

Forests, Indigenous Governance, and Climate

This program, a component of Forest Trends' NICFI-funded initiative entitled "Advancing Global Forest Governance: Defending the Living Amazon for Humanity" 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.



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 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.

The program has three essential sub-components:

- 1) Support for the development of culturally appropriate proposals from indigenous territories and national organizations within the five target countries, as well as engagement with multilateral, bilateral and private funding organizations.
- 2) A governance training program, drawing on local and national expertise to develop territorial life plans that express the cultural identity, priorities, aspirations, and self-governance of their indigenous community authors.
- 3) Financial and administrative training.



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



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