



Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendants, & Local Communities

Ensuring Rights Recognition, Tenure Security, and Forest Stewardship

Photo: Priscila Tapajowara / Mídia Indígena



Forests, People, Climate (FPC) is a collaborative of philanthropic funders, civil society, and community-based organizations seeking to halt and reverse tropical deforestation while supporting just, sustainable development. We focus on equitable and enduring solutions that safeguard tropical forests and support those stewarding them, in particular, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and Local Communities, and in tropical forest countries. For more information, please contact us at info@forestspeopleclimate.org

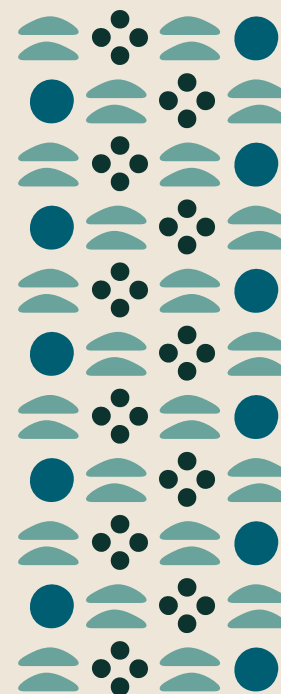
Why IP, AD, & LC Tenure Rights and Stewardship?

Ensuring Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and Local Communities (IP, AD, & LC) rights are recognized, tenure is secure, and these communities have the resources they need to manage their forests and lands is fundamental to equity and justice. IP, AD, & LC management of their lands is also among the most effective ways to protect tropical forests as part of broader rights-based climate solutions – and this can be even further strengthened with additional support for their efforts.

The evidence of the importance of IP, AD, & LC stewardship in climate action is clear: when the rights of IP, AD, & LC are recognized, secured, and protected, rates of deforestation tend to be lower and carbon stocks tend to be higher than in forests managed by other actors.

Forest communities are systematically exposed to numerous threats and a lack of support when defending against the many external pressures impacting their efforts to safeguard their lands, which are critical for a climate-resilient future. Agricultural expansion, mining, fossil fuel development, and financial speculation drive deforestation and rights violations worldwide. Overlapping and contested land claims consistently contribute to deforestation and conflict.

IP, AD, & LC must be at the center of any effective climate change solution. Forests, People, Climate (FPC) helps support efforts to secure IP, AD, & LC's direct access to climate finance, supports areas they identify as under funded and needing resources, and supports IP, AD, & LC engagement in platforms of dialogues, among other initiatives.



Our Goal

Support IP, AD, & LC in securing recognition for their land, territories, and resource rights in tropical forest landscapes by 2030.

IP, AD, & LC-led forest stewardship can be strengthened through support for strong territorial governance and self-determined economic development. Together, these efforts result in justice and livelihood outcomes as well as durable reductions in emissions from deforestation, enhanced forest stocks, and improved biodiversity protection.

For rights-based forest climate action through forest stewardship in tropical countries to succeed, IP, AD, & LC must have the resources they need to ensure their land rights and their governance over their territories and forests are recognized and secured; and to participate in setting the priorities for adequate access to new long-term financial mechanisms for direct funding for their efforts.

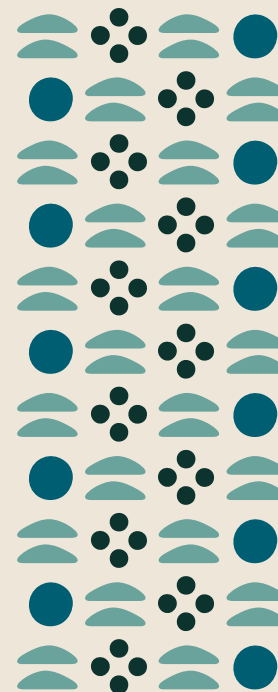


Photo: Kynan Tegar

Focus Areas

FPC focuses on four interconnected areas to amplify the leading role of IP, AD, & LC forest stewardship in tropical countries and to support their self-determined development. These focus areas include:

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| 01. | Human Rights-Based Solutions | Support holistic and human rights-based climate change solutions by building narratives, protecting land and environment defenders, and equally securing the welfare of women, youth, and marginalized communities. |
| 02. | Land Tenure Rights | Secure the recognition and enforcement of tenure rights by supporting policy implementation, community-led monitoring, and other activities. |
| 03. | Sustainable IP, AD, & LC-Led Forest Stewardship | Support strong IP, AD, & LC-led local governance and decision-making systems, ensuring representation and participation and resilient organizations, and self-determined use of resources for activities that contribute to the visions IP, AD, & LC have for territorial development. |
| 04. | Direct Financial Support | Remove financial barriers and build mechanisms for direct financial support of IP, AD, & LC communities, including via community-led funds, to scale up equitable financial support for their self-determined priorities and needs. |

Further Information

FPC's strategic priorities for supporting IP, AD, & LC include a holistic and inclusive approach that recognizes the principle of self-determination. This overview draws on a longer strategy that was developed through a participatory process with representatives from IP, AD, & LC organizations and networks in tropical forest countries.

About FPC Strategies

FPC has nine strategies – three regional strategies in the Brazilian Amazon, Congo Basin, and Indonesia, and six cross-cutting thematic strategies: Enabling Conditions, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendants, & Local Communities (IP, AD, & LC), Supply Chains, Strategic Communications, Private Finance, and Carbon Markets Integrity.

The primary purpose of the FPC strategies is to provide a roadmap for grantmaking, action, monitoring progress, and learning. The strategies are also a tool to align a number of actors around strategic goals, whether it's where FPC focuses implementation or funding. These are 'living strategies' that FPC intends to iteratively update to respond to changing contexts.

