader guidance on effective support for IP, LC, and AD tenure rights and forest guardianship. We found the following papers, reports, and articles particularly useful:

- › Archipel Research & Consulting (2023). [Funding Trend Analysis on Indigenous Peoples Philanthropy](#). Prepared for International Funders of Indigenous Peoples.
- › Cariño, Joji (2002). [Weaving Relationship-Building with Indigenous Peoples in Asia](#).
- › Cunningham, Myrna (2022). [An Uphill Road: Philanthropy's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean](#).
- › Del Gatto, Filippo et al. (2022). [Widening the Path: An Overview of Philanthropy's Role in Supporting Indigenous Peoples](#).
- › Forest Declaration Assessment Partners (2023). [Off Track and Falling Behind: Tracking Progress on 2030 Forest Goals](#). [Pledge discussion begins on p. 80]
- › Nelson, Fred et al. (2023). [Better climate funding means centering local and Indigenous communities](#). *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.
- › Principles & Guidelines for Direct Access Funding for Indigenous Peoples' Climate Action, Biodiversity Conservation, and Fighting Desertification for a Sustainable Planet. (2022).
- › Rights and Resources Initiative and Rainforest Foundation Norway (2022). [Funding With Purpose: A Study to Inform Donor Support for Indigenous and Local Community Rights, Climate, and Conservation](#).
- › Rugadya, Margaret (2022). [Philanthropy and Indigenous Peoples and Communities in Africa: Issues, Organizations, and Opportunities](#).
- › WWF (2023). [Forest Pathways Report 2023](#). [Pledge discussion begins on p. 38]

Conclusion: Direct funding and locally led development

At the end of 2022, 33 governments and foundations (including seven FTFG members) **committed to greater support for locally led development**, defined as “enhanced collaboration and cooperation between donors and the people, institutions, and communities who address and are impacted by” global development challenges.

The statement makes three commitments:

- › Shift and share power to ensure local actors have ownership and can meaningfully and equitably engage in development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding programs
- › Work to channel high-quality funding as directly as possible to local actors, while ensuring mutual accountability for the effective use of funds, management of risks, and achievement of development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding results
- › Publicly advocate for locally led development, using convening authority, partnerships, networks, and voice in international fora and multilateral institutions

The statement demonstrates how FTFG’s interest in direct support for IP and LC organizations connects with broader, ongoing challenges in the development sector. At the same time, it reminds us that increasing direct funding is only one part of shifting and sharing power. The FTFG looks forward to continuing conversations with peer donors, IP and LC organizations, and other experts about how pledge implementation can further contribute to realizing locally led development goals.





SECTION 3

Statements from Pledge Signatories

In this section, pledge signatories and FTFG members discuss how they are advancing their pledge commitments.⁶⁰ Their statements discuss both 2022 and 2023 activities, as this report was written in the latter half of 2023. Donors were asked to respond to two questions:

1. What should Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities in and around tropical forests know about your institution/organization?

Here, donors discuss:

- › Funding priorities in relation to tenure security and forest guardianship
- › Pledge implementation approaches
- › Their understanding of “direct funding” or “direct support” and whether they have set goals in relation to these
- › If and how the pledge has influenced policy, programming, or strategy
- › New collaborations/partnerships, funding priorities, or funding sources announced in the last year

2. What is one example of pledge-aligned funding that you think is particularly interesting/innovative/successful or in need of more attention and support?

Here, the examples show how donors:

- › Channel their support in different ways and at different levels
- › Connect pledge-aligned funding to national-level systemic tenure and governance reform
- › Help incubate new ideas and institutions
- › Work with IP, LC, and AD organizations to increase the proportion of funds they can influence and control
- › Cluster support around common themes and programs

⁶⁰ Submissions were edited for length and clarity. All FTFG members had the option to provide statements; we did not receive responses from the Oak Foundation or the Protecting Our Planet Challenge (although some individual members of POP chose to submit their own statements).

Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)



In 2022, CIFF continued to provide funding to regional regranting foundation Instituto Climate Sociedade (iCS). Among other things, this grant supported the defense of IP and LC territories; investing in scholarship programmes and other activities to build the capacity of IP and LC-led movements; and stimulating IP and LC-led business models that can provide blueprints for sustainable growth in the Amazon. CIFF also funded legal strategies and provided funding to the FILE Foundation for land use litigation, which included defending the rights of IPs and LCs—primarily in Brazil and Peru.

CIFF presently works through intermediaries to channel support to IP and LC organizations. To complement this work, CIFF funded a range of activities aimed at enabling a high-integrity carbon market on the road to regulation. Along with other donors, our funding enabled greater participation of Indigenous groups in key guidance-setting processes, such as those led by the Voluntary Carbon Market Integrity Initiative (VCMI) and the Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets (ICVCM). The pledge's explicit reference to Afro-descendant populations aligns with our renewed focus in Brazil. It is important to improve this population's representation in the climate movement—and the climate movement will be much stronger for it. We will be working with other pledge donors to align efforts.

Examples of pledge-aligned support

Legal strategies remain underfunded. These play an important role in:

- › Building IP and LC organizations' legal capacity to improve awareness of existing rights
- › Providing legal protection in the face of ongoing threats
- › Providing regulators with the evidence required to address breaches (e.g. deforestation in conservation areas)

To develop legal challenges that promote systemic reforms, our grantees, including the FILE Foundation and Instituto Climate Sociedade, have supported efforts across all of the aforementioned points. The approach has helped develop the evidence, legal scholarship, and advocacy to strengthen land rights. In September, Brazil's Supreme Court enshrined the rights of Indigenous populations in the face of a legal challenge aimed at weakening them. These challenges may grow, and it is important that civil society has the legal capacity to provide an effective resistance.

The Christensen Fund



The Christensen Fund is deeply committed to the principles and objectives of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge. We are fully dedicated to using our resources and influence to empower these communities' rights to self-determination to secure their traditional lands and territories and strengthen their capacity for sustainable land management and governance. Our grantmaking prioritizes partners in the United States, Mexico, and Kenya, and also supports global initiatives.

As the only major philanthropic organization solely focused on directly supporting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, The Christensen Fund felt it was essential to join the IP and LC Forest Tenure Pledge at COP26. IP and LC traditional knowledge and sustainable practices are fundamental to preserving the planet's natural resources and countering environmental threats. Supporting and advancing Indigenous rights is therefore critical to the fight against climate change, biodiversity preservation, and securing forest tenure. Upholding and recognizing Indigenous Peoples' rights, as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, is essential to meeting the pledge's land tenure and guardianship goals.

The Christensen Fund is committed to transparency, accountability, prioritizing Indigenous voices, and directing funding to Indigenous-led organizations. In 2022, 78% of our funding went directly to Indigenous-led organizations; the vast majority of this support was "unrestricted" because the self-determination of our Indigenous partners is paramount. Although we are proud of these numbers, we strive to do more with our resources and influence; we have a dedicated

effort to educate and cultivate additional funding organizations so they join the pledge and bring more direct support to Indigenous Peoples and communities.

The Christensen Fund is also dedicated to including Indigenous voices and participation whenever possible. This is why we supported the first meeting of Indigenous Peoples with the Forest Tenure Funders Group in London in 2022. This was an important early opportunity for pledge signatories to engage directly with Indigenous Peoples from tropical and subtropical forests. The momentum after this first convening led to several other virtual and in-person dialogues and workshops between the pledge signatories and Indigenous Peoples. We believe in the power of these dialogues and will continue to support and participate in them as we work to see the pledge goals fulfilled.

Examples of pledge-aligned support

In the past year, The Christensen Fund has responded decisively to the urgent call from Indigenous Peoples asking for more direct funding to support their self-determined development and enhance their pivotal role in combating climate change and conserving biodiversity. As part of our unwavering commitment to these goals, we have extended our support to several pivotal initiatives by Indigenous Peoples:

- We endorsed and aided the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities; (GATC) Shandia platform, which strives to facilitate direct, sustainable, and efficient funding by establishing regional and national mechanisms, fostering capacity-building, and facilitating dialogue between donors and partners.

- › We championed the establishment of the Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund (IPAS). Initiated by 95 Indigenous Peoples' representatives from 14 Asian countries, IPAS grants Indigenous Peoples direct access to financial resources to strengthen their self-governance, preserve traditional knowledge, protect biodiversity, combat climate change, and advocate for their rights and well-being.
- › We supported the first forum of Indigenous and local community women in Central Africa and the Congo Basin, organized by the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC), Rights and Resources Initiative, Central African Forests Commission, and GATC, among others. The forum identified several priorities to strengthen the involvement of women in biodiversity conservation and climate resilience: bolstering the technical capacities of grassroots organizations, associations, and networks; facilitating access to direct funding; and ensuring monitoring, evaluation, learning, and lessons sharing. REPALEAC will further build on the forum's recommendations to enhance the region's funding modalities.
- › We supported the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB)'s comprehensive consultation process to create a national funding mechanism for Indigenous Peoples.
- › The Christensen Fund was involved in establishing Indonesia's Nusantara Fund, which was created by civil society groups, the Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara, Walhi, and KPA; Nusantara provides Indigenous Peoples and local communities with direct funding to scale up climate crises mitigation in Indonesia.

These initiatives are emblematic of The Christensen Fund's unshakable dedication to empowering Indigenous Peoples and reshaping the funding landscape to advance a sustainable future. We applaud Indigenous Peoples' remarkable progress, across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, in building and strengthening the local, regional, and global networks necessary to meet our shared mission. Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our mission and impact.



The David and Lucile Packard Foundation



In 2023, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation launched its new **Global Climate Initiative** (GCI). This initiative focuses on reversing and halting deforestation while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation. Grantmaking supports civil society organizations and forest stewards who help keep forests healthy. GCI aligns grantmaking and other resources with the new **Forests, People, Climate** (FPC) collaborative, which promotes equitable and enduring solutions that safeguard tropical forests and supports their stewarding, especially by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities.

FPC's systems approach developed cross-cutting strategies to create lasting solutions to deforestation. Over 500 experts—tropical forest countries were the focus—helped develop a full set of FPC strategies to provide a roadmap for grantmaking, action, monitoring progress, and learning. It includes a specific strategy to support Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-Descendants (IP, LC, and AD).

Examples of pledge-aligned support

The Packard Foundation's Global Climate Initiative provides grants and other resources through trusted re-grantors, like the **Climate and Land Use Alliance** and the Nusantara Fund, and through direct funding.

CLUA re-granted Packard Foundation funds to:

1. Support the titling, protection, and sustainable development of IP, LC and AD territories
2. Strengthen financing mechanisms led by and accessible to IP, LC and ADs at country, regional, and international levels
3. Support IP, LC, and ADs to understand and advocate for rights in jurisdictional programs and defend against private carbon proponents' negative practices. This included the launch of the innovative **Kawari Fund**, which provides financial support to strengthen communities' roles and negotiating positions in carbon markets, while also ensuring that they benefit equitably from carbon trading schemes

The Packard Foundation directly supports the Nusantara Fund. The Nusantara Fund is Indonesia's first direct funding mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It was jointly established by the Alliance of the Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago (AMAN), the Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA), and WALHI (The Indonesian Forum for the Environment/FoE Indonesia). This new fund aims to raise \$20 million for direct support to Indigenous Peoples and local communities across Indonesia.

Representatives of the three founding organizations serve on an advisory board that governs the fund with trusted members of Indigenous and local communities. Funding decisions are guided by a desire to protect, promote, and respect human rights, while adhering to customary rules.

The Packard Foundation and CLUA hope that the establishment and institutional strengthening of these and other IP, LC, and AD funds will create the infrastructure needed to ensure that the IP, LC, and AD donor commitments can reach their intended partners.

In September 2023, the Packard Foundation joined 14 global grantmakers and bilateral donors from around the world in [endorsing a USAID donor statement](#) on committing to locally-led development. This commitment aims to:

1. Shift and share power to ensure local actors have ownership over and can meaningfully and equitably engage in development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding programs
2. Channel high quality funding to local actors while ensuring mutual accountability for effective fund use of funds
3. Publicly advocate for locally-led development.

The Packard Foundation is committed to partnering with philanthropy and governments to meet—and hopefully exceed—the 25% commitment, which emphasizes Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities within the Global Climate Initiative.



Ford Foundation



**Ford
Foundation**

The **Ford Foundation** challenges inequality by addressing its major drivers: unfair economic rules; unequal access to government; entrenched cultural narratives; failure to invest in public goods; and pervasive prejudice and discrimination. We work in the United States and in ten countries and regions around the world.

Our **Natural Resources and Climate Change (NRCC) Program** has two interconnected objectives. The first is to advance the recognition and enforcement of territorial rights for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities (IP, LC, and AD) and to support their autonomy, self-determination, and territorial governance. The second is to emphasize the “just” in just energy transitions, ensuring that Global South communities’ consultation rights and consent are respected, benefits are equitably distributed, and harms are mitigated. NRCC program officers make grants from foundation offices in Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Bogotá, Lagos, Johannesburg, Jakarta, and New York.

Over the first half of the IP and LC pledge period (January 1, 2021 to July 31, 2023), we approved \$87 million in funding—against our total \$100 million commitment—for IP, LC, and AD tenure rights and forest guardianship. Our website contains a complete list of pledge-aligned grants ([Year 1](#); [Year 2](#)).

Ford supports institutions, individuals, and ideas on the frontlines of social change. Our pledge-aligned grants support organizations of all types, from large international NGOs to grassroots community associations. While this diversity of partner types is central to our strategy, we are working to increase

the funding that goes directly to IP, LC, and AD organizations. The proportion of pledge-aligned funding going to these organizations and networks over the past year was 24%, a modest improvement over the 17% we reported last year. We also started tracking the percentage of our funding that ultimately reaches IP, LC, and AD groups in ways they can influence and control, recognizing that many of our direct partners regrant funding. We estimate that at least half of our pledge-aligned funding ultimately reaches IPs and LCs. We hope these numbers will continue to increase.

Other steps to improve our pledge implementation can be found [here](#).

Examples of pledge-aligned support

The pledge encourages useful discussions on the barriers IP, LC, and AD organizations face in accessing donor funds and also elucidates donor constraints—administrative, financial, political, and cultural—in moving money to these organizations. These are serious challenges, but we think the growth of IP, LC, and AD-led funds can ameliorate some of them.

We are excited by the rapid development and early success of our partners’ funds. For example:

- The **Mesoamerican Territorial Fund** supports territorial governance and locally determined development across Mesoamerica. Building on initial investments totaling \$1 million, the fund launched its latest funding round in October 2023, providing around \$700,000 in direct funding to 16 IP and LC organizations, including four Indigenous women’s networks across Mesoamerica.

- › Indonesia's **Nusantara Fund**, a collaborative initiative of the **Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN)**, **Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA)**, and the **Indonesia Forum for the Environment (WALHI)** launched in August 2023. The fund has supported pilot projects in 30 locations, secured its legal registration, hired a management team, and raised an initial \$3 million. Its first call for proposals will open in November 2023.
- › Created by the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and Campaign for Nature, the **Community Land Rights and Conservation Finance Initiative (CLARIFI)** has injected more than \$5 million into 38 organizations and initiatives across 10 countries. Twenty-three projects in 13 new countries are under development.

We are committed to helping strengthen these and other efforts to channel funding to IP, LC, and AD organizations, networks, and communities. Beyond supporting individual community funds, we also seek to create spaces where these funds can learn from and support each other. Timed around the Nusantara Fund launch, our partner **Spring Strategies** organized a site visit and exchange with the Nusantara Fund and its analogues and allies in other regions, including the **Pawanka Fund**, **Shandia**, **Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund**, **ANYI Indigenous Women's Fund**, **Podaáli Fund**, **Babaçu Fund**, and the **International Land and Forest Tenure Facility**. In 2024, Spring will continue to provide mentorship to these groups and to other funds being developed across Latin America, Africa, and Asia.



Germany



German Development Cooperation, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV / BMWK)

Germany recognizes and actively promotes the key role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the conservation and sustainable management of forests, in restoring ecosystems, safeguarding our climate, and overall biodiversity preservation. Therefore, Germany is committed to strengthening the rights of IPs and LCs as essential custodians of the world's forests within the framework of bilateral and multilateral projects and initiatives.

Germany increased its commitment at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 (2022) and announced new funds amounting to around €85 million (\$89.5 million) for measures to support IPs and LCs. **These funds include:**

- › An increase to the World Bank trust fund “Enhancing Access to Benefits while Lowering Emissions (EnABLE)” to foster the inclusion of IPs, LCs, and other under resourced groups in climate finance
- › A new direct funding commitment for the “Community Land Rights and Conservation Finance Initiative (CLARIFI),” which aims to scale up the formalization of Indigenous People’s tenure rights and supports local communities’ nature conservation plans

Germany’s contribution of €40 million (BMUV)—about \$42 million—to the new **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)** has facilitated the Fund’s operationalization in 2023. Importantly,

20% of the GBFF’s overall budget is intended to benefit Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their conservation efforts. To implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), BMZ is funding the global project implemented by GIZ, **“Strengthening national implementation of global biodiversity targets,”** which supports partner countries like Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Namibia, Laos, and Madagascar so they can successfully implement their national biodiversity targets in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). One piece of funding focuses on strengthening the IPs’ and LCs’ participation in the update, adaptation, and implementation of NBSAPs.

German Development Cooperation follows a human rights-based approach. This approach helps raise awareness and supports rights-holders, such as IPs and LCs, to claim and realize their rights, while simultaneously supporting state institutions to fulfill their obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. This cooperation promotes constructive dialogue between IPs and LCs and state institutions in land and forest tenure reform processes. In 2022, BMZ committed to a feminist development policy. Its objectives include removing structural inequalities and discrimination against women, girls, and other historically excluded groups, including in conservation and resource management projects with IPs and LCs.

Germany’s financial and technical support for IPs and LCs and their organizations is systematically integrated into broader policy reform programs; these support partner governments who are implementing participatory and transparency processes to fulfill their duty towards IPs and LCs, in line with pledge objectives.

German Development Cooperation categorizes work as direct support for IPs and LCs when a project, a project component, or specific measures are explicitly designed for, actively involve, or clearly benefit IPs and LCs. This may include direct funding but is not limited to financial transfers.

Learn more here:

- › Global Project “**Strengthening national implementation of global biodiversity targets**”
- › **EnABLE Trust Fund**
- › **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund**
- › Websites of **BMZ**, **GIZ**, and **KfW**

Examples of pledge-aligned support

Living Lands Project, Brazil: Agenda 2030 - Contribution to Leave No One Behind

German cooperation for sustainable development is the first government donor to support the Network of Traditional Peoples and Communities (REDE PCTs), and its commitment to defend human rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. IPs and LCs in Brazil include 28 legally recognized segments including the Indigenous Peoples and Quilombola communities, rubber tappers, Babaçu nut breakers, and traditional fisherfolk, among others. Most groups have no visibility on the existing maps and suffer land and human rights violations.

The project’s main goal is to make visible the cultural diversity and environmental service of IPs and LCs and protect their land. It supports the georeferenced Platform for Traditional Territories. Created in 2019, this innovative, human rights-based tool helps IP and LC rights-holders and their representatives defend their rights.

The project has a tripartite governance structure, which consists of the Network of IPs and LCs (REDE PCTs), the public prosecutor’s office, and GIZ, which serves as the implementing agency. The structure guarantees consultation and active participation of IPs and LCs in project decisions.

All project activities are jointly executed with IP and LC representatives, who serve as moderators and experts and provide training and seminars to other IP and LC participants. Project activities train 26 leaders in 15 segments, supporting organizational development and the creation of an IP and LC-led multipliers network. Newly trained leaders can use the platform and disseminate their knowledge at the local level.

Training activities helped create a network of young IP and LC communicators; these 23 young IP and LC leaders of 19 segments. promote the platform across different communication channels like **Instagram**. The network has mobilized political support to include the demands of young PCTs in national public policy decision-making spaces.. The project further uses grants to channel financial resources directly to the IP and LC organizations at the local level. A partnership with the Center for Alternative Agriculture North of Minas (CAA/NM) enabled a €200,000 (\$210,500) grant to support the REDE PCTs to develop an effective organizational structure and technical and organizational capacity for digital literacy, security, database management, multiple-level trainings, and donor grants administration. This grant strengthened REDE PCTs’ capacity to meet financial and eligibility requirements for direct funding. The project supports dialogue to improve both the platform’s financial sustainability and to civil society’s engagement. By supporting the REDE PCTs in political dialogue, the project also helped create four national secretariats in different ministries; all deal with public policies focused on IPs and LCs.



Good Energies Foundation



Good Energies Foundation is a Swiss-based organization funding initiatives that work to reverse the impact of climate change in two key areas: (1) access to clean energy and (2) forest protection, restoration, and sustainable forest management.

Good Energies Foundation is part of Porticus, an international private organization founded in 1995 that advises and manages the philanthropic endeavors of the Brenninkmeijer family. Good Energies' forest program supports organizations that work in and/or are located in the Amazon Basin, Indonesia, and the Congo Basin. For us, the first people to benefit must be the local communities whose lives and economies depend on sustainable forests. We focus on forested or degraded lands where there are opportunities to work with local partners, including Indigenous and forest peoples; our goal is to create a bio-based economy, which builds sustainable economic activities at scale while simultaneously protecting forests.

Good Energies has identified three complementary action areas with significant opportunities to support the transition towards a bio-based economy: (1) recognizing the role of Indigenous and forest peoples as stewards of the forest and strengthening their rights (thereby also increasing social equity), (2) promoting economic development and jobs through zero deforestation supply chains and scaled-up community enterprises based on forest-positive products, and (3) improved forest monitoring with greater transparency and traceability to facilitate more effective law enforcement and government, company, and investor accountability. You can learn more [here](#).

Examples of pledge-aligned support

With the help of our partners, local and Indigenous peoples' community forestry has gained significant momentum in the DRC. To date, about 3,448,566 hectares of forests are under community management. As an example, see how [Strong Roots Congo](#) empowers local and Indigenous communities, providing knowledge, tools, and the opportunities to create sustainable ways of life while also supporting the long term preservation of Kahuzi-Biega National Park and Itombwe Nature Reserve.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation



A member of the Protecting Our Planet Challenge

The long-term vision of Moore's Andes-Amazon Initiative is to secure the Amazon basin's biological diversity and climate function in perpetuity. Our current initiative builds upon two decades of strategic grantmaking in the Amazon and seeks to close the gap between the area that is currently under some form of effective management—this includes protected areas, Indigenous lands, and other collectively held territories—and what is needed to avoid the Amazon's ecological tipping point. To do this, we support the effective management and conservation of the biome through multiple goals. These include securing territorial rights and governance in IP and LC-managed forest areas; improving protections and connectivity of Amazonian freshwater systems; mitigating the drivers of habitat change; and strengthening the institutional framework for the Amazon's enduring conservation.

Recognizing IPs and LCs' key role in Amazon conservation, the Andes-Amazon Initiative is expanding its work in Indigenous and local communities' lands; the goal is to advance the effective management and conservation of an additional 50 million hectares of collective lands by 2031 in collaboration with donors and partners. To achieve this ambitious goal, we support efforts to secure territorial rights, strengthen territorial governance, and advance sustainable territorial management. We engage diverse partners to co-design projects around shared goals

and strategies, including place-based efforts led by IP and LC representative organizations working in partnership with civil society organizations. We also work to advance policies and legal frameworks that support territorial rights, protection, and conservation. Our work is focused on the Amazon regions of Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia.

Examples of pledge-aligned support

Over the years, the Andes-Amazon Initiative has supported the consolidation of territorial governance and management regimes within Indigenous lands. Recent pledge-aligned funding efforts have continued this work and leveraged new political opportunities to strengthen the role of Indigenous authorities as environmental authorities. For example, since 2019, partners in Bolivia, including the Bolivian NGO Oré and the International Work Group of Indigenous Affairs, have supported the formalization of the newly formed Indigenous government of the Multiethnic Indigenous Territory (or TIM, Territorio Multiétnico Indígena), encompassing 674,000 hectares of the Bolivian Amazon. In March 2023, the Bolivian government formally recognized TIM; this recognition strengthens implementation of the territorial management agenda, securing key areas for biodiversity conservation in alignment with self-government principles. In the Colombian Amazon, the AAI has supported efforts led by Foundation Gaia Amazonas and four Indigenous councils to formalize and strengthen an integrated territorial governance model

in the Macroterritory of the Jaguares del Yurupari, a biologically and culturally diverse forest expanse encompassing more than 3 million hectares.

In both of the examples, pledge-aligned funding supports work to advance new policy opportunities that formally recognize Indigenous authorities' role in territorial management that also supports their autonomy. Further, these efforts demonstrate how different partnership models between Indigenous authorities and civil society organizations at local, national, and international scales contribute diverse sets of resources and expertise to advance territorial governance and conservation outcomes. For more information about the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation's Andes-Amazon Initiative, please visit [our website](#).



Hewlett Foundation



The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation's Climate and Energy Program supports efforts to mitigate climate change, with a focus on the biggest emitting countries, regions, and sectors. The foundation believes philanthropy can speed emissions reductions by supporting a mix of analysis, advocacy, communications, technical assistance, innovation, business sector engagement, public-private partnership, and building public support and will for policy change.

While our mitigation approach does include the forest, agriculture and land use sector, the foundation does not presently have programmatic priorities in support of IP and LC tenure and forest guardianship beyond the commitment made through the Glasgow Pledge, implementation of which has been in collaboration with the Packard Foundation and the Climate and Land Use Alliance. More than 50% of Hewlett funds aligned with this pledge will go to IP and LC organizations via regranteeing arrangements.

Examples of pledge-aligned support

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has contributed \$5 million in funds aligned with the pledge to support the advancement and defense of rights in the carbon markets context. This includes contribution to the innovative Kawari Fund, which was launched in April 2023 to support capacity building, stakeholder engagement, and legitimate dialogue between rights-holders and governments around carbon programs. In 2023, Kawari established its charter and an advisory council made up of

carbon programs and territorial rights experts, including three representatives from Indigenous and community networks. In October 2023 it announced its first call for letters of interest, inviting participation from 28 jurisdictions around the world that have made progress towards jurisdictional programs.

The Kawari Fund is filling a critical gap and providing needed investment in decision-making processes. It was built as a regrantee to raise new resources and to channel and deploy philanthropic and corporate investment from actors interested in supporting high integrity processes, without risking undue influence or appearance of conflict of interest. Kawari will convene private actors, governments, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities to level the forest carbon negotiation playing field and achieve shared agendas and agreements that uphold forest stewards' procedural and territorial rights around the world.

Netherlands

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The starting point of our national and international policy on forests is sustainable forest management through an integrated approach that gives equal attention to ecological, economic, and social aspects. Forest ecosystems and the varying services they provide to different people and at different scales should be comprehensively examined. There are 1.5 billion people whose existence is tied in some way to forests; some 250 million of them, primarily Indigenous Peoples and local communities, are heavily dependent on forests. At the same time, IPs and LCs can play a vital role in countering the negative effects of deforestation, forest degradation, climate change and in conserving forest biodiversity.

The Netherlands sees the formal recognition of IPs' and LCs' rights to forest territories—and their role in decision-making processes concerning forest resources— as crucial to halting deforestation and achieving sustainable forest management. The Netherlands' commitment to the pledge to advance IP and LC Forest Tenure rights demonstrates this recognition and the valuable opportunities rights recognition also offers to adapt to climate change. Through the pledge, the Netherlands has committed €60 million (roughly \$63M) of financing for the 2021–2025 period to support the advancement of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' forest tenure rights and greater recognition and rewards for their role as guardians of forests and nature. In 2022, as part of our international policy on forests, the Netherlands contributed €10,074,489 (\$10,604,725) to activities which aim to strengthen and build the capacity of IP and LC groups to protect

their rights and manage natural resources sustainably. The pledge offers us a collective basis for cooperation and action to further advance IP and LC tenure rights and monitor impact in the coming years.

Examples of pledge-aligned support

The Netherlands pays increasing attention to the significant role that IP and LC tenure and forest management play in protecting both the world's forests and the livelihoods of forest people. The Netherlands is, for example, a major donor to the recently established Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management Multi-Donor Fund (MDTF) under the Inter-American Development Bank's Amazon Initiative. MDTF includes a specific target that a minimum of 25% of its resources (corresponding to the approximately 23% of land in the Amazon biome that is managed by IPs and LCs) goes to directly support IP and LC organizations and benefit IP and LC communities.

We recognize that very little IP and LC funding directly benefits IPs and LCs. In response, the Netherlands focuses on funding specific programmes where a substantial share of funding is either transferred to IP and LC groups and/ or to intermediaries building their capacity. For instance, the NGOs which implement the Netherlands-funded Forest for a Just Future programme channel the majority of their budget to local CSO partners in the respective countries and at the regional level. These partners either directly represent IP and LC target groups or have thorough knowledge, local project experience and regular contact with target groups.



Nia Tero



A member of the Protecting Our Planet Challenge

Established in 2017, Nia Tero is driven by a mission to work in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples who sustain thriving territories and cultures to strengthen guardianship of Earth and all beings. In pursuit of our mission, we nurture authentic, trust-based partnerships with Indigenous Peoples that support their collective territory guardianship over the short, medium, and long term in Amazonia, the Southwest Pacific, North America, and through the [Wayfinders Circle](#).

To achieve this, we provide direct funding to Indigenous Peoples' organizations and networks and the trusted allies they identify. Funding is used to implement efforts Indigenous people identify as critical to maintaining strong territories and cultures. Furthermore, we contribute to expanding the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' guardianship by increasing the access and influence of our Indigenous partners within the realms of funders, governments, and non-governmental organizations. We facilitate this by providing funding for policy initiatives, storytelling, and communication endeavors that align with our Indigenous partners' priority objectives.

Our dedicated team comprises Indigenous and non-Indigenous members located across Amazonia, the Pacific Islands, Asia, and North America, with a significant presence in our home office in Seattle. We collectively speak various languages, including English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and various Indigenous languages. The majority of our diverse board of directors is Indigenous, providing vital guidance, insight, oversight, and direction

for our organizational strategy. Additionally, our global Indigenous advisory council offers valuable non-fiduciary guidance and wisdom. We also appreciate our regional advisors and partners, who provide local insight and knowledge to inform our work.

In 2022, Nia Tero awarded \$29.3 million in grants, which included multi-year grants benefiting 117 organizations. These organizations collectively support the well-being of 271 Indigenous Peoples across the globe. Nia Tero's approach involves the direct funding of Indigenous Peoples. Notably, 92% of our grants were allocated to Indigenous organizations, their fiscal sponsors, or trusted allies whom our Indigenous partners chose to oversee and manage the funds. The remaining 8% was allocated to organizations that provide support for Indigenous-led initiatives.

Examples of pledge-aligned support

We provide vital financial support to Indigenous Peoples' organizations at the international, national, and local levels.

International Level: Our funding facilitates training and active participation of Indigenous Peoples so they can participate at significant global environmental and human rights conferences, notably those related to the United Nations Conventions on Biological Diversity, Climate Change, and Human Rights. These efforts have enhanced Indigenous presence and influence in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework negotiations, which now incorporates crucial elements for recognizing and respecting Indigenous Peoples' rights. The objective is to introduce safeguards in the post-2023 Global Biodiversity Framework to prevent Indigenous Peoples' displacement in the name of conservation.

National Level: Our support extends to policy initiatives and legal actions to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' rights. Key examples include grants to VIDS in Suriname to advance the Indigenous Peoples and Maroon collective rights bill; support for Indigenous lawyers in Brazil; and funding to CELCOR in Papua New Guinea to combat mining and logging expansion.

Local Level: We back Indigenous Peoples' organizations initiatives to preserve lands and cultures. Notable contributions include:

- › We extend funding to the Mulokot Foundation, an organization of the Wayana People, to realize their vision for the future, which encompasses enhancing food security, educational opportunities, governance, and mapping and monitoring customary land.
- › We support APITIKATXI and APIWA efforts to implement management plans in the Parque do Tumucumaque and Rio Paru d'Este Indigenous lands, via financial support to lepé, the trusted ally identified by the region's Indigenous Peoples. We are supporting the design of Pakará, an Indigenous-led fund that will support the implementation of management and territorial protection plans. In partnership with the German government, our funding ensures 15 years of protection for the Tumucumaque Indigenous land and a broader mosaic of protected areas.
- › Solomon Islands: We support the implementation of the Sky Islands Pledge by MMGB and Mala I Tolo Trust in Malaita. This involves supporting educational efforts that connect youth with their sacred areas and monitoring the extractive industry's impact on the Sky Islands.
- › Papua New Guinea: Our funding supports the "Save the Sepik" campaign for the Sepik River region's Indigenous Peoples, allowing them to respond to threats from the Frieda River Mine.
- › We are committed to storytelling and support Indigenous creatives through grants, contracts, and podcast creation that provide a narrative-sharing platform. Below are links to stories associated with the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge.



Short Films and SeedCast Episodes:

- › **"Sky Aelands"** by Nia Tero. 2020. The captivating world of Sky Islands in the Solomon Islands.
- › **"Reforestation Our Minds"** by Nia Tero. 2023. An overview of Indigenous Peoples' messages and presence at the 22nd UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
- › **"Māri Hi - The Tree of Dream"** directed by Yanomami filmmaker Morzaniel ramari. 2023. Produced at Aruac Filmes with co-production by Hutukara Associação Yanomami and associate production by Gata Maior Filmes.
- › **"Indigenous Peoples Hold the Planet: A Conversation with Nara Baré."** Nara's story is a testament to empowerment through knowledge. She shares her educational journey, which includes how participation in student protests prepared her to make a difference.
- › **"The Omen Birds of Sungai Utik"** In this episode, 18-year-old Kynan Tegar, a Dayak Iban filmmaker from Sungai Utik, offers a glimpse into his upcoming film, sharing poignant excerpts and insights.

For more information about Nia Tero, please visit our website at www.niatero.org or connect with us on Instagram (@niatero) and Facebook (Nia Tero).

Norway



Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative, Ministry of Climate and Environment

Since 2008, NICFI's key funding priorities have been securing the land rights and forest guardianship role of Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities. We directly fund Indigenous Peoples organizations (IPOs); intermediaries such as the **Rainforest Foundation Norway**, which promotes land rights, territorial management, and capacity to manage Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds; and **rights based participation in REDD+** and **forest carbon markets**. This has mostly happened through a **Norad climate and forest funding scheme**.

In addition, we support specialized programmes such as the Indigenous Peoples Programme in Brazil and the **Tenure Facility**, which provides direct funding as well as capacity building/direct support to IP and LC organizations. Also, most of NICFI's **bilateral** or **multilateral partnerships** include substantial components to support **capacity building** for land rights and IPs and LCs forest guardianship roles. **Lessons learned** inform our work in **nature** and **climate** talks, as well as future **funding priorities**.

The **Glasgow forest and tenure pledge** and **associated partnerships** represent continuity for NICFI and a welcome broadening and formalization of the funding base to include more bilateral donors and philanthropies united under a common approach. With regard to new 2022 commitments, Norway committed to **another phase of funding to the Tenure Facility**. Norway also provides in-kind support in the form of staff time to the **Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership** action area on IP and LC

initiatives from 2022 through 2025. Although it is not a financing initiative, the FCLP is already proving to be the key forum for increasing ambition, political attention, and government ownership of land use and tenure reform.

Direct funding may be a good option for IP and LC organizations with the necessary fiduciary and organizational capacity to manage ODA funds; the **territorial funding mechanisms** that have emerged in recent years are another option. However, we see intermediary organizations like the RFN and the TF playing a continued role to directly support IP and LC organizations, relieving them of the organizational investment necessary to directly qualify, manage, and report to bilateral donor funding agencies. In this way, IP and LC organizations can focus on their core mission to represent their constituencies, advocate for rights, and manage territories according to traditional knowledge and spiritual connection to the land, rather than OECD/DAC rules, nomenclature, and terminology.

Examples of pledge-aligned funding

Sustained efforts through bilateral, **multilateral**, and civil society partnerships have resulted in great progress and the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives into the Democratic Republic of Congo's **land management** and environmental policies. For example, Norway's support for Congolese civil society and Indigenous Peoples through **Rainforest Foundation Norway** helped promulgate the **2022 Pygmy Indigenous Peoples Rights law**, which supports inclusive land management and tenure rights. Following DRC's vote of support for **UNDRIP** in 2007, Congolese civil society began advocating for its provisions to be implemented.

In the following years, CSO networks created numerous platforms to convene thematic working groups, task forces, and parliamentary groups committed to adopting a new national law on the rights of Congolese Pygmy IPs (PIPs).

Consultations were integral to the process. For instance, in 2011, the Head of State and the Indigenous Pygmy customary chiefs discussed policy reforms; these led to the government directing the Ministry of Sustainable Development (MEDD) to further include PIP rights claims in ongoing land and environmental policy processes. Consultations between PIPs and parliamentarians from 2013 to 2014 resulted in a consolidated draft of the law, which was also translated into local languages and vetted by communities before being transmitted to Parliament.

Advocacy efforts helped eliminate detrimental policies and practices that excluded PIPs from governance processes at the provincial and local levels. The work also resulted in the drafting of several provincial edicts, including one on the province of Mai-Ndombe, which was adopted in 2018.

Another key factor for the successful advocacy efforts was securing access for civil society at legislative body processes. Pygmy IP representatives provided powerful personal testimony at parliamentary committee deliberations at the National Assembly and Senate. They convinced skeptics that there was a need for new legislation that recognizes PIPs as a socially disadvantaged group and includes protection for their rights.

Finally, including specific Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) language into the adopted law has allowed the incorporation of this key principle into national policy documents; this is also relevant in the context of discussions about extractive industry development.



Sobrato Philanthropies



Sobrato Philanthropies is part of The Sobrato Organization, a multi-generational, family-owned firm that has played a dynamic role in the emergence and growth of Silicon Valley for nearly 70 years. The Sobrato Philanthropies' mission is to partner with communities to meet immediate needs, address systemic barriers, and pursue social justice to build a more equitable and sustainable world. In 2021, climate change became an explicit focus of Sobrato Philanthropies' grantmaking. As the family looked to bridge climate mitigation with its longstanding commitment to equity and social justice, funding for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP and LC) tenure and anti-deforestation became a priority focus area for giving. Seeking to spur immediate change and take advantage of near-term opportunities, Sobrato Philanthropies has focused its IP and LC grantmaking in Indonesia, Colombia, and Peru. To date, Sobrato Philanthropies has disbursed nearly \$10 million to eight grantees working closely with Indigenous, Afro-descendent, and local partners across all three countries.

This pledge has helped connect the foundation's lean grantmaking team to impactful organizations working on the ground in Indonesia, Colombia, and Peru, as well as with tenured specialists in this field, many of whom had critical input in the development of Sobrato Philanthropies' initial strategy.

Examples of pledge-aligned support

At least two of Sobrato Philanthropies' grantees, Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN) and Nia Tero, are advancing Indigenous Territorial Entities (ITEs), an innovative approach to IP land tenure in Colombia. This work has produced great success: In 2018, Colombia passed Decree 632 and became the first country to legally enable Indigenous communities to create ITEs, which function as an administrative unit similar to a municipality.

ITEs enable Indigenous communities to manage their land and fully govern themselves while receiving national government funding. RFN is partnering with another organization, Etnollano, to work with 21 communities in the Department of Guainía to convert Indigenous territory into a fully recognized ITE. Nia Tero is partnering with the national Indigenous organization OPIAC to work with the Indigenous territory of Papunagua, part of the Gran Resguardo Indígena del Vaupes and another Indigenous territory, which will be selected later. Both projects take advantage of political tailwinds with the current Colombian presidency and have a high likelihood of success. The ITE model has the potential to create ripple effects across the Amazon and with Indigenous communities globally.

To learn more about Sobrato Philanthropies please visit [our website](#).

United Kingdom



The UK Government is proud to support the pledge through UK-funded programmes that advance forest tenure rights and through our advocacy and partnerships with wider stakeholders, including other governments and donors, organizations led by IPs and LCs, and civil society organizations (CSOs). The pledge has made the UK Government more aware that IPs and LCs are invaluable guardians of forests, nature, and biodiversity, challenging us to find new ways of partnering with IP and LC-led organizations. The Pledge has also influenced our priorities, resulting in new programmes to strengthen forest governance. An important part of our work is with partner governments to support systemic changes to land and forest tenure laws and administration systems; this complements our work with local communities.

The Pledge has also highlighted the need for greater accountability on how we channel support to IPs and LCs more effectively. The UK's pledge commitment is **Official Development Assistance** and part of the UK's climate finance. Project management costs and due diligence and risk management requirements to spend public money can constrain our ability to provide direct funding to local communities at scale. To effectively fund multiple IP and LC organizations and meet our reporting, risk, and accountability requirements, we work through intermediary organizations. These intermediaries can manage multiple grants on our behalf, while reducing administrative and reporting burdens for IP and LC organizations. They can also provide technical support to partners and work with organizations at different development stages. We are mindful that the intermediaries we work with need to be trusted by IPs and LCs and

accountable for how funding and technical support reach communities. Intermediary organizations need to give greater control to IPs and LCs on how funds are spent and work proactively to make funds more accessible to communities.

Examples of pledge-aligned funding

As part of our 2023 pledge commitment, we announced new partnerships with the **Tenure Facility** and **Cadasta**, who provide direct grants to IP and LC led-organizations. In Indonesia, for example, Tenure Facility funds an Agrarian Reform Consortium (KPA) project to incorporate community land into government conflict resolution and land distribution mechanisms; this titles 50,000 hectares while strengthening collective governance in ten agrarian reform villages, including participation of women and youth.

Alongside other donors, we are building direct dialogue with IP and LC leaders and representative organizations like the **Global Alliance of Territorial Communities**. This deepens our understanding of challenges faced by communities and illuminates how we can proactively collaborate with IP and LC stakeholders.

In addition to supporting IP- and LC-led organizations, the UK also supports partner organizations on national and regional level projects that drive development and implementation of sustainable land and forest governance reforms. This can include ensuring there is recognition of land and forest rights in new laws and that reform processes include communities. For example, through the **ALIGN** responsible land-based investment project, we were proud to support **Namati's** work, which facilitated Sierra Leone's **groundbreaking new laws** on customary land rights.

For the first time, local communities' rights are recognised; this includes Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) over projects on their land, a ban on industrial development (including mining, timber, and agribusiness in old-growth forests and other ecologically sensitive areas), and a requirement to establish local decision-making land use management committees—with a mandate that committees contain at least 30% women.

Even where IP and LC tenure are legally recognised, ongoing support is critical to ensure these rights are respected in practice—in ways that are sustainable and inclusive. As the new land acts are implemented in Sierra Leone, our support for ALIGN allows effective collaboration with relevant ministries, paramount chiefs, landowners, and lawyers. For example, ALIGN has worked with paralegals to ensure that the new reforms provisions like lease negotiations are incorporated into grassroots level work with communities. This helped address a pollution problem affecting over 2,000 people in the north, pushed for the participatory mapping of a concession area in the east, and helped communities in the south obtain compensation for crops destroyed by a company.

We believe that support for developing and implementing national legal reforms that recognise and enforce the IP and LC tenure rights is critical to realizing the pledge's ambitions. When tenure rights are secured, support must continue so IP and LC organizations can participate in processes and exercise these rights. Through the pledge, we would like to increase our collaboration with other donors and wider stakeholders so that different levels of support are better coordinated. We will continue to explore government partnerships to advance forest tenure security through programming and initiatives such as the [Forest Climate Leaders Partnership](#).



United States



United States Agency for International Development

USAID believes that development requires enabling inclusive, sustainable growth; promoting free, peaceful, and self-reliant societies with effective, legitimate governments; and building human capital and creating social safety nets that reach the poorest and most vulnerable. Across USAID, we are advancing equity and inclusion within our own workforce, in the policies that guide our work, and the programming that we develop and implement.

As an Agency, we are transforming the way we partner and do development by creating spaces for Indigenous voices, experiences, knowledge, and ideas and tailoring our programming to respond to their needs and priorities. Our partnerships with Indigenous Peoples organizations and communities are emblematic of this commitment. In 2020, for example, USAID launched the **Policy on Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (PRO-IP)**, which set a new standard for our engagement and partnership with Indigenous Peoples. It also laid the groundwork for improving the measurable impact and sustainability of USAID's programs by ensuring that Agency staff and implementing partners engage Indigenous Peoples as equal partners in development processes. The policy safeguards against harm and enhances Indigenous Peoples' ability to protect their rights, determine their own priorities, and advance their self-determined development. A critical component of this policy is its emphasis on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

The policy also guides USAID's work by strengthening our engagement and consultation with Indigenous Peoples, which sets the stage for us to build and sustain partnerships to co-create joint development activities. These co-creation processes convene stakeholders to produce a mutually valued outcome, using participatory processes built on shared power and decision-making. The recently published learning document, **"Co-creation with Indigenous Partners,"** documents the Agency's work to ensure that Indigenous voices are included in development planning.

USAID's reform efforts, including those described above, give USAID the tools to engage Indigenous Peoples in all aspects of the development process. USAID believes that Indigenous Peoples' contributions to address broader global challenges, such as climate change, are key. The Agency supports Indigenous communities as leaders instead of beneficiaries, with the capacity to develop and implement their own climate-smart solutions. An example of these efforts is USAID's recent support, "Advancing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Democratic Republic of Congo." Through the New Partnership Initiative, USAID engaged in a series of workshops with groups of women, men, and youth from the Batwa and Bantu communities.

Examples of pledge-aligned funding

After Liberia passed its 2018 **Land Rights Act** IPs and LCs could, for the first time, formally own the land and resources they manage in accordance with customary practices and norms. Successive USAID projects have partnered with IPs and LCs to implement the Land Rights Act by establishing participatory, inclusive governance bodies at the clan or village level, harmonizing community boundaries, and establishing bylaws and land use plans for sustainable natural resource management. These include:

- › **Land Governance Support Activity**, which supports the establishment of more effective land governance systems and comprehensive reforms to improve equitable access to land and tenure security; this facilitates inclusive sustained growth and development, ensures peace and security, and provides sustainable management of the environment
- › **Land Management Activity**, which is designed to support Liberian communities in obtaining deeds to their customary land and to improve the use of customary land for sustainable, equitable economic benefit
- › **Integrated Land and Resource Governance Activity** is a program which provides support to improve land and resource governance, strengthen property rights, and build resilient livelihoods across the globe, including significant activities in Liberia. USAID's Integrated Land and Resource Governance (ILRG) services have been used to support a number of U.S. government strategic foreign assistance initiatives, including democracy and rule of law; gender equality and women's empowerment; Feed the Future; conflict mitigation and management; economic growth; biodiversity and natural resource management; and global climate change.

Since 2016, USAID has been funding rigorous, counterfactual monitoring and evaluation for these interventions, consistent with an **implementation science** approach. Endline data collection in 2022 shows that these interventions have had significant positive impacts on collective action levels, trust, and community empowerment while "qualitative findings plausibly demonstrate how achievements in these areas have laid the foundations for improvements in tenure security, land conflict, and natural resource management outcomes." (Persha 2023).



Wellspring Philanthropic Fund



Wellspring Philanthropic Fund's

Women's Rights strategy on Natural Resource Rights provides support to a key segment of organizations working at the intersection of collective land and forests and Indigenous women's rights to access and govern land. In 2022, Wellspring's Women's Rights program (WRP) continued to support Indigenous and pastoralist women's natural resource rights in East Africa and Latin America, focusing on three priority areas: advancing the individual and collective rights of Indigenous and pastoralist women to access, use, and control land and forests; reshaping power in land governance at the community level; and supporting the voices and representation of Indigenous and pastoralist women in various decision-making fora related to land sustainability, climate, and natural resources.

Over the past year, access to land rights and natural resources for Indigenous and pastoralist communities has been critically impacted by the acceleration of the climate crisis, conservation-related forced displacement, and food insecurity caused by the war in Ukraine. In this context, we shifted our grantmaking approach to provide direct support to organizations led by Indigenous leaders, especially Indigenous women and girls. We also supported organizations and networks working to achieve Indigenous and local communities' legal empowerment to access and control land and to support effective participation in decision-making spaces. This includes providing direct support to Indigenous women's organizations in Latin America and East Africa.

The pledge's commitment to advance the "effective participation and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making [...] recognizing the specific interests of women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities, and others often marginalized from decision-making" aligns with and inspires the direction of our programmatic strategy. FTFG members are increasingly fostering collaboration, alignment, and learning. Wellspring aims to work more closely with funder members advancing Indigenous women's rights to collective land and forest tenure. In 2022, Wellspring supported a new initiative, the **Funder Learning Community on Women and the Environment**, a peer-led group of funders interested in increasing resources to advance environmental and gender justice issues.

Examples of pledge-aligned funding

In 2022, we prioritized support to organizations and networks working to advance Indigenous and local women's rights, resourcing them to elevate their participation in land and forest governance and decision-making spaces. Globally, our partners significantly advanced the normative recognition and visibility of Indigenous communities in climate forums and forest and land tenure decision-making. For example, they were part of the debates and overall process that led to the adoption of CEDAW's General Recommendation 39 on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls. This powerful instrument outlines specific recommendations for countries to confront the intersectional discriminations facing Indigenous women, affirming the need for a holistic understanding of their individual and collective rights, including their rights to land and natural resources. Similarly, the Convention on

Biodiversity approved a provision (Target 23) on gender and women and girls' rights and participation and adopted a new Gender Plan of Action, which requires gender-responsive indicators at the national and local levels. Indigenous women leaders and others advancing the rights of forest peoples played a critical role in achieving this outcome.

New initiatives to mobilize resources and increase direct support for Indigenous and Afro-descendent women in the Global South were supported and organized by key global partner networks working on land and forest rights.

The **Women in Global South Alliance for Tenure and Climate** network was officially launched at COP27. This collective is advocating for governments and donors to increase and ensure direct climate financing for IP women and their self-determined priorities.

Wellspring continues to support grassroots and national organizations working for IP and LC communities' legal protection, especially in Tanzania and Kenya. In June 2022, security forces acted without due process and violently **removed the Maasai community from their ancestral lands** in Northern Tanzania's Ngorongoro district. These devastating events, which left 70,000 Maasai people without access to grazing lands, occurred after the Tanzanian government revealed plans to lease the land to a foreign company for trophy hunting and elite tourism. Pastoralist women leaders from Maasai communities have become key stakeholders in the efforts to protect these communities, enduring harassment and violence. It is essential to pay continuous attention to and provide enhanced support as Maasai communities contend with this humanitarian crisis.

As the Sustainable Development Goals reach the midpoint, only 125 targets are on track. Goal 5 to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls will not be fulfilled by 2030, and countries are behind in achieving Goal 8 targets and 12 indicators related to land rights. In response, our grantmaking will continue to strengthen Indigenous women's voices and participation in land governance, protecting their individual and collective rights and ensuring IP-led solutions to govern land and forest and mitigate climate impacts.

