

A photograph of a person standing in a dense forest, looking up at the trees. The person is wearing a dark shirt and shorts. The forest is filled with tall trees and thick foliage. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

FOREST TENURE FUNDERS GROUP



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Opening Statement



FOREWORD FROM LORD GOLDSMITH ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AS FUNDERS GROUP CHAIR 2022

The announcement of the **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Forest Tenure Pledge** at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference was a historic moment. This commitment of \$1.7 billion from 22 bilateral and philanthropic donors is a recognition that greater support is needed for the vital role of forest communities in mitigating climate change, protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, and preventing deforestation.

One year on from the Pledge announcement, this first report from the Forest Tenure Funders Group provides an overview of donor progress in 2021.

The report describes how donors are working together, in dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and local community-led organisations. Through the Pledge commitments, donors will continue to develop these partnerships to tackle shared challenges, and address the bigger changes required to increase funding to organisations led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The UK was proud to be Chair of the Funders Group during 2022 and I want to thank all Pledge donors for their support in taking this forward. As part of our work on climate and nature, the UK

will continue to work with others to deliver Pledge ambitions through to 2025 and beyond.

This Pledge is an important start and I hope it will be a stepping stone to secure more ambitious commitments from governments, donors and other stakeholders to ensure that the communities who depend on forests and nature, who are the most effective guardians of forests and nature, are properly recognised and supported.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lord Goldsmith'.

Rt Hon **Lord Goldsmith** of Richmond Park,
Minister of State and the Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office (**FCDO**)



01

Introduction

WHY ADVANCING SECURE FOREST TENURE RIGHTS IS CRITICAL

Approximately 1.6 billion people live near forests and depend on forest resources for their livelihoods, and an estimated 36% of the world's remaining intact forests are on Indigenous Peoples' lands¹. However, despite the important role Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs)² play in protecting forests and nature, only a small proportion of these communities hold secure rights to own, manage, and control their land and resources. Furthermore, these communities receive only a tiny fraction of climate finance: a recent report estimated that projects supporting IPs' and LCs' tenure and forest management received less than 1% of Official Development Assistance for climate change mitigation and adaptation between 2011 and 2020³.

1. Julia Fa et al., "Importance of Indigenous Peoples' Lands for the Conservation of Intact Forest Landscapes," *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 18 no. 3 (April 2020): 135-140. <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/fee.2148>

2. IPs and LCs are defined in this report as communities that identify as 'Indigenous' (as per ILO169), as well as other local communities that do not self-identify as Indigenous, but share similar characteristics or are also critical to the sustainable management of land, including high carbon forests and biodiversity hotspots. The Pledge includes Afro-descendant communities within this definition.

3. Rainforest Foundation Norway, *Falling Short: Donor Funding for IP and LC to Secure Tenure Rights and Manage Forests in Tropical Countries (2011-2020)*, Oslo: Rainforest Foundation Norway; 2021. <https://www.regnskog.no/en/news/falling-short>

THE COP26 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOREST TENURE PLEDGE

At the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, 22 funders, including governments and private philanthropic organisations, announced the **\$1.7 billion Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge** in support of advancing IPs' and LCs' forest tenure rights.



Increasing direct support to IPs and LCs, including for *capacity building*, and developing collective governance structures and sustainable livelihoods; and



Activities that strengthen and protect IPs' and LCs' land and resource rights, including support for ***forest tenure reforms and implementation***.

The Pledge is a commitment to **mobilize greater and more effective donor support for forest communities** in tropical forest countries. It responds to long-standing demands from IPs and LCs and civil society for increased climate finance to support IPs' and LCs' critical role as guardians of forests and nature. It is also a recognition that IPs and LCs face many difficulties accessing this finance, only a small fraction of which reaches communities directly. Through the Pledge, donors are demonstrating a longer-term ambition to achieve better coordination of bilateral, multilateral, private, and civil society action, and build political support and capacity for action by governments. The Pledge also emphasises the importance of **effective participation and inclusion of IPs and LCs** in decision-making and programme design and implementation.

The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge is linked to the overarching [COP26 Global Forest Finance Pledge](#). It is also linked to the [Congo Basin Pledge](#). All three pledges have a shared focus of protecting forests and recognising the importance of IPs and LCs as forest guardians.

HOW PLEDGE FUNDS ARE SPENT

The \$1.7bn IPs and LCs Forest Tenure Pledge is **not a new fund** and there is no central allocation mechanism. Individual donors decide how to allocate and spend their contributions to the Pledge and how they implement other Pledge commitments. The Pledge is made up of **both allocated and unallocated funding**. This means some donors have already allocated funding that was pledged to existing projects or delivery channels, including via open calls for proposals that predate the Pledge. So, only a part of the \$1.7bn will be spent on new initiatives, but, in some cases, there may be opportunities to scale-up direct support for IPs and LCs within existing projects. This **shift in donor funding practices** is a core ambition of the Pledge between 2021-2025.

THE FOREST TENURE FUNDERS GROUP

The [Forest Tenure Funders Group](#) (Funders Group) was established after COP26 as an informal donor working group to facilitate donor coordination and collaboration to deliver on the Pledge commitments. It is open to all 22 Pledge donors and other donors working to advance forest tenure rights of IPs and LCs. The purpose of the group is to facilitate more effective dialogue between IPs and LCs, donors and other stakeholders to support exchange of information feedback on Pledge progress, and closer collaboration. Another priority is accountability for the Pledge commitments, in part through this annual report. The Funders Group identified the following work priorities for 2022 and beyond:

- Review current funding, support models, and channels to identify effective mechanisms to assist with Pledge-related scale-up;
- Establish ongoing dialogue with IPs and LCs to facilitate constructive challenge, accountability, and joint solutions;
- Develop guiding principles and practices for donors to advance the Pledge commitments;
- Ensure the rights of IPs and LCs, as well as their vital role as guardians of forests, stays on the global agenda, including at COP15 (the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity), COP27 (27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC) and other global events; and
- Provide accountability and transparency on Pledge implementation, including through this first annual report.

The Funders Group meets quarterly to advance progress on Pledge commitments, supported by sub-groups for priority action areas. The Government of the United Kingdom chaired the Funders Group in 2022, with the Ford Foundation serving as Vice Chair.



PHOTO: JOEL REDMAN / IF NOT US THEN WHO

THIS REPORT

This first Annual Report provides an **update on donor spending progress** over the first Pledge year (January to December 2021). It includes aggregate spending data and further information on how funds are being used. The Report also captures some of the key challenges in achieving Pledge ambitions, including identifying areas where greater collaboration is needed between donors, leaders and organisations representing IPs and LCs, and other stakeholders.

02

Progress Overview from the Funders Group Chairs

This is the first Funders Group Annual Report on the IPs and LCs Forest Tenure Pledge. It covers the period from January to December 2021, the 'start-up' year of the five-year Pledge. The report aims to address two main questions:

What progress have Pledge donors made in 2021 on their financial commitments, and are these on track?

How are donors changing their funding and operational practices in line with the non-financial commitments and ambitions of the Pledge?

In doing so, the Annual Report also provides an initial response to the pressing question voiced by many leaders and organisations representing IPs and LCs: **where is the Pledge money going and when and how will it reach communities on the ground?**

The Pledge was designed as a five-year commitment, recognising that it will take time to scale-up appropriate funding mechanisms that effectively channel resources to IPs and LCs and to create meaningful shifts in donor funding practices. The 2021 figures and allocation patterns covering the first year of the Pledge provide an important baseline, which can be used to track changes in donor funding allocations and patterns over the lifetime of the Pledge. However, donors recognise the urgency of supporting communities on the frontline of the global effort to protect forests and nature, many of which are facing a daily battle for survival. In our dialogue with organisations led by IPs and LCs we are, therefore, trying to identify solutions that can be implemented more quickly as well as what needs to be done, in parallel, to change the global funding system and improve IPs' and LCs' access to climate finance.

In 2021, Pledge donors disbursed or provided⁴ \$321,629,748, or 19% of the \$1.7bn pledged at COP26. So far, the largest share of funding (39%) is going to Latin America, with a similar share spent

on global projects (or multiple regions). Only around 7% of funding has been allocated to South East Asia, and 16% to projects in Africa. The latter may reflect funding and capacity challenges in the Congo Basin although more analysis is needed to identify what an appropriate target distribution by region would be, based on need⁵.

While 2021 spending shows that we are on track to meet the pledge commitment, we have more work to do in channelling funds more directly to IPs and LCs. Just over 80% of funding was aimed at building the capacity of IPs and LCs or supporting community-level action, compared with 5% of funding to promote systemic change via national land or forest tenure reform. Yet only 7% of total funding went directly to organisations led by IPs or LCs, while around 50% was channelled via international non-governmental organisations (NGOs; see Figure 3 for other funding channels). Even though a significant share of NGO funding is ultimately channelled to organisations led by IPs and LCs, in the form of capacity building support or grants,

we appreciate this 'baseline' funding distribution will invite questions and challenge from IPs and LCs. To date, indirect funding through intermediaries has often been the only way for donors to provide support to IPs and LCs in many countries, given the administrative and practical challenges of funding community organisations directly. To achieve the ambition of the Pledge to scale-up 'direct' funding and support to IPs and LCs will require donors to increase their engagement with, and investment, in funding mechanisms led or governed by IPs and LCs so they can effectively channel support to forest communities (as set out in the [Global Alliance of Territorial Communities' Shandia Vision](#)). Some Pledge donors have been supporting such funds for many years and the Funders Group is currently reviewing how we can collectively scale-up support to such instruments during the Pledge period. As funding mechanisms led by IPs and LCs develop, we anticipate a progressive uplift in funding towards national or regional funds.

But this will take time. Donors still see a complementary role for appropriate, indirect funding mechanisms and support to appropriate intermediary or 'solidarity' organisations to build capacity and enable more communities to access support, including those that are not part of national or regional associations. The examples described in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 of this report demonstrate what is possible and some of the models or pathways for reaching scale over the next four years.

4. Most donors have reported funds that were 'disbursed' during the reporting period. However, some donors are only able to report funding that has been allocated or firmly committed to a specific project during the reporting period. Thus, the total financial resources provided during the period includes firm commitments of this kind, which make up around one-quarter of the total.

5. For most bilateral donors, their contribution to the IPs and LCs Tenure Rights Pledge will represent a share of their contribution to the Global Forest Finance Pledge. Given the important role IPs and LCs play as guardians for forests and nature across the Congo Basin, there is complementarity between the IPs and LCs Pledge and the Congo Basin Pledge and some bilateral donors' funding will be recorded under both pledges.

Another priority flowing from the Pledge is to improve donor coordination as a platform for more effective practice, accountability and dialogue with IPs and LCs. This is particularly important as many of the challenges set out in the [Pledge Joint Donor Statement](#) require coordinated action by many stakeholders. The Funders Group has, for the first time, brought together private and bilateral donors working together on tenure security and forest guardianship. It is providing an opportunity for funders, with very different funding and institutional models, to work together to find new ways to scale up support to IPs' and LCs' organisations. This forum has also enabled the Funders Group to develop a more structured dialogue with leaders of IPs and LCs, such as with members of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. The aim of this ongoing dialogue is to create space for donors to listen to and learn from organisations led by IPs and LCs to inform donors' collective and individual practices. We realise that the pace of change resulting from these discussions can be frustratingly

slow: changing donor funding practices or requirements is a slow process and building the capacity of organisations led by IPs and LCs to access donor funding also takes time. But Pledge donors are committed to continuing and expanding this dialogue with IPs and LCs from all tropical forest countries so we can find practical solutions together.

We are also pleased to welcome three new donors to the Funders Group: Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, and two members of the Protecting our Planet Challenge – the Bobolink Foundation and the International Conservation Fund of Canada. This is a demonstration of how an increasing number of donors are collaborating to deliver and expand on the Pledge commitments over the coming years.

Having chaired the Forest Tenure Funders Group in 2022, the UK is pleased to be passing the role of Chair to the Ford Foundation for 2023, with Norway acting as Vice Chair.



GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
CHAIR



FORD FOUNDATION
VICE CHAIR



PHOTO: JOEL REDMAN / IF NOT US THEN WHO

03

Pledge Spending Progress: Delivering the \$1.7billion

This section provides details on disbursements or funds provided⁶ against the Pledge for the calendar year 2021.

METHODOLOGY

To track financial progress related to the Pledge, each donor provided an annual return to the Funders Group Chair for the 2021 calendar year. Donors calculated disbursements⁶ according to their own reporting systems. Donors submitted data, where possible, on the total funding amount with a break-down by geography, primary thematic area, and funding mechanisms. Consistent with reporting to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and UNFCCC, contributions towards the Pledge have been reported in each donors' currency and converted to USD Dollars (USD) using the OECD annual average conversion rate.

6. As noted above, most donors have reported funds 'disbursed' during the reporting period so we have used this term throughout this section. However, some donors are only able to report funding that has been 'firmly committed' to a specific project during the reporting period and so the totals include disbursements and firm commitments of this kind.



PHOTO: JOEL REDMAN / IF NOT US THEN WHO

The IPs and LCs Forest Tenure Pledge is distinct but related to the [Global Forest Finance Pledge \(GFFP\)](#) and the Congo Basin Pledge. Different types of donors contribute to the different pledges: the GFFP only involves [bilateral](#) donors, while the IPs and LCs Pledge and the Congo Basin Pledge include bilateral donors and philanthropic organisations. 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.

Table 1 provides the breakdown of disbursements⁶ by bilateral and private donors for 2021. Total disbursements⁶ in 2021 were nearly \$322 million, which represents just under one fifth of the total commitment after the first of five years.

TABLE 1

TABLE 1: 2021 DISBURSEMENTS AGAINST THE IP AND LC FOREST TENURE PLEDGE (IN USD)

Total disbursements ⁶ from bilateral donors ⁷	\$179,288,205
Total disbursements from private donors	\$142,341,542
Cumulative total	\$321,629,748
Percentage of \$1.7bn Pledge total	19%

6. As noted above, most donors have reported funds 'disbursed' during the reporting period so we have used this term throughout this section. However, some donors are only able to report funding that has been 'firmly committed' to a specific project during the reporting period and so the totals include disbursements and firm commitments of this kind.

7. Where the term 'bilateral' is used this is in relation to government donors and for some of these government donors their disbursements may include an amount of multilateral funding.

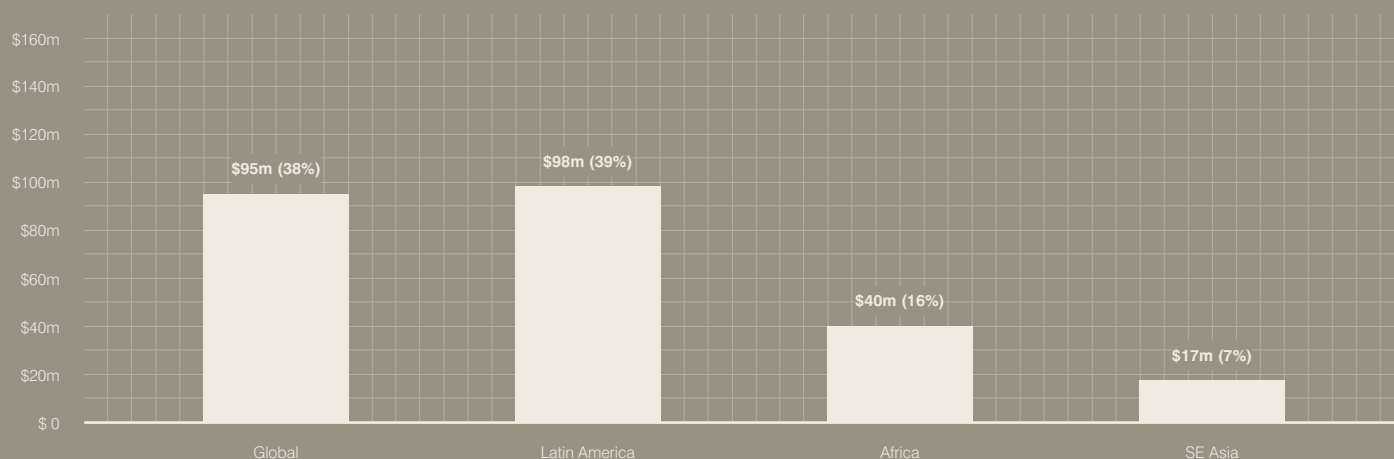
DISAGGREGATED DATA

The figure graphs below show total disbursements or funding provided in 2021 disaggregated by geographical region, thematic area, and funding mechanisms⁸. **Figure 1** shows the geographic breakdown of Pledge disbursements⁶ in 2021. Donor funding that supported global programmes, with no specific geographic focus, or multi-country projects where it was not possible to identify the main region, was included under the Global heading.

Pledge donors were also asked to breakdown their disbursements⁹ by five thematic categories, to help us better understand better what the funding is spent on. These categories correspond broadly to the pledge spending parameters set out in the Pledge statement. For this first round of reporting, donors were asked to allocate each project or initiative funded as one of the following:

- Support to local communities to map, document and register their tenure rights and establish or strengthen associated governance structures
- Support to national land and forest tenure reform processes that help secure IPs' and LCs' rights
- Other support to strengthen and build the capacity of groups or organisations representing IPs and LCs to protect their rights and manage natural resources sustainably
- Technical support to communities to support sustainable, community forest management and livelihoods
- Other

FIGURE 1: GEOGRAPHIC, 2021 USD

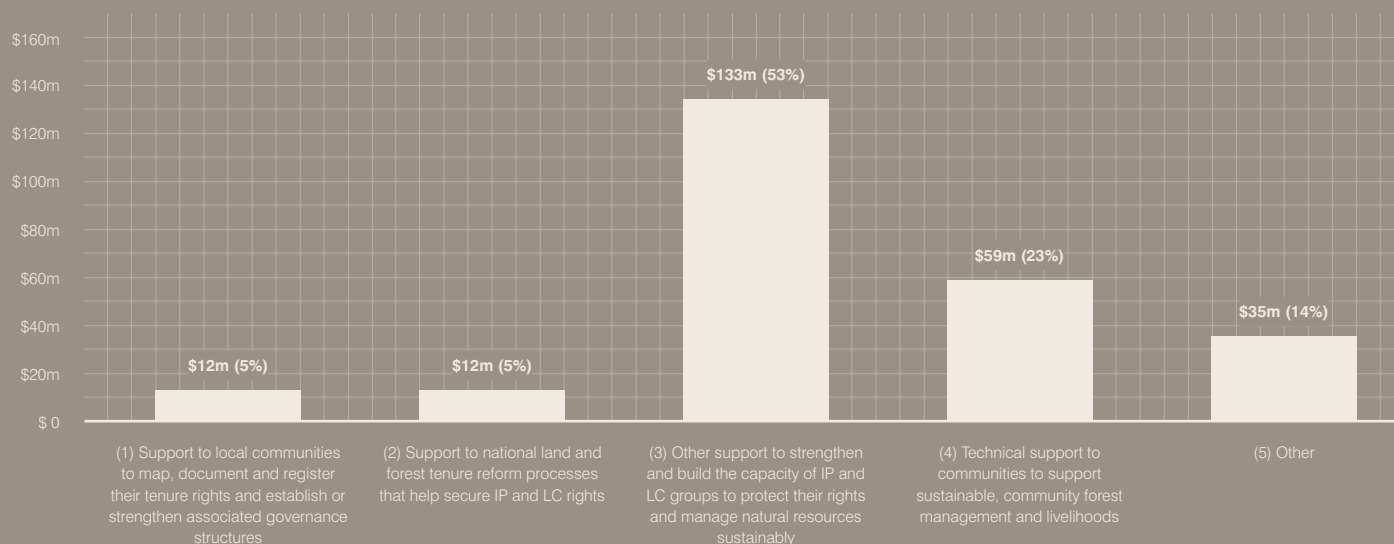


8. The disaggregated analysis does not include all donor disbursements for 2021 as some donors were unable to provide this breakdown.

9. This includes a proportion of funding that has been 'firmly committed' to a specific project during the reporting period.

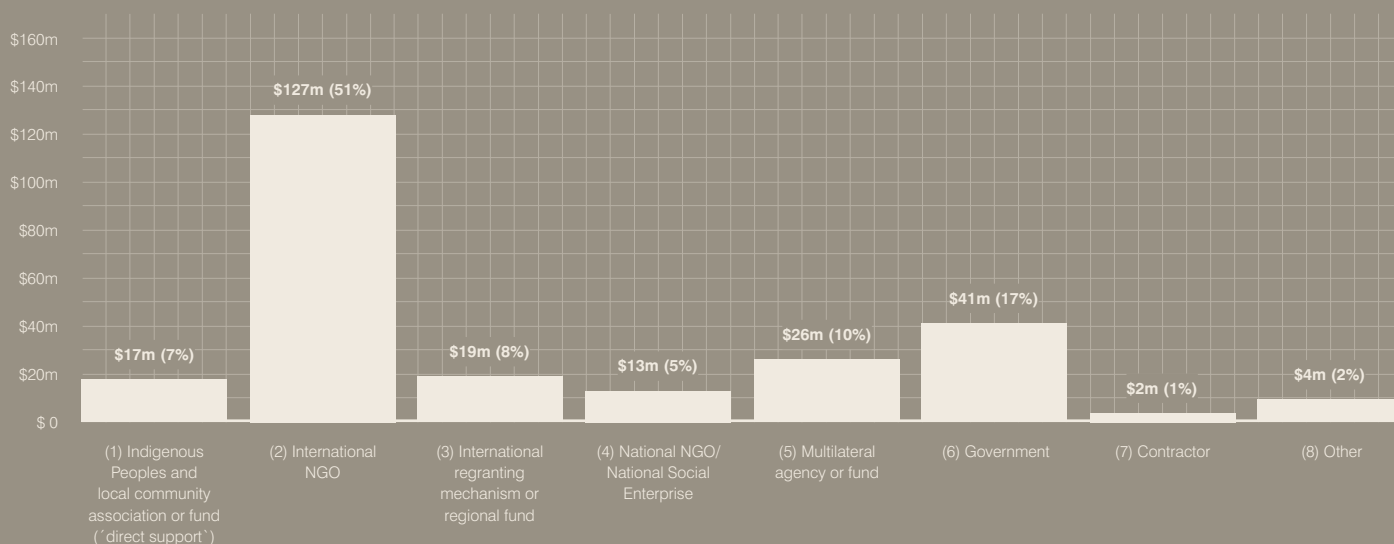
Figure 2 provides a breakdown of donor disbursements⁹ in 2021 against these categories. These primary thematic areas will be reviewed by the Funders Group following this report and are likely to be adjusted for future reports.

FIGURE 2: PRIMARY THEMATIC AREA, 2021



Lastly, it is important to understand the funding channels that donors use to help IPs and LCs secure their tenure rights and build the capacity of their organisations. To assess this, donors have provided a breakdown of disbursements¹⁰ against the eight channels in **Figure 3**. As noted above, over half of 2021 funding was delivered through international NGOs, with only 7% going directly from donors to IPs and LCs.

FIGURE 3: FUNDING CHANNEL, 2021 USD



10. This includes a proportion of funding that has been 'firmly committed' to a specific project during the reporting period.

04

Doing Things Differently: Case Studies

The case studies below provide examples from Pledge donors of the programmes and projects they are supporting. In particular the examples highlight where the Pledge has and will continue to increase the levels of direct funding reaching organisations led by IPs and LCs. This includes support for increasing the capacity of organisations led by IPs and LCs to absorb direct funding, support for locally controlled funds, and developing more effective funding mechanisms to channel support to IPs and LCs. Please note that these case studies are examples shared by Pledge donors from wider portfolios of engagement and support for IPs and LCs.

The case studies below are examples from some members of the Protecting Our Planet (POP) Challenge, but do not cover the full portfolio of work by member organisations.

Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)

DONOR CASE STUDIES

In 2021, [CIFF](#) provided funding to regional regranting foundation [iCS \(Instituto Clima e Sociedade\)](#) for ongoing activities related to IPs and LCs. This included strengthening the defence of IPs' and LCs' territories, investing in scholarship programmes and other activities to build the capacity of movements led by IPs and LCs, and stimulating business models led by IPs and LCs that could provide blueprints for sustainable growth in the Amazon.

CIFF's main innovation in 2021 was to fund **legal strategies**. We provided funding to the FILE Foundation for land use litigation, which included defending the rights of IPs and LCs – primarily in Brazil and Peru.

Often, donor-funded legal action is a 'top-down' process, in which funders work with partners to co-create legal strategies. The needs of claimants then follow. In this instance, we knew the process had to be reversed. We wanted to ensure **communities were empowered to bring and shape litigation on their own terms**. Our funding supported a **fellowship programme for indigenous lawyers**, so that communities have greater capacity to bring the cases they want to bring. It also supported the development of a **network of IPs' and LCs' lawyers across the region** so that they could coordinate, collaborate and prioritise legal interventions. Of course, funding was also allocated to the development of cases.

Christensen Fund

DONOR CASE STUDIES

The [Christensen Fund](#) highlights their funding of two grants totaling \$631,000 to the [Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario, A.C. \(IMDEC\)](#) to establish and consolidate [Fondo Defensores](#) as a regional (Latin America and the Caribbean) defense fund and resource center for Indigenous territorial protection and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. To date, this funding has significantly contributed to the sustainability and strengthening of Indigenous **holistic territorial defense processes**; Indigenous rights defenders; and the Indigenous movement in their struggle for their collective rights, their right to secure their territories, and their right to dignity and self-determination.

Fondo Defensores works to respond to the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples and communities in defense of their rights and territories in Mexico, such as through providing flexible and rapid support to defenders of territories that are in danger or are experiencing situations of criminalisation, and securing of **direct support to grassroots Indigenous peoples and communities** that have innovative and creative proposals

Through grant support from the Christensen Fund, Fondo Defensores continues to provide access to flexible, strategic resources that enhance advocacy and help build collective power for Indigenous communities, and helps develop the self-determination of Indigenous peoples through participatory decision-making processes.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

DONOR CASE STUDIES

The [Packard Foundation's](#) support to the Pledge is focused on two areas of work. First, the Packard Foundation has provided \$5 million to the [Climate and Land Use Alliance \(CLUA\)](#) to create and develop **locally controlled IP and LC funds**. CLUA has identified and is developing proposals to support more than 15 funds and organisations that provide **direct financial support to IPs' and LCs' organizations**. Some grants are supporting new funds in institutional and programmatic design as well as technical support for legal, administrative, and financial management aspects of fund design and operation. This includes the IPs and LCs-led [Mesoamerican Territorial Fund](#) and the [AMAN-Walhi-KPA IPs and LCs Fund](#) in Indonesia. CLUA is also funding already **established local funds** in their institutional strengthening, especially around financial management, legal compliance, monitoring and evaluation, and communications. The portfolio will include the DEMA Fund in Brazil, which is supporting **demarcation and titling** of Quilombola lands in Pará, and Yayasan BaKTI, Gemawan, and Komunitas Konservasi Indonesia Warsi in Indonesia to increase their **capacity to scale grant-making** to local IPs and LCs and NGOs.

Second, the Packard Foundation has provided \$2.5 million in IPs and LCs Pledge-aligned funds to CLUA for regranting focused on work at the intersection of carbon markets and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. A key focus of this work is to provide resources to enable IP and LC organizations to determine whether or not they want to engage in carbon markets, and to help ensure equitable outcomes whether or not they engage. CLUA has developed a **readiness fund** to support technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building resources for both IPs and LCs and for Southern Jurisdictions. The objective of this fund is to ensure that any programmes involving carbon markets are built **on shared agreements about rights and benefits between Jurisdictions and IPs and LCs**, with full respect for appropriate process, including free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

Ford Foundation

DONOR CASE STUDIES

The \$100 million committed by the [Ford Foundation](#) to the IPs and LCs Forest Tenure Pledge comes from three sources: (1) our [Social Bond](#) to support the stability and long-term resilience of the social justice sector in the wake of COVID-19; (2) the extension of our [Building Institutions and Networks \(BUILD\)](#) program, offering five-year flexible funding and institutional strengthening support; and (3) an annual grant-making budget for [Natural Resources and Climate Change](#) and other programs.

In 2021, Ford Foundation spent nearly \$50 million in funding aligned with the goals of the IPs and LCs Pledge. These grants have included work to:

- Help support **the creation of new mechanisms for channelling funds** to organisations representing IPs and LCs, including via the Brazilian Fund for Human Rights, Oxfam, and the Indonesian Environment Fund.
- Support partners working to strengthen **protections for land and environment defenders** and **improve territorial monitoring and defence**.
- Help foster the ability of organizations representing IPs and LCs to engage in **advocacy and strategic communications** at national and international levels and expand media coverage of the importance of rights recognition
- Support partners building the **participation and power of women** in community decision making about natural resource management.
- All Ford grants aligned with the pledge made between January 2021 and June 2022 are listed on our [website here](#).

Germany

DONOR CASE STUDIES

German development cooperation has been actively collaborating with Indigenous Peoples and their organisations, especially in Latin America, since the 1980s, in the context of bilateral, regional, and multilateral cooperation in sectors like education, health, agriculture, forestry and governance. Financial and technical support for IPs and LCs and their organisations is usually part of larger programs oriented towards policy reforms.

As a recent example of direct support for an indigenous organisation, in 2021, the [Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#) was the first governmental donor to support the first indigenous-led global advocacy organisation, [Indigenous Peoples Rights International](#) (IPRI). Germany's support has been not just financial, but also strategic (as part of IPRI's International Advisory Group) and political (such as a speaker at IPRI's side events at international conferences).

IPRI was founded in 2020 on the initiative of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to **address criminalisation and impunity of human rights violations** against Indigenous Peoples. Germany has supported development of IPRI's **organisational capacity**, such as for digital security, database management, and administration of donor grants. Germany's support for IPRI has advanced the capacity of national Indigenous organisations to **meet financial and eligibility requirements for direct grants**.

Good Energies Foundation

DONOR CASE STUDIES

[Good Energies](#) is supporting **livelihood development** of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil's forest areas. With the support of [Instituto Socioambiental](#), a seed collectors networks bring together local and Indigenous communities to collect and commercialise different species of native tree seeds for large-scale reforestation of the Amazon, the Cerrado and Atlantic Forest. Drawing on Indigenous knowledge, a 'muvuca' or unique mix of native tree seeds is developed for each specific restoration site, reflecting local soils, climate and landowners' priorities. In Mato Grosso, the [Xingu Seeds Network](#) is made up of more than 560 collectors, which together add up to 25 collection groups, spread across three Indigenous Territories, 21 municipalities, and 16 family farming settlements. Of this workforce, 65% are women. Throughout its history, the Xingu Seeds Network has collected more than 220 different species of seeds, generating more than \$700,000 in local incomes, financially

empowering Indigenous women throughout the region. Together, the network groups sold more than 294 tons of muvuca, which were sown directly into the ground, growing around 25 million trees in 7,400 hectares of previously degraded areas — areas that are now forests. In August 2022, The Xingu Seed Network was selected as one of 10 winners of the [2022 Equator Prize](#), which showcases indigenous and local solutions for people and planet.



Netherlands

DONOR CASE STUDIES

In 2021, as part of our international policy on forests, the [Netherlands](#) contributed EUR 10.427.690 to activities which aim to **strengthen and build the capacity of groups representing IPs and LCs** to protect their rights and manage natural resources sustainably.

The Forest for a Just Future programme of the [Green Livelihoods Alliance \(GLA\)](#) is a core activity supported by the Netherlands; it aims to strengthen IPs' and LCs' governance over increasing forest areas. For example, through the Social Forestry programme in Indonesia, the GLA supports communities **securing their rights** to manage their forests sustainably. Through the Indonesian partner organisation Warsi, local communities are being supported to acquire licences and use their land in such a way that the forest is preserved and the community receives an income from it.

Netherlands has also supported development of the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) under the same Forest for a Just Future programme in Liberia, which supports the Manoah community to secure and strengthen their customary collective community land and natural resource tenure rights by **formalizing their customary land areas**. This process is mainly driven by community members and with support from selected community mobilizers recruited and trained by SDI.

Norway

DONOR CASE STUDIES

The [\$150 million]¹¹ contribution from [Norway](#) is a 50% increase from the \$ 100 million commitment to support IPs and LCs for the 2016-20 period. The Norwegian support goes through four main channels:

- The Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative's Civil Society Support Scheme (2021-25), which has a dedicated category for IP and LC rights in tropical forest countries. This includes five year grants to AMAN - the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago, Samdhana Institute and Comissão Pró-Índio do Acre. Details are available on our [website](#).
- The [Indigenous Peoples Program in Brazil](#) that for the last 39 years has worked to support and built capacity with indigenous organizations in Brazil so that they can advocate and defend their territorial rights. Norway is increasing its **direct support** to indigenous organisations, and has a committed strategy to develop and implement **regional financing mechanisms managed by and for Indigenous Peoples**. This includes providing seed money for indigenous funds, such as Fundo Podáali and [Fundo Rio Negro](#).

- Dedicated budget lines in bilateral programs with tropical forest countries, e.g. in [Colombia](#), [Peru](#), and [Ecuador](#).
- International platforms and advocacy work with the goal to [secure tenure rights](#) and strengthen indigenous participation in global processes where indigenous contributions to solve the climate and nature crisis is highlighted, such as the [Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform](#) of the UNFCCC. Documenting the results of our efforts through [global comparative research](#) is another priority.

Long-term support, predictability, and innovative approaches are key principles in our support. Norway highlights the role of IPs and LCs as forest stewards in our political dialogue with tropical forest countries, with the multilateral development banks, and in our role as one of the key funders of results-based finance for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

11. At the exchange rate USD-NOK applying at the time of the pledge.

Oak Foundation

DONOR CASE STUDIES

[Oak Foundation](#) has provided the [International Land and Forest Tenure Facility](#) (Tenure Facility) with a \$5 million grant to support tenure security and territorial governance initiatives of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon region, specifically in the countries of Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador, and to strengthen their organisational capacity to meet demand. The Tenure Facility is the first and only international financial mechanism exclusively focused on partnering with IPs and LCs to secure their land and forest rights.

This support will involve the Tenure Facility to conduct extensive and formal consultations with Indigenous People's groups and their government counterparts to identify mechanisms for improving communal land tenure security, determine systems for co-management or to establish community forest management agreements.

By July 2026, both the Indigenous and local organizations and the Tenure Facility will have the organisational capacity to support a national and global portfolio of tenure/land governance projects and partners for at least 10 IPs and LCs, Afro Descendant/Quilombola organizations in the Amazon.

Sobrato

DONOR CASE STUDIES

In 2021, [Sobrato Philanthropies](#) began funding for the [Tenure Facility](#), and their pioneering international financial mechanism committed to partnering with IPs and LCs to secure forest and land rights. Over the course of their two-year grant, the Tenure Facility will partner with six national or sub-national rural grassroots alliances representing Indigenous Peoples or Afrodescendants. These include the Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Indonesian Archipelago (AMAN), Land Registration Agency for Indigenous Territories (BRWA), and Papua NGO Cooperation Forum (FOKER) in Indonesia; Black Communities Process and National Commission of Indigenous Territories (CNTI) in Colombia; and an Indigenous alliance in the Peruvian Amazon. These groups represent thousands of communities, that manage tens of millions of hectares of carbon-rich, biodiverse rainforests in the Amazon, Choco, Papua, and elsewhere.

These projects include **participatory mapping**, preparation of **communal land claims**, “life plans”, management plans, and collaboration with government agencies to process these claims and prepare appropriate regulations. In Colombia, that largely means the National Land Agency (ANT), while in Indonesia and Peru, the provincial and/or district governments are key. The projects also provide support for traditional authorities, women’s groups, and youth engagement, as well as training and learning exchanges to improve the partners’ **technical skills and financial administration**.

United Kingdom

DONOR CASE STUDIES

Through the United Kingdom's forest programme, [Territorios Forestales Sostenibles \(TEFOS\)](#) in Colombia, the UK has been supporting delivery of an updated **land registry system** for IPs and LCs covering the main deforestation hotspots across 20 million hectares (97% of that land is legally owned by IPs). The UK was also the first donor in the history of Colombia to participate and fund a prior consent process between the main indigenous organisations and the Government of Colombia, to agree on a **binding framework granting IPs with legal protections and increased ownership** of their land tenure process.

The [Forest Governance, Markets and Climate \(FGMC\)](#) programme has been aiming to bring about governance and market reforms that reduce the illegal use of forest resources and benefit people and communities who depend on forests for their livelihoods. Through the programme, the UK has been supporting **improved livelihoods through community forestry enterprises** in Indonesia. The [Multi-Stakeholder Forestry Programme Phase 4 \(MFP4\)](#) looks to increase the economic value generated by communities from managing healthy, standing forests. MFP4 has been doing this by catalysing business and trade with forest-dependent communities that produce commodities and perform services that keep forests healthy. Environmentally regenerative and

socially inclusive business models are selected to ensure the sustainable management of forests and provide profitable livelihood opportunities for communities living closest to forest areas. The programme has been supporting **community enterprises** with a range of products and commodities, including bamboo production, certified timber and the harvesting and processing of wild foods, essential oils and spices. The project model works with "Market Access Players"; existing businesses that have established linkages and can directly link communities with premium markets for their products, thereby bypassing the many 'middlemen' involved in traditional value chains. To date, around 2,000 individuals have benefited from seven different sites covering around 56,000 hectares of forest (of which around 17,000 hectares is primary forest). In a number of sites, average improvements in household incomes have been found to exceed 50%.

Through FGMC, the UK has also supported Client Earth's work in Liberia following the adoption of the Community Rights Law in 2009. This law provided new opportunities for rural, forest-dependent communities to secure management rights and benefits from forest areas within their vicinity. [ClientEarth](#) has been working to improve forest laws and their implementation, including through **building legal capacity of local forest communities** and NGOs in topics

such as land rights, effective participation in the Voluntary Partnership Agreement process, forest conversion, contracting, social agreements, benefit sharing, enforcement and logging permits. The increased understanding of the process and legal issues has made the participation of communities more effective, resulting in more **inclusive reforms** (such as strong recognition for community women's rights).

PHOTO: JOEL REDMAN / IF NOT US THEN WHO



United States

DONOR CASE STUDIES

Amazon Indigenous Rights and Resources (AIRR)

The [US Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) provides support to [AIRR](#), which seeks to conserve biodiversity in the Amazon by empowering Indigenous Peoples (IPs) to better exercise and incorporate their rights to public and private sector development planning. The project works with the regional federation of the Amazon (COICA), and with the national indigenous federations of Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname. Some of the key achievements of the project as follows:

The project aims to support Indigenous territorial rights. The project so far has strengthened capacities of 256 people from 13 Indigenous Peoples' Organisations (IPOs) in leadership, advocacy, negotiations and dialogue skills to protect their rights. Also, the project has strengthened capacities in monitoring deforestation and other environmental crimes in their territories. AIRR has improved the management of 1,473,149 hectares of areas of biologically significant habitat through participation of IPs in territorial planning processes, good territorial management practices and indigenous enterprises with environmental and social standards. In the Apiaká do Pontal and Isolados Indigenous Lands in Brazil, for example, AIRR strengthened capacities to carry

out monitoring with improved technology. This allowed for an increase in the effectiveness of monitoring and thus improved security for IPs and their territories. For another example, in Colombia, the [National Indigenous Federation from the Amazon](#) (OPIAC) participated in Amazon Regional Roundtable sessions, a consultative space to present recommendations to governmental bodies, which allowed for the formulation, promulgation and implementation of public policies for sustainable development for IPs.

Papua New Guinea (PNG) Biodiversity Project Lukautim Graun Programme (LGP)

[LGP](#) supports national and local government and communities as they advance participatory land-use planning – particularly toward defining and managing conservation areas for their biodiversity and ecosystem functions. LGP works with local civil society organisations, private sector community-based organisations and tribal clans. The Tree Kangaroo Conservation Project, a local partner in LGP facilitated traditional landowners and local government to revise six ward level land use plans for landscape-level redesignation of the YUS Conservation Area. The revision increased the size of the managed land by 83,941 hectares to a total 162,683 hectares. Another partner, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), facilitated the signing of the first Conservation Deed in

the Highlands provinces, incorporating 4,070 hectares of pristine montane rainforest into a new community-based biodiversity conservation and management area. They worked with eight tribal clans, which have more than 1,000 tribes that communally owned the land. At the community level, WCS supported community-based tree nurseries in three sites in Eastern Highlands province, expanding community nursery seedling capacity from 7,000 to 10,000 seedlings per year. These nurseries produce seedlings that support reforestation in line with the 'Ten Million Trees in Ten Years' programme led by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Climate Change. Distribution of the tree seedlings also presents opportunities for training and awareness raising

on the importance of forest cover in the fight against the climate crisis and as habitat for biodiversity. Among others, LGP also focused on capacity building for IPs and LCs and national level institutions aimed at strengthening the effective implementation of environmental conservation and economic development efforts in PNG. In 2021 it supported the review of relevant policies, including PNG's multilateral environmental agreements, development of the Biodiversity Offsets Policy, adoption and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, outreach on the Protected Areas Policy Implementation Plan in the LGP provinces, and development of the provincial protected areas laws.

PHOTO: JOEL REDMAN / IF NOT US THEN WHO



Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

DONOR CASE STUDIES

In 2021 [Wellspring Philanthropic Fund's](#) Women's Rights Programme (WRP) has 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 of land and forests; shifting power in land governance at the community level; and supporting their voices and representation in decision-making fora on land sustainability, climate and natural resources. Support has been provided to organisations 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. The organisations we support contributed to advance land and climate normative frameworks through statutory and customary norms in various African countries. For example, thanks to the work of a legal empowerment network and its members, ground-breaking laws on climate and the environment were adopted in Sierra Leone (the Customary Land Rights and National Land Commission Acts) transforming communities' ability to protect their land rights and the environment in that country. This new legislation is a model for the rest of the

world, and among other key provisions the law establishes that **local committees that make decisions about how community lands are managed include at least 30% women.**

Enhanced support to Indigenous women-led organisations is a key approach of Wellspring's WRP which contributes to the Pledge's commitment to channeling support to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. In 2021, support went to pastoralist women-led organizations in Northern Tanzania to ensure that Maasai communities are empowered to manage, make decisions and claim the benefits from their natural resources. Through mentoring, capacity building, and leadership training this work resulted in an **increased the number of Maasai pastoralist women's participation and representation in leadership and decision-making** on land governance and helped protect Maasai communities' rights in conservation initiatives. In Kenya, a national Indigenous, women-led organisation is enhancing pastoralist women and girls' participation and representation in governance processes in four counties, to secure tenure rights of unregistered community lands, promoting Indigenous Peoples-driven mechanisms to **address climate change impacts on women and their communities.**

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

DONOR CASE STUDIES

The [Hewlett Foundation](#) has provided \$5 million in funds aligned to the IPs and LCs Forest Tenure Pledge to support the territorial agendas of organisations representing IPs and LCs organizations, as well as prevent threats to their lands, rights, or governance in the context of carbon markets. Hewlett is supporting a joint initiative between Rainforest Foundation – US (RFUS) which is providing support to organisations representing IPs and LCs to strengthen their ability to respond to carbon markets and to provide

resources to promote more equitable outcomes in the development and implementation of market policies. In addition, Hewlett is contributing to the readiness fund developed by the [Climate and Land Use Alliance](#) (CLUA) and fiscally sponsored by [Re:Wild](#) which aims to ensure that any programmes involving carbon markets are built **on shared agreements about rights and benefits between Jurisdictions and IPs and LCs**.

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

[MEMBER OF THE PROTECTING OUR PLANET CHALLENGE]
DONOR CASE STUDIES

The [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#) supported the [Rights and Resources Initiative](#) (RRI) through a grant in 2021. This provided analysis on the status and opportunities of rights-based conservation in the Amazon regions of Colombia and Peru. The grant resulted in spatial analysis of land tenure regimes, titling demands from IPs and LCs, as well as areas where IPs' and LCs' titling demands overlap with existing protected areas. In addition, RRI and partners identified recommendations and potential pathways to advance rights-based conservation in the region. RRI and in-country partners are currently disseminating information via reports, workshops, and other fora to promote reforms for IPs' and LCs' forest and land governance.

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has been supporting the [Andes-Amazon Initiative](#). Prior to the Pledge, the Initiative commissioned an external evaluation and began conducting research and consultations regarding priority areas for a possible next phase of work in the Amazon. In February 2022, the Andes-Amazon Initiative was renewed for another 10 years of work in the Amazon, with the overarching vision to maintain at least 70% of historical forest cover in the Amazon basin (using the 2000 baseline) to avoid the ecological tipping point of this critical ecosystem. The Andes-Amazon Initiative has prioritized investments in the effective management

of Indigenous territories and other collective land tenure regimes as a critical pathway to conserve the Amazon. This new internal strategic priority focuses on tenure security, sustainable management and governance within IPs' and LCs' lands as part of an ambitious goal to secure an additional 50 million hectares of effectively managed IPs' and LCs' lands across the Amazon basin. The new strategy was developed prior to the Pledge launch, that said, the Pledge commitment bolstered the foundation's support for the Andes-Amazon Initiative's next phase of work.

International Conservation Fund of Canada (ICFC)

[MEMBER OF THE PROTECTING OUR PLANET CHALLENGE]
DONOR CASE STUDIES

Through Strong Roots, ICFC is helping establish several **community-managed forests or Forestry Concessions** for Local Communities (CFCLs) in the area between Kahuzi-Biega National Park and Itombwe Natural Reserve in South Kivu, DRC. This is the first step in a long-term initiative to create an ecological corridor stretching across approximately 6,000 Km² of forested land, connecting Itombwe Natural Reserve to Kahuzi-Biega National Park, and plays a critical role in preventing local extinctions of isolated populations of Grauer's Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei graueri*) and other taxa on the landscape.

This project aims to empower communities to **manage and protect their traditional lands** to conserve habitats vital to the survival of the charismatic Grauer's gorilla and other threatened species. From data collection to the implementation of the conservation plans, the project equips local peoples with the necessary skills to **monitor their use of forest resources** and ensure sustainable management and conservation of the CFCLs. Additionally, this project will support the establishment of **sustainable livelihoods** in the communities to reduce hunting pressures in the area.

Most of the people involved in the project are local communities, from Bantu tribes. There are also Indigenous Peoples (pygmies) in Kitamba (Basile), Cirere (Burhinyi) and in Kigogo and Irangi (Lwindi). Their **Free, Prior and Informed Consent** is established through a series of iterative community consultations in 26 villages within all the chiefdoms in the corridor.

Nia Tero

[MEMBER OF THE PROTECTING OUR PLANET CHALLENGE]
DONOR CASE STUDIES

[Nia Tero](#) works in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples who sustain thriving territories and cultures to strengthen guardianship of earth and all beings. We support Indigenous Peoples' efforts to strengthen self-governance, address threats to territory, maintain cultural continuity, influence national and international policies, and use storytelling to amplify Indigenous voices. In 2021, Nia Tero distributed \$13.7 million directly to Indigenous Peoples and their trusted allies, including those featured here.

Amazonia

Nia Tero has been supporting the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS) and the Mulokot Foundation. For the last 20 years, VIDS has been actively working towards the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' collective rights, including by **demarcation of Indigenous territories and a successful legal process** before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the Organization of American States, resulting in the Kaliña & Lokono judgment against the State of Suriname in 2015. This landmark case in 2015 made the enforcement of collective property and judicial protection possible, but implementation of this judgment is still underway. In 2019, after much insistence from the VIDS, the first draft Bill on the Collective Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Tribal Peoples was submitted to the National Assembly for review. In 2021 an updated version of the bill was submitted. Since its

introduction, including throughout 2022, VIDS has the review process of the bill closely, which hasn't yet been approved. VIDS has also participated actively in the Convention of Biological Diversity meetings to have additional tools that show that recognizing Indigenous Peoples' lands are a mechanism to achieve global commitments on biodiversity.

Pasifika

Amidst ongoing threats, the Solomon Islands are a source of inspiration for Indigenous guardianship across the world. It is managed as a sovereign collective Indigenous territory that extends from underwater reefs to mountains above 2,000 meters in elevation. The Indigenous communities who live in these mountain forests are the last protectors of these high sacred places. In 2018, the Solomon Islands Government signed the Sky Islands Pledge to protect all land areas above 400 meters elevation from logging or mining, and to encourage the creation of a trust mechanism for customary guardianship in perpetuity, among other measures. In 2021, Nia Tero supported the expansion of the Sky Islands Pledge to Vanuatu and to the sacred Kauri forests of the Mt Panie region of Kanaky (New Caledonia). We will continue to support the implementation of the Pledge in Malaita, Kolombangara, Guadalcanal and Taumako Territories, enabling these locations to function as anchors and a model beyond the Solomon Islands.

Rainforest Trust

[MEMBER OF THE PROTECTING OUR PLANET CHALLENGE]
DONOR CASE STUDIES

As part of its Forest Tenure Pledge commitments, the Rainforest Trust Pledge is, for the first time, granting directly to an Indigenous-led organisation as the implementing partner on a joint project. Resguardo Kogui Malayo Arhuaco, an Indigenous-led non-profit in Colombia, will designate 425,154 acres of Indigenous-owned land as an expanded area of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Park. The land will benefit from the highest level of environmental protection possible in Colombia and will be patrolled and supervised by the Kogui, Malayo, and Arhuaco people in partnership with Colombia National Parks. One purpose of this work is to prevent industrial mining on these lands.

The expansion of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta National Park is part of an Indigenous-led strategy to **reclaim and safeguard ancestral territories and sacred sites** surrounding the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta known as “La Línea Negra” (the Black Line). Only sustainable, ancestral uses of the land by Indigenous Peoples will be permitted along with **responsible stewardship activities**. Indigenous national park staff members will participate in species monitoring and management activities—empowering Indigenous communities on their ancestral land and creating **a new model of partnership between Indigenous Peoples and government**.

Re:wild

[MEMBER OF THE PROTECTING OUR PLANET CHALLENGE]
DONOR CASE STUDIES

During 2021, [Re:wild](#) funds supported Indigenous NGOs, partner NGOs upon request by IPs and LCs, and direct funding to territories and communities. Re:wild works to maintain a flexible funding model and a nimble grant-making process through which hundreds of grants are made each year to a variety of partners. Examples include funding for Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) in Brazil as a part of a multi-year grant for legal and other support; funding **titling across Indigenous territories in Panama, Colombia, and Ecuador via Geoversity Foundation, Amazon Conservation Team, and Amazon Frontlines/ the Ceibo Alliance**; funding across the arc of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon to help IP and LC address the drivers of deforestation and diversify livelihoods via Fundo Brasileiro para a Biodiversidade (FUNBIO), ICV, and Saude e Alegria; and a diversity of smaller grants to support community level activities. Re:wild has also provided **direct funding to Indigenous communities** and via trusted intermediaries across Mesoamerica to develop and implement Indigenous guard programmes for **monitoring and vigilance activities** in their ancestral lands, as well as support for strategic planning by communities.

Re:wild's model allows response to the needs of IPs and LCs and the different visions that they have for conservation. For example, during 2021 Re:wild supported **cultural and linguistic survival work** in the Rama and Kriol territory of Nicaragua. Land invasion threatens the social cohesion of the territory, so the Rama people have prioritized projects that ensure their children are exposed to the Rama language and the Rama culture from an early age. They believe this will contribute to the autonomy and long-term successful management of their ancestral lands.

In 2022 we will continue to scale up our support for IPs and LCs. This will include grant-making similar to those described above with an increase in direct support for IPs' organizations. It will also include the launch of a jurisdictional readiness fund in collaboration with the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA), The Hewlett Foundation, and the Packard Foundation (described previously in this document) that will be a trusted mechanism for IPs and LCs in the carbon space. This fund will provide support to ensure that ongoing processes to develop jurisdictional carbon initiatives adhere to strict social and environmental safeguards, respect the rights of IPs and LCs, and have fair benefit sharing mechanisms.

05

Statements from Pledge Donors on Progress and Challenges

The statements from Pledge donors below provide a brief overview of how donors have begun to implement the Pledge commitments within their organisations to date. This includes why Pledge ambitions are important to their organisation, how the Pledge is influencing their work and activities, and highlights of some of the challenges and lessons learned.

Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

The Pledge commitment has encouraged [CIFF](#) to think more broadly about the different ways in which we could support IPs and LCs. Historically, our focus has been on initiatives that develop and implement governance systems to strengthen and protect the rights of IPs and LsC. We have complemented that by now also investing in legal strategies. This is a new approach for us, and we look forward to assessing its impact, to help us continuously learn and improve. In countries with a strong, independent judiciary, this can lead to systemic shifts, as well as empowering local communities that wish to defend their rights in that way. As we look to the future, we have been considering how we can also support IPs and LCs in the development of carbon markets; markets that are accelerating in scale, yet often without the voices of the communities most affected by them.

A key challenge we face is providing direct support. As a large organisation, we tend to operate through intermediaries. This enables those closer to the field to make important decisions of strategic prioritisation that we are not equipped to make. Another challenge is understanding where support for IPs and LCs will be most additional and needed. The Funders Group process will help with this; by mapping where the gaps area, we will have a better sense of where we can add the most value.

Christensen Fund

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

The [Christensen Fund](#) joined this pledge in recognition of the importance of the rights and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples in climate finance commitments. In carrying out our part of the pledge, the Christensen Fund has deepened its commitment to:

1. Uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in all our actions.
2. Practice transparency regarding our giving practices in carrying out our commitment to the wider pledge.
3. Remain accountable by providing regular updates on our grant-making, how we are engaging with other signatories, and how we are encouraging the participation of Indigenous peoples throughout the five years of the pledge.

To honour the self-determination and the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed by the UNDRIP, The Christensen Fund is providing direct support to organisations and community partners whose work and ways of life sustain and protect tropical forests. A list of the organizations we have supported to date can be found [here](#), of which 77% are Indigenous-led organisations and 70% are unrestricted grants. 100% of the organisational support that The Christensen Fund provides is for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

Over the past five years, the [Packard Foundation](#) has provided support for organisations representing IPs and LCs both directly and through the Climate and Land Use Alliance. Going forward, the Foundation plans to increase its support for work aimed at increasing direct funding to organisations representing IPs and LCs in the Global South. This will include support to help create and develop locally led IPs' and LCs' funds, support to build greater capacity among organisations in the Global South, and support to maintain space for civil society. The Foundation has been helping to launch the 'Forest for People

and Climate Initiative', a collaborative programme of donors, NGOs, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that brings to bear the ambition, focus, knowledge, and partnerships required to halt and reverse tropical deforestation while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation. This work aims to mobilize significantly more philanthropic funding for this work, but in order to succeed, a far greater share of this funding must flow directly to organizations in tropical forest countries, including to organisations representing IPs and LCs.

Ford Foundation

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

For the [Ford Foundation](#), the IPs and LCs Pledge is important not only for its commitment to scaling up funding for IP and LC tenure rights and forest guardianship, but also for the opportunity it provides to reimagine how donors and IPs and LCs work together to increase rights recognition, forest guardianship, and climate change mitigation. As part of this journey, we have:

- Committed to posting annual updates on our website on progress toward meeting our pledge commitment, including a list of grants we make each year aligned with pledge goals. Our first update was posted on our website in September 2022.
- Joined other donors to support (1) an assessment by Indufor of existing funding pathways for reaching IP and LC and (2) a [process led by Charapa Consult](#) to engage with Indigenous Peoples to assess principles, standards, and mechanisms for supporting tenure rights and forest guardianship and to document their aspirations for the pledge.
- Created internal Ford Foundation working groups on 'land, territory, and autonomy' and 'locally controlled funds', allowing us to share lessons across programme team members, learn together with our partners, and be more coherent and effective in our grant-making.

- Partnered with the [Climate and Land Use Alliance](#) (CLUA), the Climate Leadership Initiative, and the Forests for Peoples and Climate Initiative to encourage new climate donors to include a focus on recognition of IPs' and LCs' rights and forest guardianship in their portfolios.
- Continued discussions with IPs and LCs partners about how we can be more responsive to their needs.
- Volunteered to chair the Funders Group in 2023.

Although we are on track to meet our Pledge commitment, one important lesson is that the proportion of our funding going directly to organisations representing IPs and LCs is considerably lower than we would like it to be, and lower than our IPs and LCs partners expect it to be. While we will continue to support regranting via intermediaries and NGO partners trusted by IPs and LCs organisations, we intend to increase the proportion of our funding going directly to IPs and LCs. One way we will do this is by using funds from our extended BUILD programme to provide five-year flexible support to IPs and LCs organizations and networks in the geographies where Ford works.

Germany

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

We see IPs and LCs as essential actors for the conservation and sustainable use of forests and thus also of climate and biodiversity. However, to be able to fulfil this role, IPs and LCs need tenure security over their territories – lands, forests and other natural resources. Over the last decades, [Germany](#) has been supporting IPs and LCs and their organisations through different bilateral and multilateral programmes in several countries and regions – amongst them the regional programme PROINDIGENA, the [REDD Early Movers programme](#) in Brazil, Ecuador and Colombia and the Amazon Fund.

In our entire REDD+ commitment, Germany attaches great importance to the human rights-based design of REDD+ programmes and compliance with safeguards in their implementation. With the necessary efforts for sustainable forest and land management, REDD+ is also used to address long-standing conflicts over land rights. Integrated land use planning and the observance and strengthening of formal and informal land rights of IPs and LCs are essential components.

With its commitment to a human rights-based approach, German Development Cooperation supports, on the one hand, rights holders to fully understand, claim and realize their rights, such as IPs and LCs through direct funding that

supports their empowerment and their capacities as well as their participation in national and international processes. On the other hand, German Development Cooperation supports state institutions and partner countries as duty bearers to fulfil their obligations to respect, protect and fulfill human rights, including the rights of IPs and LCs.

Working with both rights-holders and duty bearers, especially bilateral technical cooperation, constitutes an important lever for constructive dialogue between IPs and LCs and state institutions in the context of land and forest tenure reform processes. A considerable part of Germany's multilateral funding is also directly implemented through IP and LC: since 2020, [Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (BMZ) has been supporting the World Bank's trust fund 'Enhancing Access to Benefits while Lowering Emissions ([EnABLE](#))' with 20 million euros. The goal of EnABLE is to promote and strengthen the social inclusion of IPs and LCs in results-based climate finance programmes.

The following are lessons learned by Germany reconfirm the challenges of supporting Indigenous Peoples and their territorial rights which have been discussed in the German Development Cooperation since the 1990s:

- Project implementation requires constant political context analysis to identify 'windows of opportunity'.
- Declarations of political will are not enough; partner governments can be supported to translate them into national or regional budgets to finance policy and capacity development, fieldwork, the maintenance of cadastral systems and the institutionalisation of dialogue mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples' organizations.
- Intersectoral coordination (agriculture, forestry, conservation, infrastructure, mining etc.) is key to resolve overlapping territorial demands.
- Development agencies need to ensure among their staff members cultural sensitivity and knowledge about and experience with Indigenous Peoples and their organizational strategies; and staff members, in turn, need time and flexibility, especially regarding administrative regulations and procedures.

PHOTO: JOEL REDMAN / IF NOT US THEN WHO



Good Energies Foundation

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

All our partners reported an increase in all forms of illegality and a rollback of social and environmental safeguards during the Covid-19 pandemic, thus alerting us and the international community at large to the importance of continuing to investigate, report, and disseminate cases of rights abuses and violations, and threats and insecurity faced by IPs and LCs. There is a need for enhanced transparency at all levels: on monitoring, spending, advocacy, challenges and opportunities, and strategies deployed to ensure Indigenous Peoples can gain greater control over their lands, territories, and resources.

As a result, we at [Good Energies Foundation](#) decided to step up engagement and resources supporting community and civil society partners to use legal tools effectively to defend their land rights. For example, we partner with Forest Peoples programme to develop and implement the [Strategic Legal Response Centre \(SLRC\)](#), which provides flexible, responsive, and innovative legal support to IPs and LCs in partnerships with academics, legal practitioners, and land rights experts. In 2021, the SLRC supported 15 strategic legal cases with partners seeking recognition of their ancestral lands and/or protection from incursions, intimidation, and violence.

The SLRC also supports the development of a community of practice around forest peoples' rights at international, regional, and national levels, and builds the capacity of forest peoples to use legal tools. In 2021, this included delivering the first Peoples' Legal School – a training course for law students from Amazonian and Andean backgrounds – in collaboration with Indigenous organisations in Peru; training paralegals in Indonesia and establishing a paralegal network; supporting and hosting five legal and community-based internships; and co-hosting and participating in more than 10 land rights dialogues.



Netherlands

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

Joining the Pledge to advance IPs' and LCs' forest tenure rights has reaffirmed our commitment to recognize and strengthen the key role IPs and LCs play in protecting forest and nature. The Pledge has sparked internal and external discussion and increased the visibility of the subject. The political and financial commitments of the donors certainly help to broaden the recognition that IPs and LCs are at the heart of protecting forests, with tenure rights as an important condition to achieve sustainable forest management. The Pledge offers us a collective basis for cooperation and action to further advance IP's and LC's tenure rights and monitor its impact. However, the Pledge has also highlighted that a great deal of work is still needed to secure the tenure rights of IPs and LCs throughout the world, which can only be achieved in a collective manner.

The [Netherlands](#) recognizes that very little funding directly benefits IPs and LCs. This is important to empower IPs and LCs for effective forest protection. We, therefore, focus on funding specific activities where a substantial share of funding is either transferred to groups representing IPs and LCs and/or to intermediaries building the capacity of and supporting groups representing IPs and LCs. For instance, NGOs that implement the Forest for a Just Future programme, channel the majority of its budget to local CSO partners in the respective countries and at regional level, which either directly represent IPs and LCs groups or have thorough knowledge and experience in local projects and regular contact with target groups.

Norway

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

Notwithstanding the momentum and breadth of support and recognition achieved with the Pledge, the relationship between Norwegian climate and forests commitments and the role of IPs and LCs is characterized by continuity. IPs' and LCs' land rights and role in the management of tropical forests has, since the establishment of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative in 2008, been a concern of increasing priority, now recognized as [one out of seven core strategies](#). Funding has been delivered mostly through [partnerships](#) with tropical forest countries, and the [Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation](#) (Norad) window for climate and forest funding to civil society.

During the [last call for proposals](#), published in 2020 and implemented from 2021 to 2025, there was a focus on national civil society organizations or funds, so as to strengthen not only capacity of Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPO) and supportive CSOs, but also the national circumstances for land reform, access to national funds, and a policy and legal environment conducive for safeguarding land rights and security of environmental human rights defenders.

Norway has supported the establishment of the [Tenure Facility](#) to help accelerate IPs' and LCs' rights and guardianship over an increasing extent of tropical forest, most often in the context of

national or jurisdictional efforts towards land use reform. As a response to the deteriorating environment for IPs' and LCs' rights in Brazil over the last few years, we are scaling up direct support to IPOs through a [specialised programme hosted by the Norwegian Embassy in Brazil](#).

It has been a priority for Norway to support IPOs directly as soon as fiduciary capacity can be demonstrated. When channelling funds through intermediaries, this happens with the participation of IPs and LCs, and for the specific purpose of helping to build fiduciary capacity, in order to enable direct support.

Public transparency around expenditure and priorities for climate and forest spending including IPs and LCs and civil society more broadly, is secured through the [Government's annual budgets](#), as well as a [policy of broad public access to government's decisions and documents](#). Accountability vis-à-vis IP and LC is secured through direct dialogue with the [Global Alliance of Territorial Communities](#) under the aegis of the Forest Tenure Funders Group, the [Norwegian Consultation Mechanism with the Saami Parliament](#), the [Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform](#), as well as the [IP Caucus](#), both in the context of the UNFCCC. Similar procedures and protocols apply for cooperation with IPs and LCs in the context of the [CBD](#).

Oak Foundation

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

[Oak Foundation](#) staff attended the New York Climate Week and an event hosted by Ford Foundation to showcase the work of member organisations of the [Global Alliance for Territorial Communities](#). This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about regional Indigenous-led

funds that represent new vehicles to support work related to the Pledge. Descriptions of these new funds will be shared with the wider Oak team for consideration in future investments in the Amazonian region.

Sobrato

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

[Sobrato Philanthropies](#) approved our new focus on IPs and LCs and forests in September 2021, as the Forest Tenure Pledge was being developed and implemented. As such, we were just beginning to build and explore support for this topic, and the Pledge has helped us facilitate this work through greater networks and connections.

The challenge for us mainly relates to focusing on in-country work in Peru, Colombia, and Indonesia, with limited, and California-based staff. Relying on trust-oriented re-granters has been and will continue to be essential to enable us to effectively deploy dollars to support IPs and LCs in these countries.

United Kingdom

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

The UK's decision to mobilise the Forest Tenure Pledge was grounded in our long-standing commitment to support IPs and LCs to secure and protect their tenure rights and the recognition that these communities play a vital role on the frontline of climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation. At the same time, it was clear that far too little climate finance was supporting forest communities in their role as guardians for forests and nature and that we needed to revisit the global funding system directed towards IPs and LCs. COP26 provided a unique opportunity to escalate this agenda and mobilise more finance, to create a space for leaders representing IPs and LCs to challenge global leaders, and to begin to change the narrative from IP and LCs as beneficiaries of climate action to recognising their role as key agents on the frontline of climate action providing a vital service to the world.

Mobilising the Pledge for COP26 and leading key initiatives in 2022 to implement Pledge commitments elevated this agenda across the UK Government and strengthened efforts across different departments to advance IPs' and LCs' tenure rights. It is now an important pillar of the UK's work on climate mitigation and nature with different teams and programmes exploring how to step up their work to support IPs and LCs. The UK has significant experience and expertise working with governments to promote national tenure

reforms that secure and protect communities' tenure rights. Support for this kind of systemic change will remain a significant focus in the UK's \$224 million contribution to the Pledge. Programmes, such as the Forest Governance, Markets and Climate programme and [Territorios Forestales Sostenibles \(TEFOS\)](#), have been working to strengthen IPs' and LCs' rights and livelihoods for many years. These have been seeking new ways to support IPs and LCs more directly and understand how to better connect national-level and community-level action. This is one reason why we think the Forest Tenure Funders Group is important – it provides space for donors to learn from each other but also to find new ways to collaborate to work with our respective strengths and challenges.

This Pledge and the next four years provide an opportunity to begin to rebalance global support to this agenda and to build the capacity and systems to scale-up our support to organisations led by IPs and LCs. It will take time and we have much to learn with and from IPs and LCs on this journey.

United States

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

For many years the [United States Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) has supported IPs' and LCs' land tenure rights as well as biodiversity conservation and sustainable community forest management, with an extensive portfolio of engagement and support to IPs and LCs. USAID's global programmes implement different projects that respond to one or more of the criteria of the Pledge.

The IPs and LCs Forest Tenure Pledge has renewed the focus on tenure rights within the Agency. As highlighted through USAID's Climate Strategy, the tenure rights of IPs and LCs and biodiversity conservation are being pursued throughout multiple, intersecting projects globally. However, there are still many barriers raised by the Pledge that need to be addressed including

elevating and establishing funding mechanisms trusted by IPs and LCs to channel finance directly to IPs and LCs, discussions on carbon sequestration, recognition of the vast work done by Indigenous People in carbon sequestration, more transparent and accessible information on the funding processes of donors and building capacity in relevant organizations.

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

Climate change-related devastation, land inequality, and large-scale acquisitions of communal land and natural resources directly affect the socio-economic rights and wellbeing of IPs' and LCs' women and girls. These also confront significant barriers to exercising their rights to effectively participate in land and forest governance. To address these issues, Wellspring's Women's Rights Programme's workstream on natural resource rights works to transform the structures and mechanisms that prevent Indigenous, pastoralist and local women from realising their collective rights to land and natural resources.

COP26 and the adoption of the Pledge coincided with Wellspring's Women's Rights programme strategy review. The Pledge's commitment to advance the *"effective participation and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making [...] recognising the specific interests of women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities, and others often marginalised from decision-making"* was reassuring and in line with the direction towards which the foundation's programmatic strategy was being shifted. Joining the Pledge strengthens this alignment and has the potential to amplify IPs' and LCs' women's efforts to advance their land and forest tenure rights and those of their communities.

The collective space created by government donors and foundations under the Pledge has the potential to foster further collaboration, alignment and learning to tackle the systemic nature of the challenges the Pledge aims to confront. It can also help bridge the grant-making silos that often undermine efforts to advance the holistic objectives of the Forest Tenure Pledge and IPs and LCs.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

DONOR CASE STUDIES

The [Hewlett Foundation](#) joined the Forest Tenure Pledge in recognition of the close linkage between the full and effective engagement of IPs and LCs and solutions to the climate crisis. Hewlett is working in partnership with the Packard Foundation and the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA) to programme its Pledge commitment.

Protecting Our Planet Challenge Members

PLEDGE DONOR STATEMENTS

The Protecting Our Planet (POP) Challenge is a coalition of private donors created in September 2021 to support the goal of protecting 30% of the planet by 2030. This includes the creation, expansion and management of protected and conserved areas globally, recognizing and supporting the rights and guardianship of IPs and LCs toward that goal. As partners in the POP Challenge, we have together pledged to invest \$5 billion toward this goal between 2021 and 2030, and we aim to have at least 20% of that funding go to support IPs and LCs. This is not a new fund or a pooled fund, each of our 11 partners manages their own funds and has their own strategies and priorities, but we are working to align our funding and to co-invest in projects with other donors and partners toward a larger impact.

During 2021, POP partners invested \$624 million to support protected and conserved areas globally, and at least \$72 million of this funding went to support the work of IPs and LCs. We expect this number will increase over time, as new opportunities arise mechanisms to provide direct funding to IPs and LCs are consolidated. The majority of this funding was invested in Africa and Latin America, but also included important work in Asia, Australia and North America.

The members of the coalition bring different backgrounds, approaches and areas of focus

to our work, but we are committed to working together and learning from each other. Some of our partners (Nia Tero, see Section 4) are entirely focused on supporting the guardianship of IPs and LCs, while others (Bloomberg Philanthropies) focus on marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries by local communities. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has been supporting work in the Amazon basin for more than two decades, while the new Bezos Earth Fund has started funding protected areas in the Congo Basin and the Tropical Andes. Together, we support an extensive network of local, national and international organisations and a large number of groups representing IPs and LCs.

We recognize the key role of Indigenous Peoples in conservation, and the importance of securing tenure rights. This is why some of our partners are supporting the work of the [Tenure Facility](#), and the Bezos Earth Fund has provided support for a new collaboration between the Rights and Resources Group, the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities and the Campaign for Nature to secure the rights and protection of more than 100 million hectares of forest.

We are pleased to have joined the Forest Tenure Pledge, and to have the opportunity to learn from other donors and partners, and explore new ways of working toward greater impact.

Further Information

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOREST TENURE PLEDGE DONORS

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY 	KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS  Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands	KINGDOM OF NORWAY  NICFI Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative	UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND  UKaid from the British people
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE	CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION  CHILDREN'S INVESTMENT FUND FOUNDATION	THE CHRISTENSEN FUND  THE CHRISTENSEN FUND	THE DAVID AND LUCILE PACKARD FOUNDATION  the David & Lucile Packard FOUNDATION
FORD FOUNDATION  FORD FOUNDATION	GOOD ENERGIES FOUNDATION  Good Energies BY PORTICUS	OAK FOUNDATION  OAK FOUNDATION	SOBRATO PHILANTHROPIES  SOBRATO Philanthropies
WELLSPRING PHILANTHROPIC FUND  Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	THE WILLIAM AND FLORA HEWLETT FOUNDATION  WILLIAM & FLORA Hewlett Foundation	PROTECTING OUR PLANET CHALLENGE	

The Protecting Our Planet Challenge (members include [Arcadia](#), the [Bezos Earth Fund](#), [Bloomberg Philanthropies](#), the [Bobolink Foundation](#), [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#), [International Conservation Fund of Canada](#), [Nia Tero](#), [Rainforest Trust](#), [Re:wild](#), [Wyss Foundation](#) and the [Rob and Melani Walton Foundation](#))

Funders Group Webpage: [Donor Pledge to Advance Support for Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Tenure Rights and their Forest Guardianship | Land Portal](#)

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FOREST TENURE FUNDERS GROUP