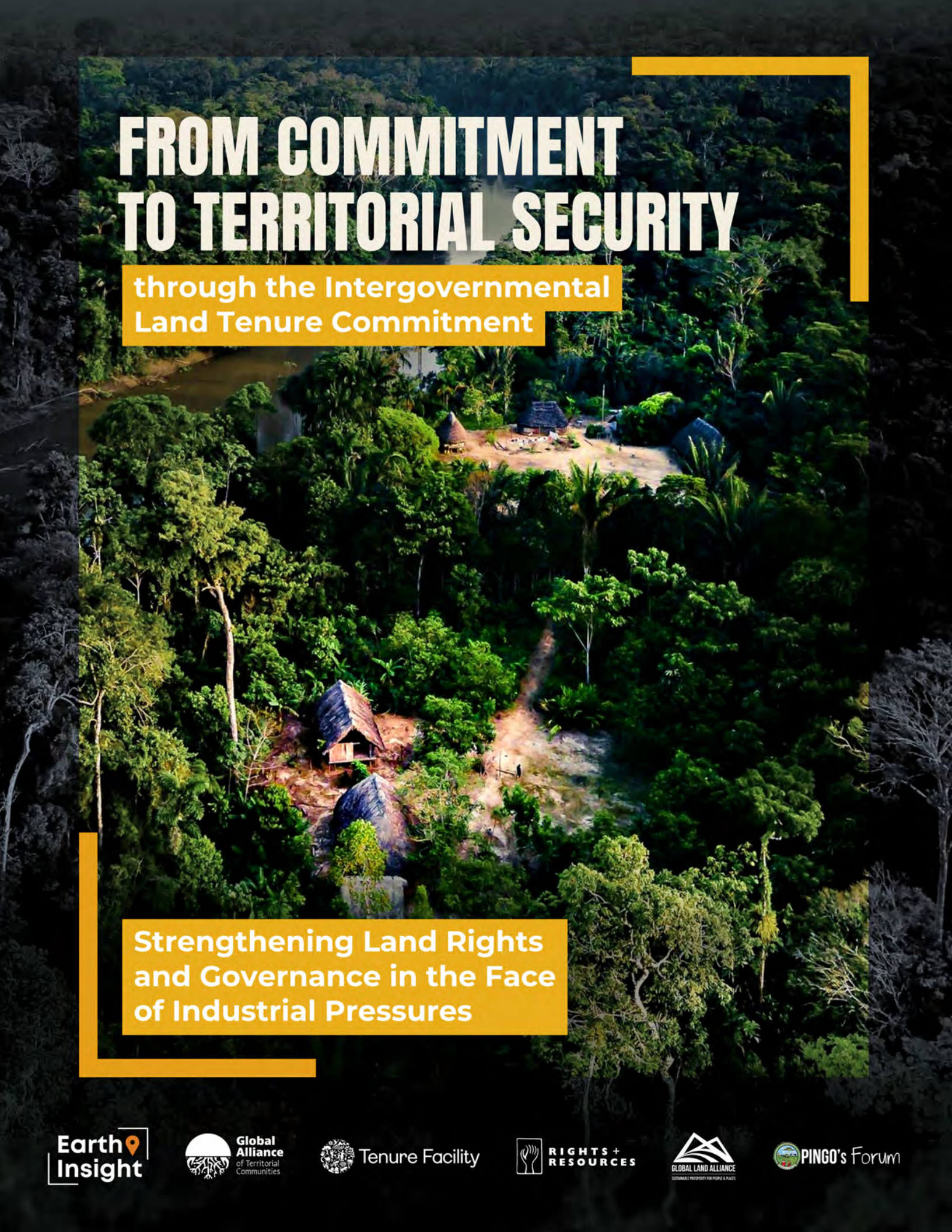
FROM COMMITMENT TO TERRITORIAL SECURITY

through the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment



Strengthening Land Rights and Governance in the Face of Industrial Pressures

Earth Insight

Global Alliance of Territorial Communities

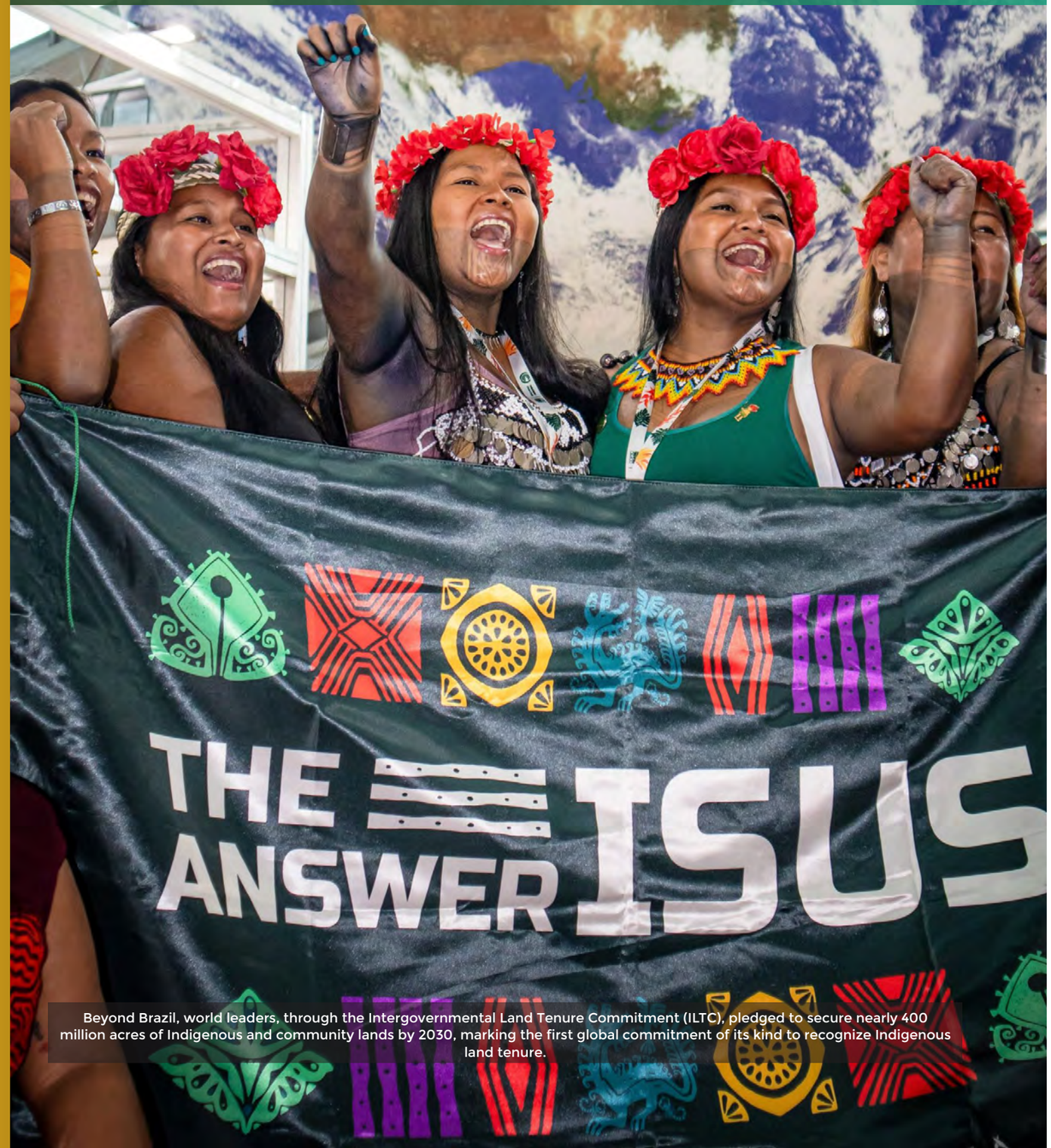
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Beyond Brazil, world leaders, through the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC), pledged to secure nearly 400 million acres of Indigenous and community lands by 2030, marking the first global commitment of its kind to recognize Indigenous land tenure.

Executive Summary

Launched at COP30 in Belém in 2025, the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) aims to recognize and strengthen the tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples (IP), local communities (LC), and Afro-descendant Peoples (ADP), including women and girls, across 160 million hectares (Mha) in tropical forest countries by 2030. It encompasses two complementary commitments: recognizing tenure rights across at least 80 Mha and strengthening land governance rights and protection across 80 Mha where tenure is already recognized. A renewed and complementary US$1.8 billion Forest and Land Tenure Pledge for 2026–2030 supports these rights and territorial stewardship through more direct, long-term, and flexible financing. Together, these distinct and mutually reinforcing commitments offer an important opportunity to align political ambition, territorial rights, and implementation finance at scale.

This report seeks to highlight how the ILTC can help advance territorial protection amid growing industrial and infrastructure pressures. Drawing on research, selected spatial analysis and illustrative case studies, this report explores how the ILTC could help translate signatory countries' commitments to tenure recognition and strengthened governance into more effective territorial protection, building on the approaches and priorities of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendant Peoples.

The report's central finding is that **meeting the ILTC's hectare commitments, while essential, is not sufficient to ensure meaningful territorial protection.** Governments must also ensure that rights are effectively respected and that rights-holders can exercise governance and decision-making authority over their lands and resources after recognition, free from extractive and large-scale industrial activities that undermine them.

The case studies, particularly those from Latin America, illustrate that industrial concessions and authorizations can threaten territorial rights even where tenure has already been legally recognized. Effective ILTC implementation therefore requires governments to align industrial licensing, infrastructure and investment decisions with territorial rights and rights-holders' own territorial governance plans, while ensuring respect for applicable consultation, participation, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) obligations.

Importantly, **the ILTC's two hectare commitments should not be understood as limiting governance support to the 80 Mha of already recognized lands.** Newly recognized territories also require effective governance, protection, and sustained institutional and financial support if recognition is to translate into lasting territorial security.

The hurdles to achieving the goals of the ILTC remain complicated and vary by political, legal, and cultural context. This report does not intend to provide a definitive answer on how the ILTC can be leveraged most effectively, but seeks to contribute to a broader conversation among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples, as well as governments, donors, and technical partners, grounded in rights-holders' priorities, decisions and governance systems.

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KEY INSIGHTS AND FINDINGS

1 Territorial rights and governance are fundamental. For Indigenous Peoples, rights to lands and territories are integral to self-determination, cultures, livelihoods, governance, and ways of life. Secure tenure and governance are similarly fundamental to the relationship of local communities and Afro-descendant Peoples with their lands, institutions, and livelihoods. These rights should be respected regardless of their contribution to conservation or climate outcomes.

2 Collectively-held territories are globally significant and essential to achieving climate and biodiversity commitments. A growing body of evidence links secure tenure and IP, LC, and ADP-led governance to positive forest, biodiversity, climate, and livelihood outcomes, with stronger results from greater authority over their lands and resources. In the Peruvian Amazon, for example, **forests within established and proposed reserves for Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) experienced 16 times less forest loss than forests outside them**, even as more than 5.3 Mha were lost across the region since 2000. Recent research across Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Suriname found that legally recognized territories of Afro-descendant Peoples were associated with 29–55% less forest loss than comparable areas.

3 Industrial pressures on these territories are substantial and continue to intensify. In the Amazon Basin, oil and gas blocks overlap approximately 31 Mha (12%) of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' territories, mining concessions 9.8 Mha, and industrial logging concessions 2.4 Mha. In Mesoamerica, mining concessions overlap 18.7 Mha (17%) of their lands. In Indonesia, wood concessions overlap approximately 6 Mha (18%) of Indigenous lands. In the Congo Basin, oil and gas blocks overlap 38% of mapped community forests, and mining concessions 42%.

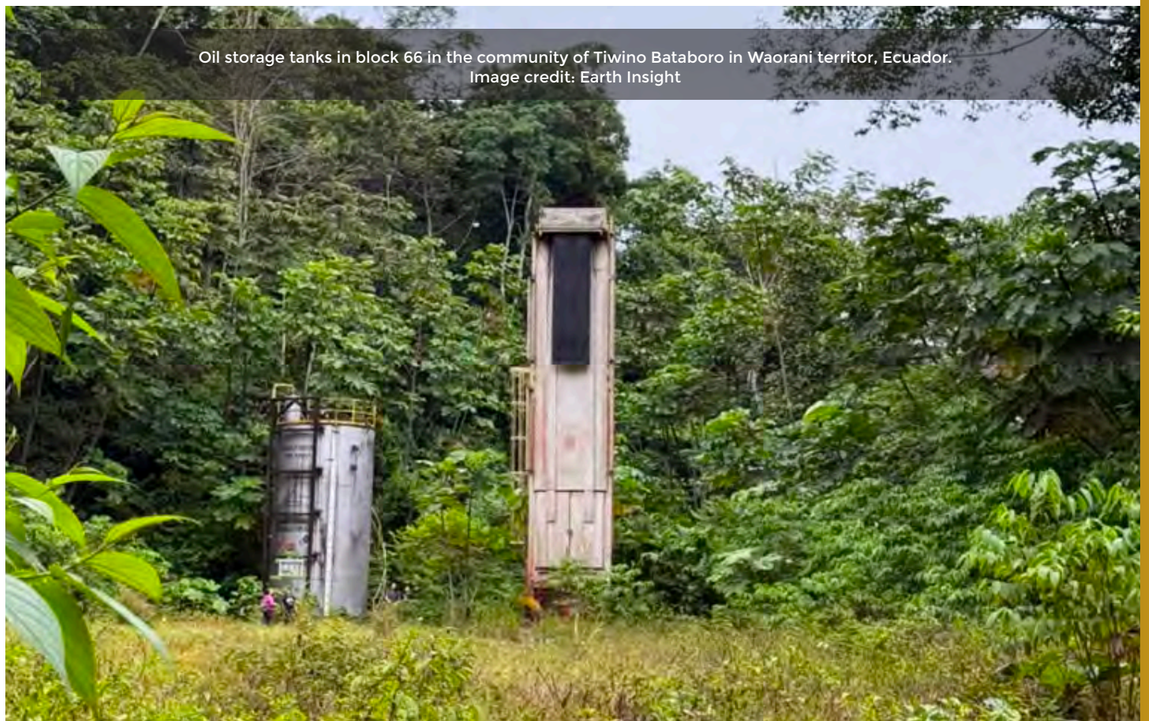
4 Pressures arise across different tenure contexts and reach beyond the footprint of individual projects. The cases examined include territories where rights remain insufficiently recognized or ancestral claims are still pending, and territories where rights are formally recognized. They point to the need to accelerate recognition where rights are unsecured, and to strengthen governance and protection where rights are recognized, including by identifying emerging pressures and guarding against erosion or rollback of existing rights.

Associated infrastructure (e.g., roads, pipelines, and power plants), pollution, and deforestation are known to accelerate the fragmentation of sensitive landscapes, undermining the maintenance of essential watersheds and territorial connectivity, while negatively impacting the local livelihoods and biocultural relationships well beyond individual project sites.

Crucially, the case studies show that **while legal recognition is foundational, it must be accompanied by effective protection against activities that undermine territorial rights,** including through licensing, land-use and investment decisions that respect rights-holders' governance authority, territorial plans and applicable FPIC requirements.

5 Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples have their own approaches to territorial recognition, governance and protection. The cases examined include territorial recovery, Indigenous mandates on extractive activities, participatory mapping and monitoring, and territorial corridors across administrative and national boundaries. ILTC implementation can build on these approaches while respecting Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination and communities' own decisions about how their territories are governed, used and protected.

6 The ILTC and the renewed Forest and Land Tenure Pledge create a significant opportunity to connect political commitment, implementation and finance. Together they can accelerate recognition, strengthen self-determined governance and protection, support the territorial priorities and economies of IPs, LCs, and ADPs, and address external pressures on territories. The ILTC also offers an opportunity to generate political will for greater coherence between tenure commitments and land-use planning, industrial licensing and investment decisions. This includes supporting effective governance on newly recognized lands as well as already recognized territories, and ensuring that applicable consultation, FPIC and participation rights are effectively upheld, monitored and enforced.



Oil storage tanks in block 66 in the community of Tiwino Bataboro in Waorani territor, Ecuador.
Image credit: Earth Insight

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Accelerate recognition of territorial and tenure rights. Governments should accelerate legal and administrative processes for recognizing rights of IPs, LCs, and ADPs to lands and territories, including customary tenure, and address barriers to recognition. For Indigenous Peoples, applicable rights should be consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); for local communities with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP). Recognition processes should enable meaningful participation by women and youth, consistent with customary institutions and collective decision-making.

Recognition should be accompanied by measures to ensure that newly recognized rights can be effectively exercised and protected, rather than treating titling as the endpoint of implementation.

2 Strengthen Indigenous and community governance and territorial management. ILTC implementation must strengthen the legal, institutional, and financial conditions under which IPs, LCs, and ADPs govern their territories, including planning, monitoring, and protection mechanisms consistent with their governance systems and priorities. Implementation should also support IP, LC, and ADP-led territorial and landscape approaches, life plans, economies and socio-bioeconomies where these reflect their priorities and governance systems. Support should include women's and young people's priorities in governance and intergenerational stewardship, as identified by rights-holders. This support must extend to newly recognized territories, not only the 80 Mha of already recognized lands identified under the ILTC's governance commitment.

3 Address industrial and infrastructure pressures affecting territories. Governments should identify and address overlapping territorial claims with explicit IP, LC, and ADP involvement, develop and apply robust safeguards, and better delineate investment corridors in alignment with national climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development commitments. This includes addressing conflicts between territorial rights and mining, oil and gas, logging, industrial agriculture, energy, and infrastructure; preventing the erosion or rollback of recognized rights; and ensuring that conservation measures, including protected areas, respect customary tenure and do not lead to dispossession or displacement. Where consistent with the decisions and priorities of affected peoples and communities, measures may include excluding unwanted extractive and other large-scale industrial activities from designated areas and strengthening Indigenous- and community-led monitoring. Independent spatial analysis can help identify emerging pressures, overlapping claims, and competing land and resource uses.

4 Strengthen monitoring, reporting, and accountability. Ensure meaningful rights-holder participation, including women and youth through their own institutions, and assess progress in recognition and effective governance. Complement existing reporting with Indigenous- and community-led monitoring of emerging territorial pressures and measures taken to address them.

Monitoring should assess not only hectares recognized or governance arrangements strengthened, but also whether rights-holders can effectively exercise their authority, whether territorial plans are respected, and whether industrial and infrastructure threats are being addressed.

5 Mobilize and align finance for recognition, governance, and territorial stewardship. Adequate, accessible, long-term, and flexible finance will be needed across the full range of ILTC implementation, including tenure recognition, territorial governance and monitoring, institutional strengthening, territorial protection, stewardship, and Indigenous- and community-led economies.

Donors should deliver existing commitments and increase direct, long-term, and flexible financing to IPs, LCs, and ADPs, consistent with their priorities and governance systems. Finance should prioritize accessible, direct, long-term and flexible finance for recognition, territorial governance and monitoring, institutional strengthening, territorial protection, stewardship, and IP, LC, and ADP-led economies.

6 Strengthen policy coherence and accountability in land-use and investment decisions. Governments have a responsibility to ensure that land-use planning, industrial licensing, infrastructure, and investment decisions uphold the rights of IPs, LCs, and ADPs and are consistent with ILTC commitments. This requires stronger coordination across government institutions, integrating rights-holders' territorial governance plans into land-use planning and licensing processes, and complying with applicable consultation and FPIC obligations. Where land-use priorities compete, they should be reconciled through rights-based processes with the meaningful participation of affected rights-holders.

7 Align implementation and strengthen partnerships. Governments should integrate territorial rights and Indigenous- and community-led governance into relevant national biodiversity, climate, land-use, and development frameworks. Partnerships among IP, LC, and ADP organizations, governments, donors, and technical partners should mobilize political, financial, and technical support around priorities identified by rights-holders, including legal recognition, mapping, territorial planning, monitoring, information management, and knowledge exchange where requested.

Scale of Threats at the Regional Level

The maps below illustrate the extent to which oil and gas blocks, mining concessions, and logging concessions overlap IP and LC lands in four regions.



An Ecuadorean activist stands next to a "mechero" (gas flare) from the refinery operated by Petroecuador in Shushufindi, in the Sucumbíos Province, Ecuador. Flames flicker through the thick green trees of the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest, where gas flares, oil wells and refineries darken the landscape and poison the environment.

Image credit: PEDRO PARDO/AFP via Getty Images

In the Amazon, **31 Mha (12%) of IPs' and LCs' territories are overlapped by oil and gas blocks, 9.8 Mha by mining concessions, and 2.4 Mha by industrial logging concessions.**

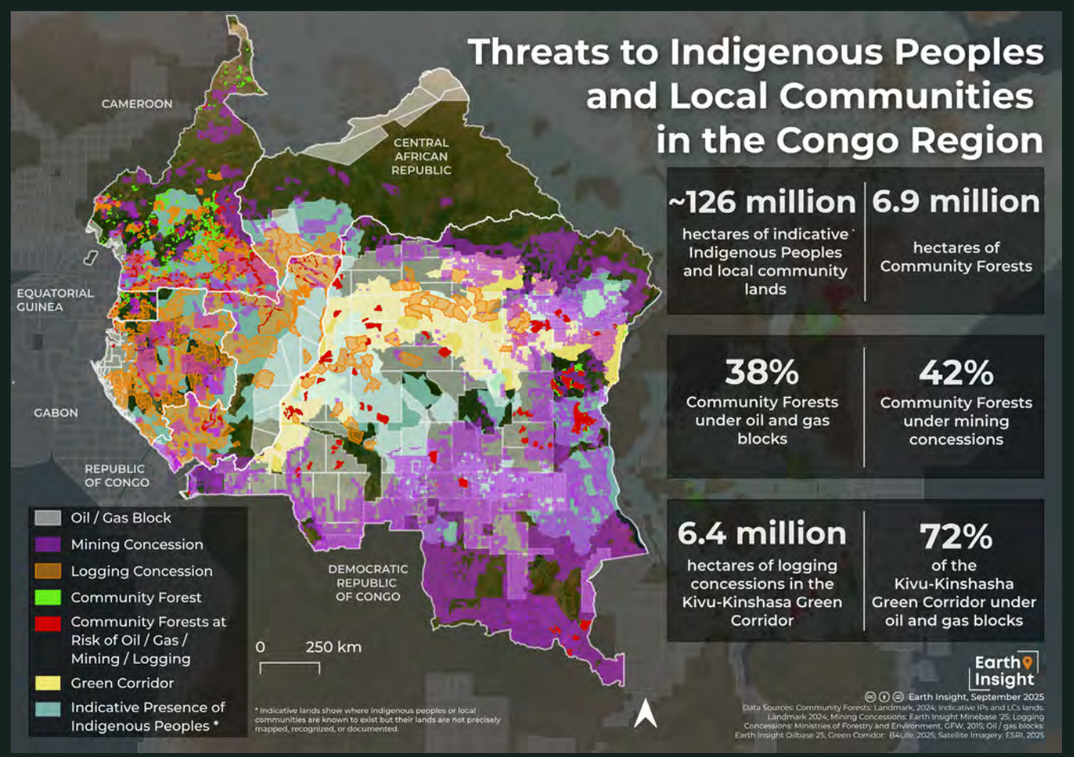


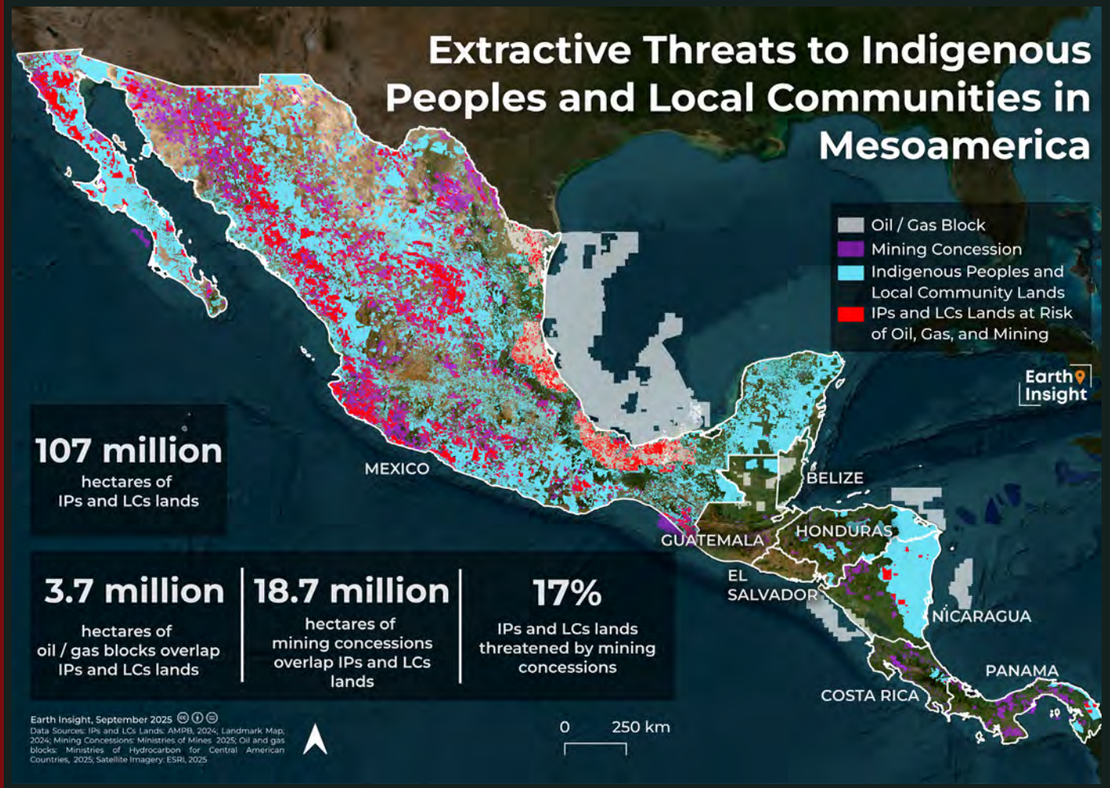
Legally recognized and rooted in traditional practices, community forests enable communities to secure rights, protect biodiversity and traditional ecological knowledge, and resist unsustainable exploitation. There are nearly 7 Mha of community forests across the Congo Region.

However, **38% of Community Forests are under oil and gas blocks, 42% are under mining concessions, and 6% are under logging concessions.** More than 72% of the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor, a 54-Mha conservation initiative created in 2025 to promote sustainable land use and support community conservation, is under oil and gas blocks. More than 6.4 Mha are within logging concessions.



Guide in old growth forest in Nord Kivu, DRC. Image credit: Eric Isselée via Adobe Stock.

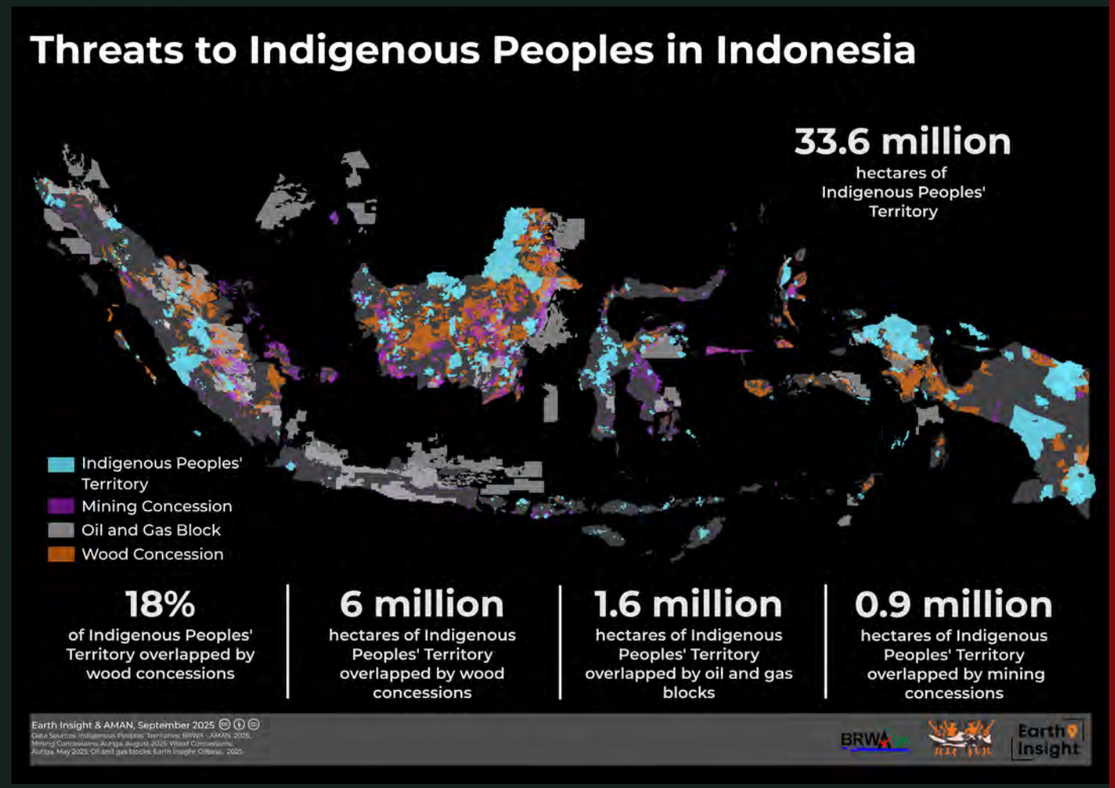




Mining concessions overlap 18.7 Mha (17%) of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' lands in Mesoamerica, while oil and gas concessions overlap 3.7 Mha.



Protest against the Cobre Panamá mining contract in Panama City, 2023.
Image credit: AnyGang via Wikimedia Commons. CC0 1.0



Analysis by AMAN found that **6 Mha of Indigenous lands in Indonesia (18%) are currently overlapped by wood concessions, 1.6 Mha (5%) overlapped by oil and gas blocks, and 0.9 Mha (3%) overlapped by mining concessions.**
These overlaps reflect long histories of extractive development and their implications extend beyond forest loss to territorial rights, self-determination, governance, livelihoods and cultural continuity. They bear on both dimensions of ILTC implementation: they can complicate recognition where tenure is unsecured and undermine the exercise of rights where tenure is recognized. While these pressures pose a serious risk to ILTC implementation, the commitment also offers an opportunity to generate political momentum to address them, including by strengthening coherence between territorial rights and land-use planning, industrial licensing, and investment decisions.



Villiagers pass by illegally logged timber in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.
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