

Forests, Indigenous Governance, and Climate

This program, a component of Forest Trends' NICFI-funded initiative entitled "Advancing Global Forest Governance," enables greater control by indigenous groups over resources intended for territorial control and governance in five countries of the Amazon basin: Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Guyana.



Rationale: Indigenous territories account for approximately 33% of the carbon stocks in the Amazon region¹ - in large measure because indigenous peoples have historically been good forest stewards. Where deforestation pressures are high, their territories are frequently among the only remaining areas of protected forests.

However, only 11% of international REDD funding commitments target support for indigenous peoples, and 0.4% is actually managed by indigenous organizations.²

Strategy: Efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation will be more effective if the people who are responsible for territorial management and control have more direct control over REDD resources. The project will support the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) to build technical and governance capacity within indigenous institutions to obtain and manage climate finance in order to fulfil their community Life Plans. Successful implementation will, in turn, facilitate advocacy for pro-indigenous forest policy as well as improved forest governance in political, economic, and cultural terms.



EXPECTED RESULTS: The training, improved administrative and financial management skills, and networking enabled by this project are expected to generate successful proposals leading to at least US\$20 million in new funding commitments through indigenous funding channels such as the proposed Indigenous Fund for the Amazon. With support to improve indigenous livelihoods and territorial governance, indigenous peoples can more effectively help to slow or even reverse deforestation.

PARTNERS: Forest Trends, the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), Environmental Defense Fund, and World Wildlife Fund



Supported by



¹ Wayne Walker et al, "Forest Carbon in Amazonia: The Unrecognized Contribution of Indigenous Territories and Protected Natural Areas," Carbon Management, 2014

² Sources: EDF and REDDX (www.reddx.forest-trends.org), based on data from 32 REDD finance transactions funded by international governments in Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia between 2009 and 2013.