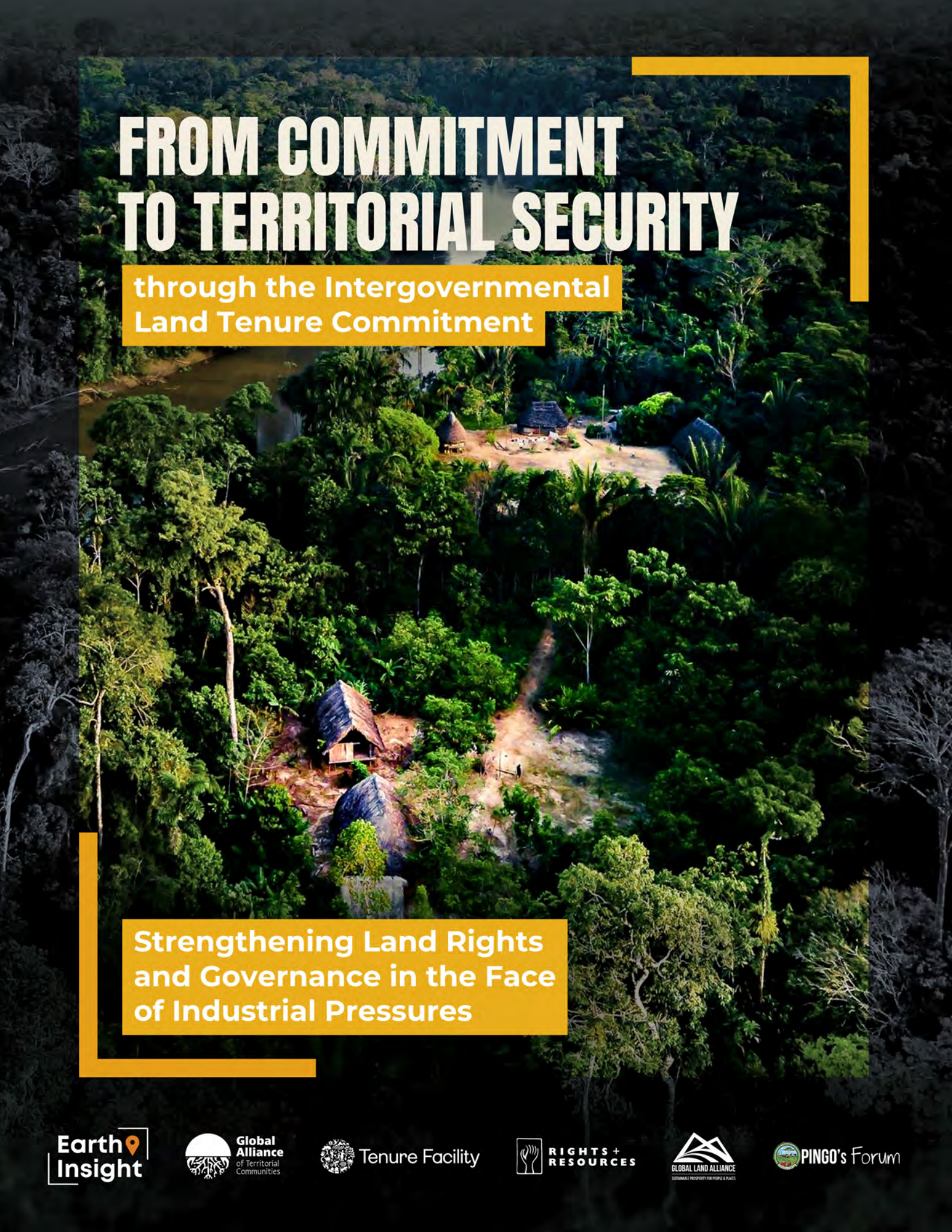
FROM COMMITMENT TO TERRITORIAL SECURITY

through the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment



Strengthening Land Rights and Governance in the Face of Industrial Pressures

Earth Insight

Global Alliance of Territorial Communities

Tenure Facility

RIGHTS + RESOURCES

GLOBAL LAND ALLIANCE

PINGO's Forum



From Commitment to Territorial Security through the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment

Strengthening Land Rights and Governance in the Face of Industrial Pressures

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FOREWORD



The Nanay river and boats navigating in its waters, in the Peruvian Amazon. Image credit: Gino Tuestavia Adobe Stock.

FOREWORD

For Indigenous Peoples (IP) and local communities (LC), our territories hold the memory of our ancestors and the future of our children. They sustain our cultures, livelihoods and governance systems, and our relationships with nature, waters and all forms of life. Securing our territorial rights is fundamental to our ability to determine our own futures and fulfill our responsibilities to the generations that follow. Through the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC), we have consistently called for recognition of our land rights, respect for our Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), protection of territorial defenders, recognition and protection of our governance systems and traditional knowledge, and direct access to finance. The Brazzaville Declaration reaffirms these priorities and establishes a roadmap that recognizes that we are rights-holders and knowledge holders, with a central role in addressing the climate and biodiversity crises.

The Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) offers an important opportunity to advance these demands. Its commitments to recognize tenure and strengthen governance and protection must become meaningful changes in our territories. Legal recognition is a foundation for long-term sustainability. Without secure territorial rights, community-led projects, conservation efforts, territorial economies, and governance systems remain vulnerable to external pressures and may struggle to sustain their work over time. Recognition must therefore be secured where it is still denied and upheld through public policies, institutions, and resources that respect our rights.

This report documents industrial pressures that can obstruct recognition and undermine rights already recognized. Mining, oil and gas, industrial agriculture, logging, and infrastructure affect the lands and waters on which our lives depend.

Governments must ensure that development decisions uphold the territorial rights they have committed to protect. Our peoples and communities are already advancing responses through territorial recovery, life plans, customary governance, community monitoring, and protection across connected landscapes. These efforts are grounded in knowledge carried across generations and adapted to present challenges. But our communities cannot be expected to sustain these efforts alone while facing insecure tenure, external pressures and limited access to resources. Implementation must strengthen our own institutions and initiatives, support our priorities and respect our decisions.

We call on governments to align their policies and actions with territorial rights, on donors to provide direct and sustained support, and on partners to work with us from the outset. These efforts must go hand in hand: funding our community initiatives without securing territorial rights leaves the conditions that threaten their continuity unresolved. Progress must be assessed through the reality in our territories: whether our rights are legally recognized and respected, whether funding reaches communities, whether our governance is strengthened, and whether threats to our territories and the people who defend them are addressed.

This report invites dialogue on how the ILTC can support that work. Its promise will be realized when our peoples and communities can live securely on our lands, exercise our governance and protect these living territories for future generations.



Levi Sucre Romero,
General Director of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB), Co-Chair, GATC

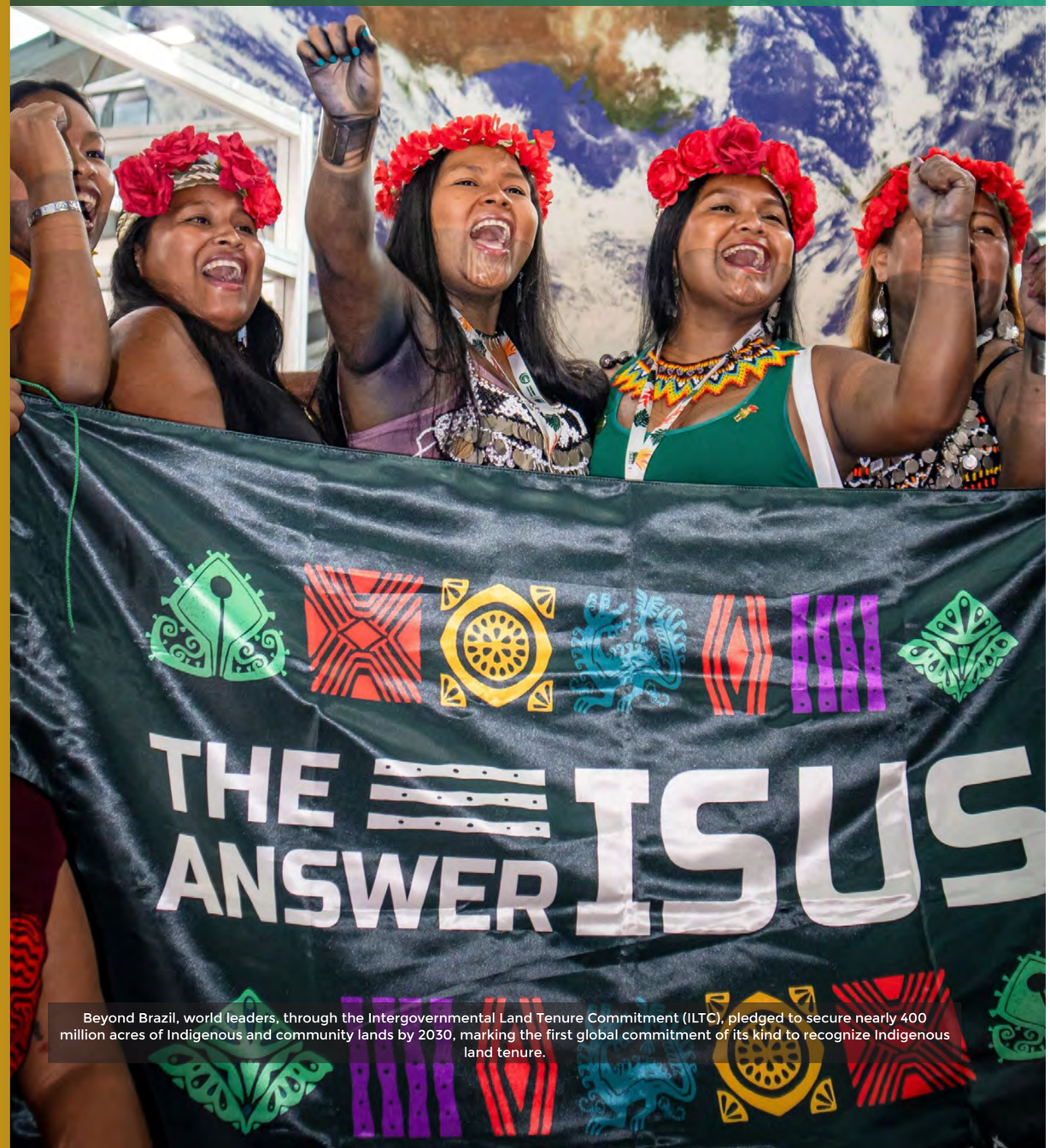


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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.[1] 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.[2] 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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,[3] with stronger results from greater authority over their lands and resources.[4] 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.[5]

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%.[6]

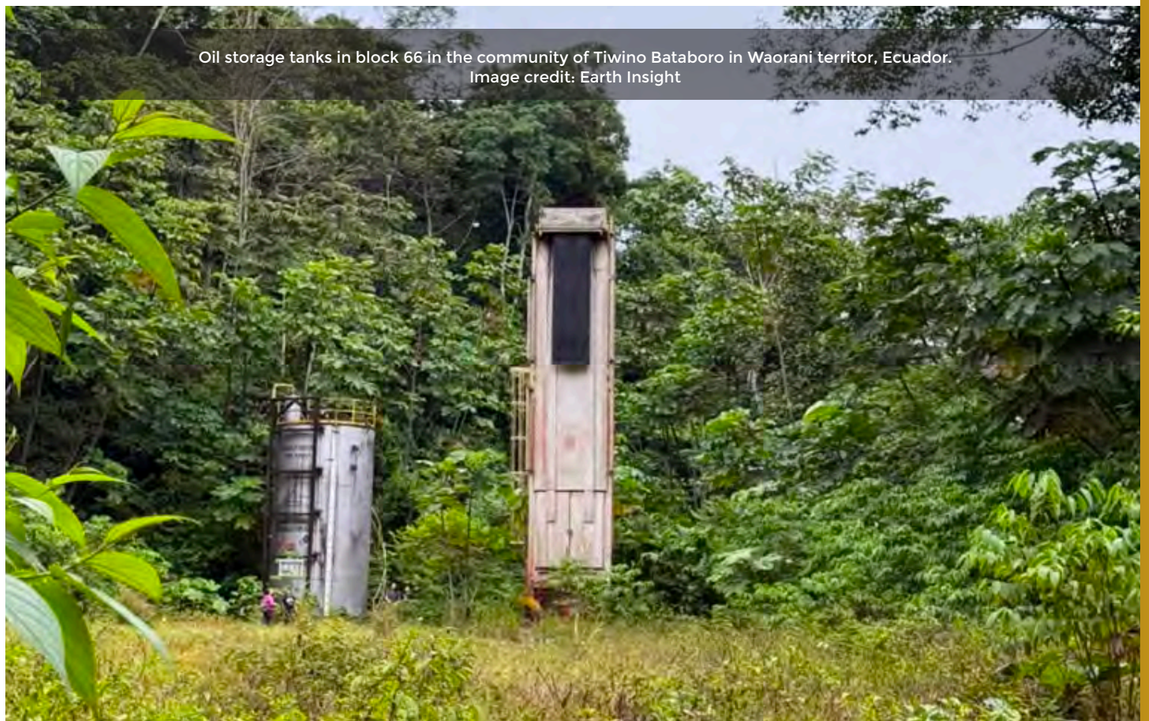
4 Pressures arise across different tenure contexts and reach beyond the footprint of individual projects. The cases examined include territories where rights remain insufficiently recognized or ancestral claims are still pending, and territories where rights are formally recognized. They point to the 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);[7] for local communities with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).[8] 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.

Introduction

The Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC), launched in Belém in connection with COP30 in 2025, is an important international commitment to scale the recognition of tenure rights for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples under national and subnational laws, and to strengthen governance and protection in territories where rights are already recognized. It sets a collective ambition of 160 Mha by 2030: **at least 80 Mha of newly recognized tenure and a further 80 Mha where governance rights and protection are strengthened on already recognized lands.**[9] Alongside the ILTC, government and philanthropic donors announced a renewed Forest and Land Tenure Pledge committing US$1.8 billion between 2026 and 2030 to support Indigenous Peoples', local communities', and Afro-descendant Peoples' land and resource rights and stewardship.[10] The two commitments are distinct but mutually reinforcing: the ILTC establishes political commitments from signatory governments on tenure recognition, governance, and protection, while the Pledge provides a financing pathway for implementation.[11]

To support this effort, the ILTC has tasked the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) Secretariat with preparation of an annual Forest Governance and Tenure Progress Report to track progress. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the FCLP are jointly developing an ILTC monitoring methodology and reporting framework that combines local knowledge and expertise with existing data systems.[12] The framework also offers opportunities to align reporting with the Rio Conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals, building on existing tenure, forest, and land-monitoring initiatives to avoid duplication and reduce reporting burdens.

Indigenous Peoples' rights to their lands and territories are grounded in international human rights standards and are fundamental to self-determination, cultures, livelihoods, and ways of life.[13] They extend beyond legal title or physical possession to encompass IPs' relationships with their territories, their governance systems, and their authority to determine priorities for their lands and resources.

A growing body of evidence[14] shows that secure territorial rights deliver measurable outcomes for biodiversity conservation, climate mitigation, freshwater protection, and sustainable rural development. These rights are increasingly recognized as important to global biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development goals. However, recognition alone does not determine outcomes: How territories are governed matters. Research on effective and equitable conservation points to stronger ecological outcomes where Indigenous Peoples and local communities exercise primary control or participate as equal partners in governance.[15]

Yet these territories face substantial and growing pressures from extractive and other large-scale industrial activities, as well as large-scale conservation initiatives that can restrict customary access, undermine territorial governance, or lead to displacement when they fail to recognize and respect existing rights. Mining, oil and gas development, industrial logging, large-scale agriculture, bioenergy, and associated infrastructure can also affect territorial rights, customary land use, livelihoods, governance systems, and ecosystems. These pressures arise whether rights are formally recognized, partly recognized, pending, or exercised through customary tenure.[16]



Women in a community forest in Indonesia. Image courtesy of AMAN

What does the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) Call For?

The Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) calls on governments to collectively recognize and strengthen land tenure rights over 160 million hectares of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' lands and territories. World leaders endorsed this landmark pledge at the COP30 Belém Climate Summit (FCLP, 2025).

Addressing these pressures requires more than formal recognition. It also requires ensuring that territorial rights and governance are respected in decisions about land use, investment, and development. Territorial protection should not imply externally determining how IPs, LCs, and ADPs use their territories.[17] [18]

The central opportunity for ILTC implementation is therefore to accelerate the recognition of tenure while also strengthening the effective exercise and protection of territorial rights against growing extractive and large-scale industrial expansion,[19] moving beyond recognition as an endpoint and ensuring that territorial rights can be effectively exercised and protected. This requires supporting governance and protection on newly recognized territories as well as on already recognized lands, and ensuring that industrial licensing, infrastructure and investment decisions respect territorial rights, rights-holders' own governance plans and applicable consultation and FPIC obligations.

While the ILTC does not itself regulate industrial development, it could generate political will and strengthen coordination across government institutions to address the disconnect between tenure recognition and decisions that affect territorial rights. **Its effectiveness should therefore be assessed not only through progress toward hectare commitments, but also by whether rights-holders can effectively exercise their territorial rights and governance authority, free from extractive and large-scale industrial activities that undermine those rights.**

INTRODUCTION

Analytical Framework

The report rests on one principle: **Indigenous Peoples', local communities', and Afro-descendant Peoples' territorial rights and governance are fundamental in their own right and, for Indigenous Peoples, an expression of the right to self-determination**. They also contribute to biodiversity, climate, ecosystem resilience, and sustainable development, but that contribution is not the basis of their rights.

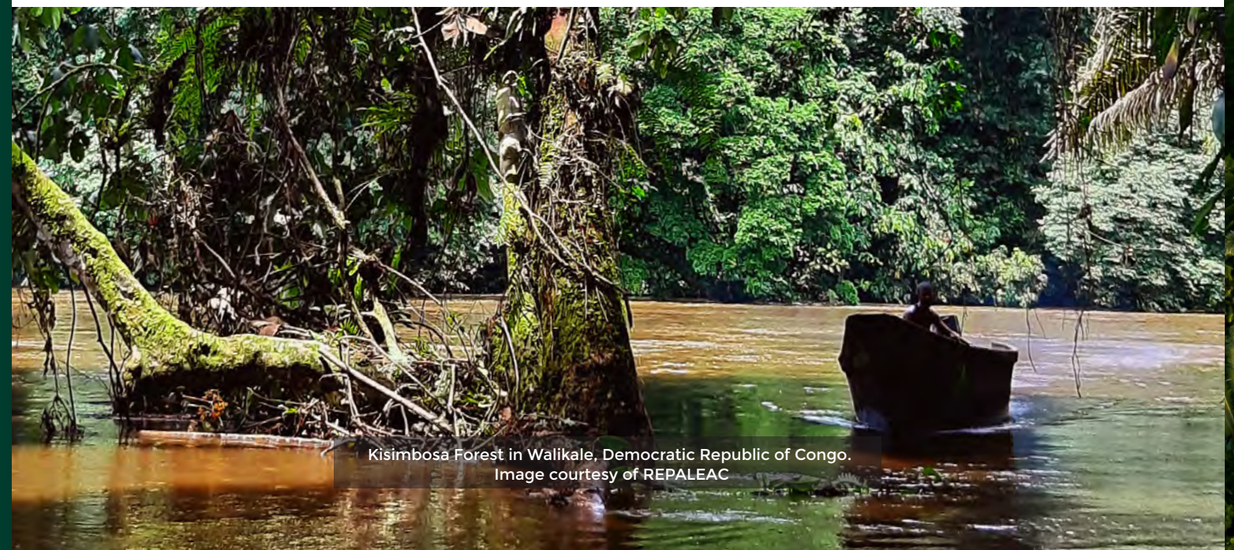
The report examines three interconnected dimensions:

1. **The importance of territorial rights, governance and stewardship**, for the peoples and communities themselves and for biodiversity, climate and ecosystem resilience.

2. **The scale of industrial and infrastructure pressures**, which intersect with territories at significant scale, both where rights remain unsecured and where tenure is already recognized.

3. **The opportunity presented by the ILTC and associated finance to accelerate recognition**, strengthen self-determined governance, territorial protection, and support Indigenous- and community-led priorities.

It combines research, selected spatial analysis and illustrative case studies. Maps cover the Amazon Basin, the Congo Basin, Mesoamerica, and Indonesia, as well as country and territorial examples that prioritize ILTC participants. Spatial overlaps with concessions or other mapped pressures indicate potential competing land and resource uses. The case studies are illustrative, not representative or exhaustive; they reflect different geographies, tenure situations, industrial pressures, and Indigenous- and community-led responses.



Kisimbosa Forest in Walikale, Democratic Republic of Congo.
Image courtesy of REPALEAC

THE GLOBAL IMPORTANCE

of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro Descendant Peoples' Terrritories



Indigenous community in Amazon rainforest.
Image credit: Mark Fox via Adobe Stock.



Indigenous Bambuti women of the Democratic Republic of Congo.
Image courtesy of REPALEAC

For Indigenous Peoples, territories are not simply areas of land or units of tenure. They are integral to identity, culture, livelihoods, governance, spirituality, relationship with land and waters, and the exercise of self-determination. Likewise, local communities and Afro-descendant Peoples maintain important and diverse customary and collective relationships with lands and these relationships sustain their ways of life, institutions, knowledge and livelihoods.[20] **Territorial and tenure rights matter in their own right**.

International human rights standards reinforce this foundation. UNDRIP recognizes IPs' rights to self-determination; to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions; and to lands, territories, and resources traditionally owned, occupied, used, or acquired.[21] ILO Convention No. 169 binds the states that ratify it to respect Indigenous and tribal peoples' rights to lands and natural resources, to consult them and involve them in decisions that affect them, and to respect their institutions, cultures and ways of life.[22] These standards, together with the principles of FPIC, affirm that IPs must be able to determine their own priorities for the use, development and governance of their lands, territories and resources.

International standards also recognize the tenure and participation rights of local communities, Afro-descendant Peoples and other rural rights-holders. These include the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT),[23] UNDROP,[24] the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,[25] and the Durban Programme of Action, which calls for resolving ancestral land claims. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has established regional jurisprudence protecting Afro-descendant tribal Peoples' collective territorial rights.[26] Climate and biodiversity frameworks, including the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, reflect growing attention to these rights.[27]

The Evidence Base

The link between tenure security and well-being is well documented. In a meta-analysis of 117 studies on the impact of land tenure security interventions, two-thirds reported positive links to human well-being or environmental outcomes; almost half of the studies that evaluated social and environmental outcomes found improvements in both.[28]

The conservation and climate value of Indigenous and communal tenure is also increasingly recognized:

In 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated with "medium confidence" that "land titling and recognition programs, particularly those that authorize and respect indigenous and communal tenure, can lead to improved management of forests, including for carbon storage."[29] By 2022, its Sixth Assessment Report expressed high confidence that expanding community forest rights reduced emissions from tropical deforestation and it identified Indigenous tenure as a low-cost climate adaptation option.[30]

- A 2023 analysis of 314 forest commons in 15 tropical countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America found that formally involving communities in governance can deliver benefits for carbon, biodiversity, and rural livelihoods at the same time.[31]
- In 2026, a review of 111 peer-reviewed studies of Indigenous landscape management[32] documented greater species richness, healthier ecosystems, and conservation outcomes comparable to, or exceeding, those achieved in conventional protected areas.
- A 2025 analysis found that deforestation was as much as 55% lower in recognized ADP lands in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Suriname, compared to control sites. ADP territories in Central and South America are consistently located in biodiversity hotspots.[33]

The territories concerned are significant at a global scale. IPs manage or hold tenure rights over more than a quarter of the world's land surface,[34] with Indigenous lands intersecting approximately 40% of terrestrial protected and ecological intact landscapes.[35] At least 36% of the world's remaining Intact Forest Landscapes lie within Indigenous Peoples' lands, and intact forest loss is lower there than on other lands.[36]

Outcomes depend not only on tenure and recognition but on how governance and decision-making authority are exercised. Research on effective and equitable conservation stresses the importance of recognizing the rights, knowledge, institutions and roles of IPs, LCs, and ADP in environmental governance. One analysis found that more equitable arrangements, involving territories primarily controlled by or managed in equal partnership with IPs and LCs, were associated with significantly more positive ecological outcomes.[37] This evidence points to the importance of secure territorial rights and inclusive governance institutions, grounded in biocultural integrity and self-determination, as essential foundations for the pursuit of community-led stewardship of critical ecosystems and key biodiversity areas, and a guardrail against the systemic drivers of social-ecological degradation.[38]



Indigenous women in Indonesia.
Image courtesy of AMAN

The Brazzaville Declaration: The Peoples' Call

Indigenous Peoples and local communities describe the importance of territories in terms that connect rights, cultural survival, livelihoods, governance, and stewardship. As part of its Five Demands, the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC)[39] emphasizes the profound spiritual, cultural, social, and economic relationships that IPs and LCs maintain with their lands, territories and resources, describing these relationships as foundational to their identity and linking access to territories with their protection and self-determination.

The 2025 Brazzaville Declaration,[40] adopted at the First Global Congress of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities from the Forest Basins, identifies secure land and resource rights as fundamental to environmental stewardship, sustainable livelihoods, and cultural survival, and calls for recognition and protection of lands and territories as part of global climate and biodiversity action. It emphasizes that IPs and LCs are rights-holders and knowledge holders, and calls for their full and effective participation in decisions affecting their lands, governance, cultures, and communities. The Declaration further calls on governments to give particular attention to recognition of IPs' and LCs' lands and nature governance in implementing Target 3 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and urges governments to explicitly incorporate territorial rights and governance into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity and their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) takes a consistent position. Its Guidelines on Indigenous and Traditional Territories (ITTs)[41] call for recognizing customary governance systems, laws, institutions, and territorial management, without requiring territories to be classified as protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). IIFB has similarly called for Target 3 implementation to be implemented in ways that respect Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination, self-government and FPIC, and that recognize their rights to lands, territories and resources.



Aerial of Indigenous participants at a demonstration for The Answer Is Us campaign.
Image credit: The Answer is Us via Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC)

In 2024, the Coalition of Territorial and Environmental Rights for Afro-descendant Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, in concert with other groups, also called for stronger recognition of their collective territorial rights and meaningful participation in biodiversity governance.[42]

Territorial Rights Violations: Dispossession and Violence Against Defenders

When territorial rights are not recognized or respected, the consequences extend far beyond tenure insecurity. Communities face land dispossession, incursions by extractive and commercial interests, loss of livelihoods and cultural heritage, and the erosion of self-determined governance. Those who defend their territories can face intimidation, criminalization, and lethal violence.

The scale of this violence is stark. According to Global Witness's 2026 report Collective Power, at least 124 land and environmental defenders were recorded killed in 2025, bringing the documented total of those killed or disappeared since 2012 to 2,375. Globally, three-quarters of those killed in 2025 were small-scale farmers, Indigenous Peoples, or Afro-descendant Peoples, and land disputes were linked to more than two-thirds of the killings.[43].



Brazilian Indigenous men and community members carrying a large inflatable globe during the Free Land Camp (Acampamento Terra Livre - ATL) demonstration in Brasília, Brazil.
Image credit: Giulianne Martin. All Rights Reserved.

GLOBAL IMPORTANCE OF TERRITORIES

IP, LC AND ADP TERRITORIES

Territorial Rights in Practice: Lessons from Diverse Contexts in ILTC Signatories

The following country examples show how recognition, governance, and stewardship interact in practice.



PERU

18Mha
of Peru's Amazon region titled as Indigenous lands.

16x
less forest loss attributed to PIACI reserves

7.7 Mha
existing and approved PIACI reserves



The illegal road in Loreto – IDL 2021. Image courtesy of ORPIO

Territorial Recognition, forest stewardship, and climate outcomes

Peru's climate targets explicitly acknowledge the importance of Indigenous land tenure. Its mitigation strategy links a 12.2 million tonne COe reduction by 2030 to titling Native Communities and creating Indigenous Reserves for Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI).[44] By one estimate, "Peru would have to retire its entire vehicle fleet to compensate for even a 50 percent drop in the sequestration services provided by IP and LC forests."[45]

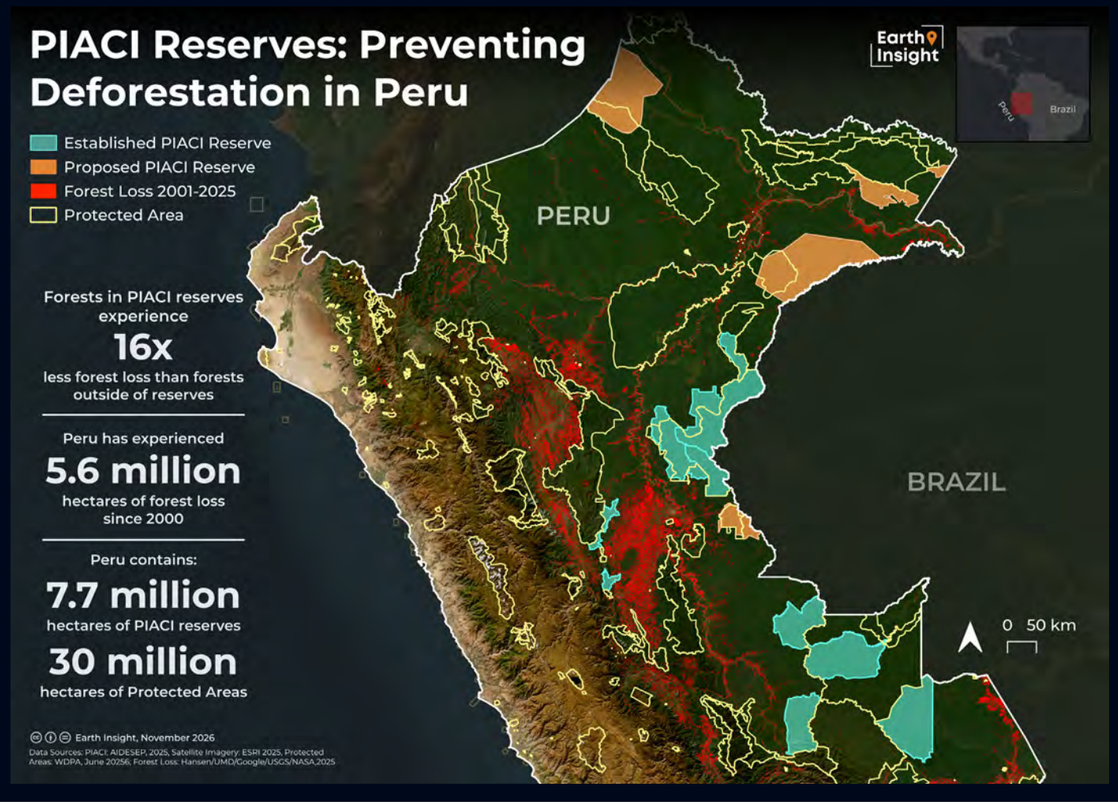
Peru has developed legal mechanisms for recognizing Indigenous territorial rights over several decades. In 1978, it established a legal framework for the recognition and titling of Native Communities,[46] and some 18 Mha of the country's more than 78 Mha Amazon region are now titled Indigenous lands.[47] [48] Peru has also established a legal framework for the creation of PIACI reserves: so far eight have been created and five more proposed, covering a total of 7.7 Mha.

These territories also illustrate the relationship between territorial protection and forest outcomes. **New maps and analysis show that forests within established and proposed PIACI reserves have experienced 16 times less forest loss than forests outside them,** even as more than 5.3 Mha of forest have disappeared in the Peruvian Amazon since 2000.[49] Another analysis found deforestation of only 0.26% in Indigenous Reserves, Territorial Reserves, and proposed PIACI reserves between 2001 and 2022.[50]

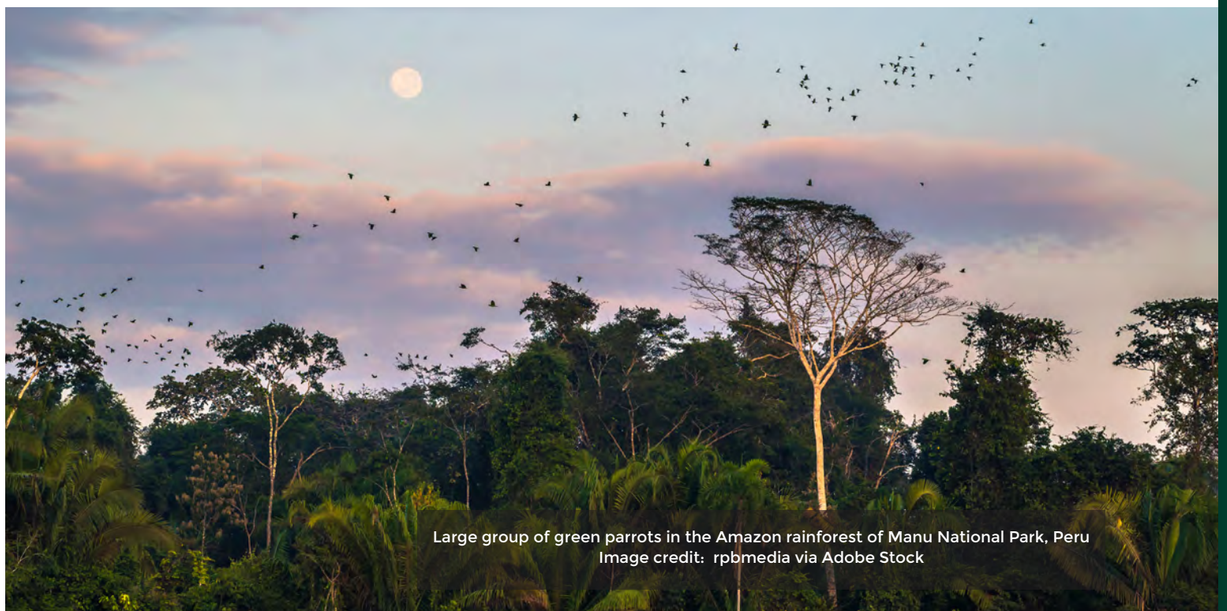
While estimates of the PIACI population vary between official records (7,500) and independent assessments (10,000-12,000), the importance of PIACI reserves and Indigenous territorial corridors against biocultural extinction and biodiversity loss is largely undisputed.[51]

Established and proposed PIACI reserves safeguard 7.7 Mha of tropical forests that contain some of the country's most significant above-ground carbon stocks. For example, most of the proposed Yavarí-Tapiche Corridor lies within Loreto, one of the world's largest High Forest, Low Deforestation (HFLD) jurisdictions. Loreto contains more than half of Peru's above-ground forest carbon, with exceptionally high carbon densities. Neighboring Ucayali (also part of the corridor) holds the country's second-largest regional carbon stocks.[52]

Indigenous territorial corridors can both advance tenure commitments and contribute to climate and biodiversity targets by maintaining large, intact carbon-rich landscapes, connecting Key Biodiversity Areas and protected areas, safeguarding watersheds, and providing the ecological connectivity species need to adapt to a changing climate. **Rather than treating each recognized territory as an isolated unit, recognition and strengthening of tenure can help secure territorial corridors that data confirms are "expedient, effective and cost-effective strategies"[53] at landscape and transboundary scales.**



Peru illustrates how the recognition of Indigenous territorial rights can extend to include legal protection for PIACI. Under ILTC implementation, the protection of intangible territories against incompatible industrial activities and external incursions can be bolstered, while supporting landscape approaches that connect territorial security with biodiversity and climate objectives.



Large group of green parrots in the Amazon rainforest of Manu National Park, Peru
Image credit: rpbmedia via Adobe Stock





Bau Toraja Indigenous Community in Tana Toraja Regency, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Image courtesy of AMAN

Native Science and Endemic Species

Forests still cover half (51%) of Indonesia,[54] and 37.2 million people live in or near state forests[55] in more than 25,000 villages, including customary, migrant, and Indigenous communities.[56] [57] Although the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) and the Customary Territories Registration Agency (BRWA)[58] have identified and mapped more than 36.4 Mha of Indigenous territories, only about 361,000 hectares have been officially recognized as customary forests (hutan adat), and more than 1 Mha are reserved for future designation.[59] [60] Indonesia has pledged to recognize an additional 1.4 Mha of customary forests by 2029, building on a national initiative launched in March 2025 to overcome longstanding bureaucratic barriers to recognition. The government reaffirmed this target at COP30 in Belém, where it also endorsed the ILTC, linking its domestic tenure reforms to broader international efforts.[61]

This new commitment forms part of the government's environmental policy, an implicit recognition of the traditional conservation science in ancestral forest management. **Recent spatial analysis (see map) shows that 78% of forest cover in Indonesia's recognized customary forests is undisturbed.**

An analysis across 20 years of Indigenous land management in East Kalimantan found that customary law functions as a durable system of sustainable land use, regulating where and how land can be cultivated, limiting deforestation, and allowing fallowed forests to regenerate.[62] More recent research reinforces this finding: Indigenous governance is the product of generations of ecological knowledge codified into locally-enforced rules. **Since *adat* (or customary) practices evolved over time out of specific ecosystems, these informed systems of adaptive management ensure recovery and regeneration.**[63] They are also self-sustaining: "Beyond their ecological functions, these governance arrangements also embody learning processes through which communities cultivate environmental responsibility, collective stewardship, and compliance with conservation norms."[64]

This time-tested **Indigenous science is particularly important in Indonesia, a global center of endemism** where the survival of many species depends on the integrity of the country's ecosystems. Of Indonesia's 775 identified mammal species, 44% are found nowhere else on Earth.[65]

Recognition of customary forests and the community governance within these territories is supporting the preservation of traditional ecological knowledge and practices, while contributing to the conservation of globally significant ecosystems. The political will and financial investment that the ILTC has stimulated are critical for accelerating this recognition across Indonesia.



INDONESIA

78%

of forest cover in Indonesia's recognized Customary Forests is undisturbed.

361,000 ha

officially recognized as Customary Forests (*hutan adat*)

A Bornean Pygmy Elephant feeding near the Kinabatangan River on Borneo. This rare subspecies is the smallest elephant in Asia. Image credit: Anette Mossbachervia Wikimedia Commons. CC BY 4.0





DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

2002
First local community forest recognition in the DRC

2014
Established a legal framework for CFLC

> 0.5%
Forest loss in since 2025 in Boso Sukomo CFLC

Participatory mapping exercise in the DRC. Image courtesy of Rainforest Foundation UK



The Promise of Sacred Forests

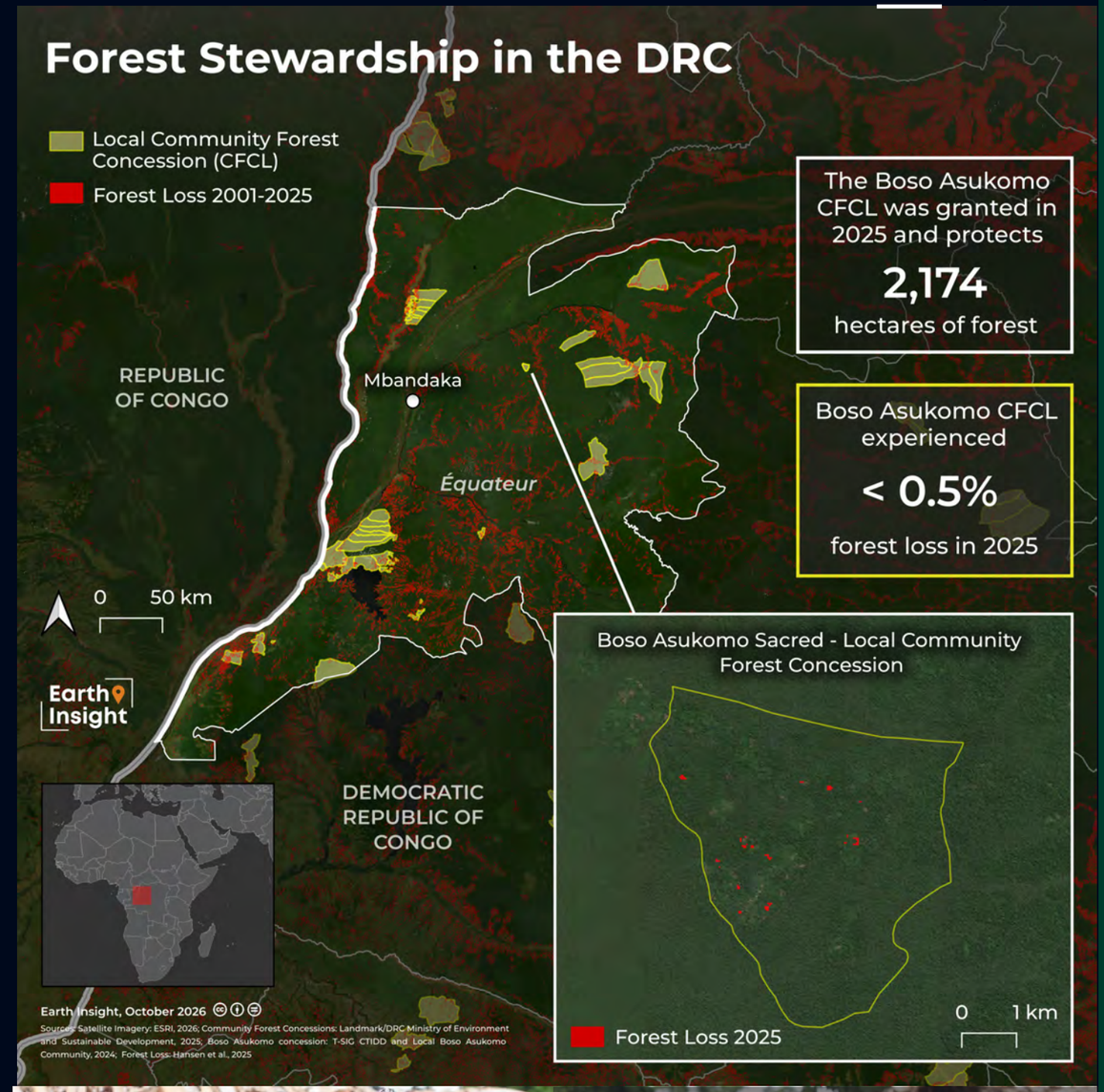
The Boso Asukomo forest in Équateur Province, northwestern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), shows **the promise of sacred community forests for conservation goals when legal frameworks support local livelihoods.**[66] The forest is part of the Lake Télé–Lake Tumba landscape, the world's largest swamp forest and critical habitat for bonobos, chimpanzees, and gorillas.[67]

To many Indigenous Peoples across the DRC's Équateur Province, these forests are the sacred home of ancestral spirits who protect them, while certain tree and plant species are linked to success in farming and hunting. This customary conservation system regulates forest use and sustains biodiversity. [68] [69]

In 2002, DRC forestry law first recognized the general concept of local community forests and customary rights to forests. By 2014, it established a legal framework for Local Community Forest Concessions (CFCL) for local subsistence activities within 50,000 hectares of local community forests.[70] The Boso Asukomo forest is one of three CFCLs in this region that together protect 17,328 hectares.[71] **Recent spatial analysis found that the concession lost less than 0.5% of its forest after it was established in 2025, even though non-fire forest loss across the country reached a record high that year.**[72]

While community forestry can clarify resource rights, reduce land conflicts, and limit deforestation,[73] increasing net household incomes is a "major precondition" for success.[74] Similarly, an assessment of community forest enterprises in Cameroon (a country with a longer history of community forests in the Congo Basin) found that while they supported rural development, sustainable management, and community well-being, "**balancing economic, social, and environmental dimensions is critical.**"[75] In the DRC, initial research links stronger outcomes to increased household participation and close engagement with governmental institutions.[76] The data from Cameroon suggest meaningful poverty alleviation is a prerequisite for long-term conservation goals.

Boso Asukomo shows that legal recognition can help hold the line on deforestation even under intense pressure. The ILTC can help make these gains durable by supporting tenure recognition, self-determined governance, locally-defined livelihood opportunities, access to resources and benefits, and meaningful participation in decisions that affect communities' territories. This can help ensure that sustainable forest management supports community well-being rather than imposing additional economic burdens on rights-holders.





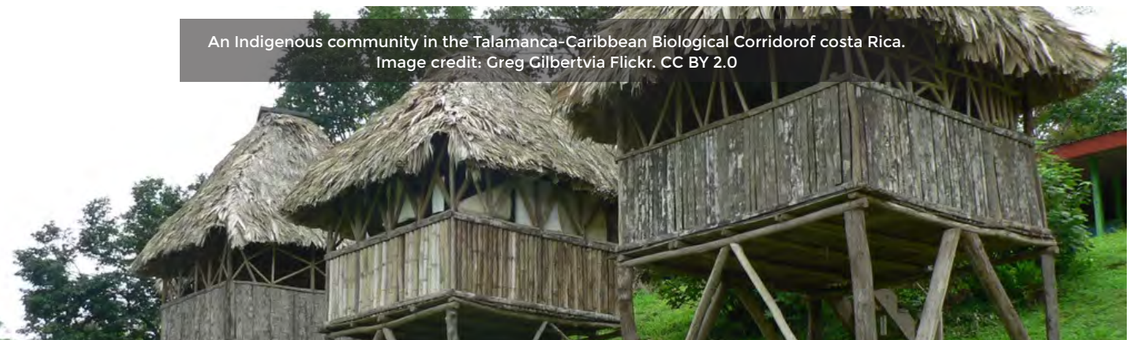
Mbuti women in Mabukulu, Democratic Republic of Congo. Image credit: Garry Walsh / Trócaire via Wikimedia Commons.



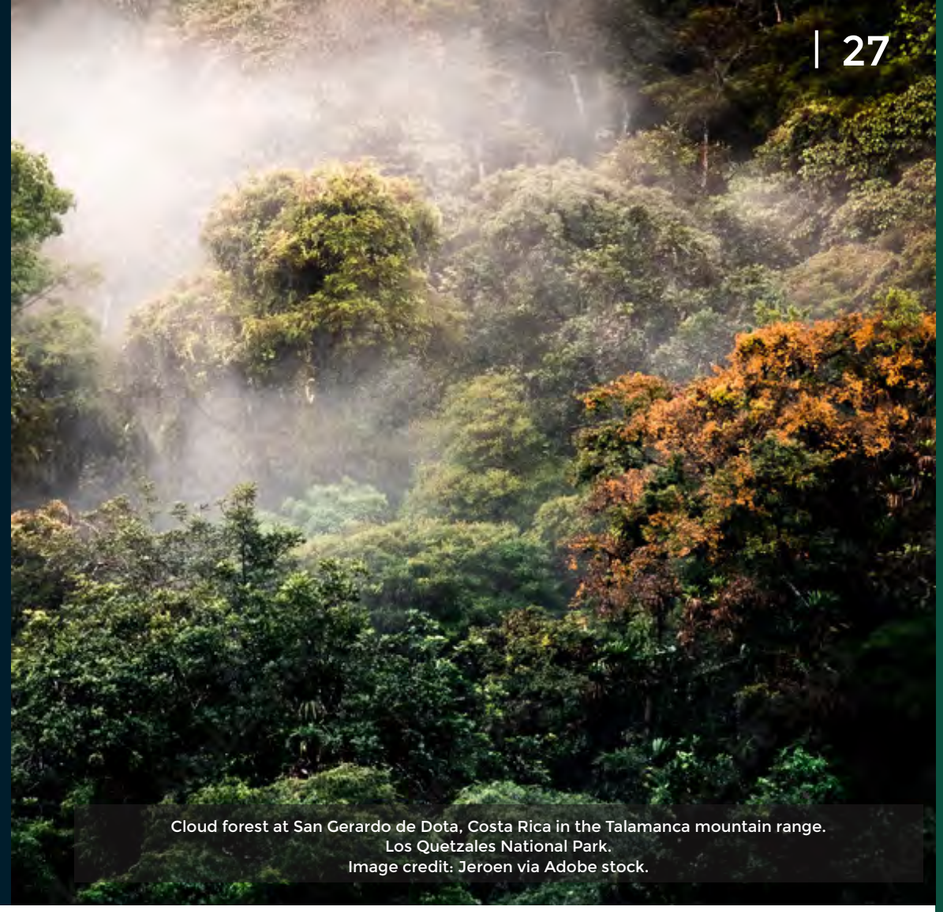
Forest Integrity and Connectivity

Costa Rica's Indigenous territories safeguard forested landscapes in both the Talamanca-Caribbean Biological Corridor and the larger Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. **Recent spatial analysis indicates that these Indigenous territories help keep forest loss at half the rate of surrounding areas. It also shows that large-scale cultivation of key agricultural commodities, including banana, coffee, oil palm, and pineapple is found in less than 1% of Indigenous territory.**

While the government of Costa Rica formally established Indigenous territories in 1982,[77] IPs who live in the Talamanca-Caribbean Biological Corridor believe that a higher power first brought them to these forests. After the spirit Sibö scattered them as maize seeds across the Talamanca Mountain Range,[78] their ancestors developed sophisticated regenerative systems across the entirety of present-day Costa Rica.[79]



An Indigenous community in the Talamanca-Caribbean Biological Corridorof costa Rica.
Image credit: Greg Gilbertvia Flickr. CC BY 2.0



Cloud forest at San Gerardo de Dota, Costa Rica in the Talamanca mountain range.
Los Quetzales National Park.
Image credit: Jeroen via Adobe stock.



COSTA RICA

This "complex mosaic of ecosystems and habitats of global importance" supports:

215
mammal species

10,000
flowering plant species

600
bird species

250
reptile and amphibian species

Of Costa Rica's 24 Indigenous groups, the largest territories of the Bribri and Cabécar Peoples are concentrated along the Caribbean and Pacific slopes of the Talamanca Mountain Range. This "complex mosaic of ecosystems and habitats of global importance"[80] supports at least 10,000 flowering plant species, 215 mammal species, 600 bird species, and 250 reptile and amphibian species.[81] High peaks serve as an "archipelago of mountain islands" that protects high endemism.

These territories form a nearly continuous belt of forest across Indigenous-managed lands and protected areas.[82] Indigenous Peoples here manage one of the largest remaining blocks of intact forest in the region, connecting with large conservation landscapes and habitat networks of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor in Central America and the Jaguar Corridor Initiative from Mexico to Argentina.[83]

Indigenous territories in Costa Rica illustrate how, with strong territorial rights and governance, their territories can form a mosaic of effectively managed and connected landscapes. **By recognizing the self-determination of Indigenous communities and their longstanding stewardship of the land, and by supporting broader biodiversity and climate objectives, the ILTC can strengthen and expand the crucial role of Indigenous territories in landscape management.**



Resplendent Quetzal in Costa Rica
Image credit: harrycollinsphotography via Envato Elements

Growing Industrial Threats to Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Afro-Descendent Peoples' Territories

Even amid these stories of resilience and stewardship, territories across the major tropical forest regions face growing pressure from extractive and other large-scale industrial activities. **Globally, nearly 60% of IPs' lands, or 22.7 million square kilometers across 64 countries, are estimated to be moderately or highly threatened by industrial expansion.**[84]

The 2025 Brazzaville Declaration warns that IPs and LCs "continue to face mounting threats to our lives and our rights and territories, from mining to harmful agribusiness expansion. These are not isolated, individual attacks, they are attacks on Indigenous territories, entire communities and all of humanity."[85]

These pressures intensify as demand for minerals, energy, agricultural commodities, and infrastructure pushes into new areas. **Nearly seven in ten energy-transition mineral projects globally are already located on or near IPs' and LCs' lands.**[86] Recent Indigenous-led analyses have also highlighted how growing demand associated with artificial intelligence and geopolitical competition for critical minerals may add to existing extractive and infrastructure pressures.[87]

In the Brazilian Amazon, current and potential mining for the energy transition could directly and indirectly affect more than 36 Mha of protected areas, where more than 195,000 Indigenous, Quilombola, and other traditional peoples live.[88] [89] Illegal mining, while not fully documented, could exponentially increase the impact. **Mining-related deforestation in the Amazon has been documented up to 70 km beyond mining concession boundaries, with indirect forest loss reaching 40 times the area cleared within the concession itself, revealing an ecological footprint that vastly exceeds the area directly disturbed by extraction.**[90]

An Ibama agent from the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources watches an illegal-mining aircraft burn in the Yanomami Indigenous Territory, Roraima, Brazil.
Image credit: Ibamagov via Wikkimedia Commons. CC BY-SA 2.0

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.**[91]

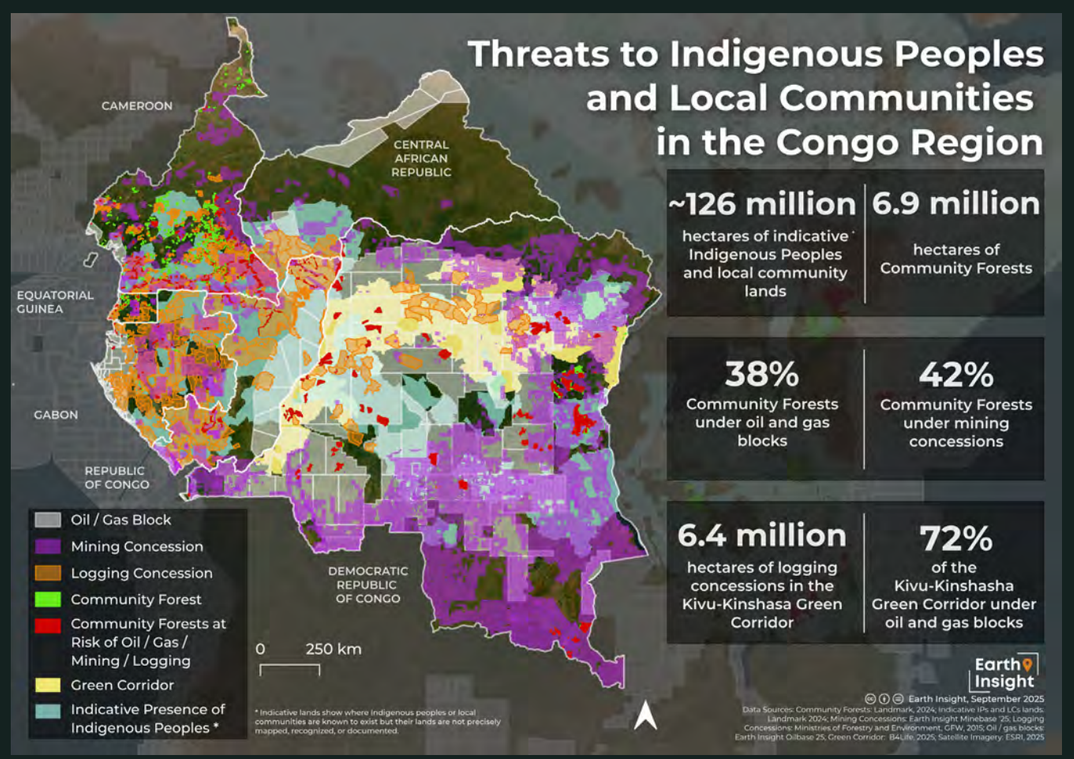


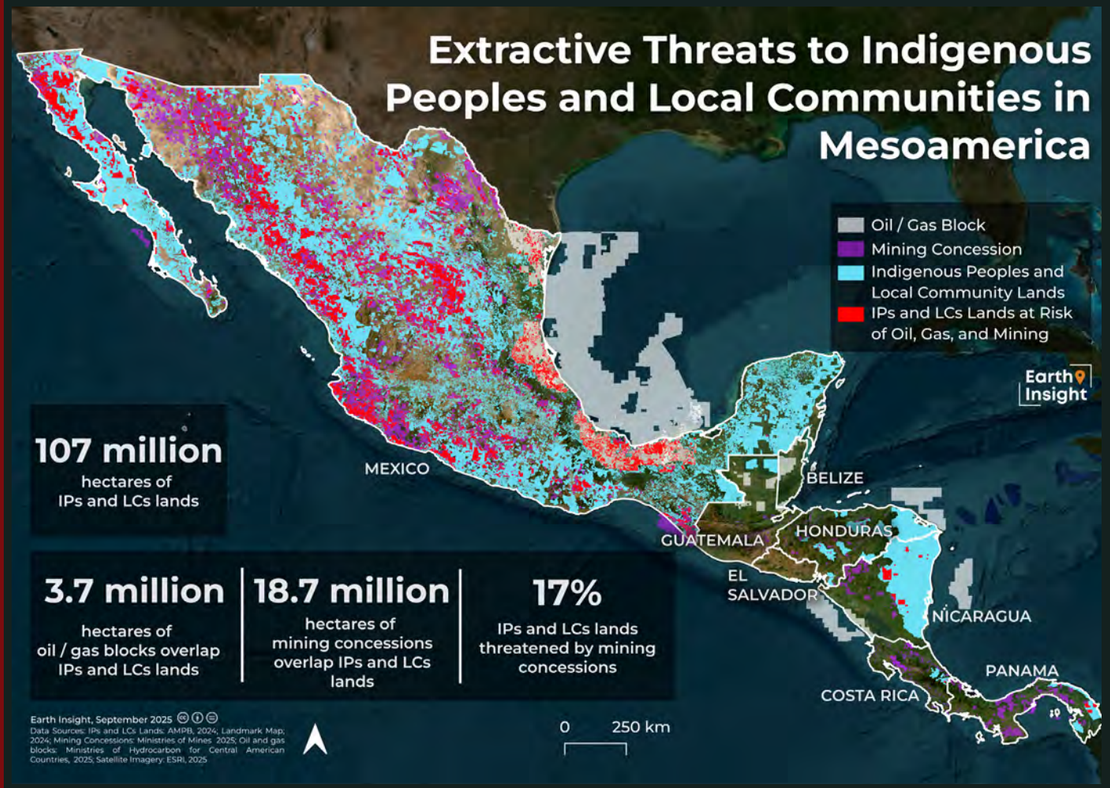
Legally recognized and rooted in traditional practices, community forests enable communities to secure rights, protect biodiversity and traditional ecological knowledge, and resist unsustainable exploitation. There are nearly 7 Mha of community forests across the Congo Region.

However, **38% of Community Forests are under oil and gas blocks, 42% are under mining concessions, and 6% are under logging concessions.**[92] 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,[93] 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.

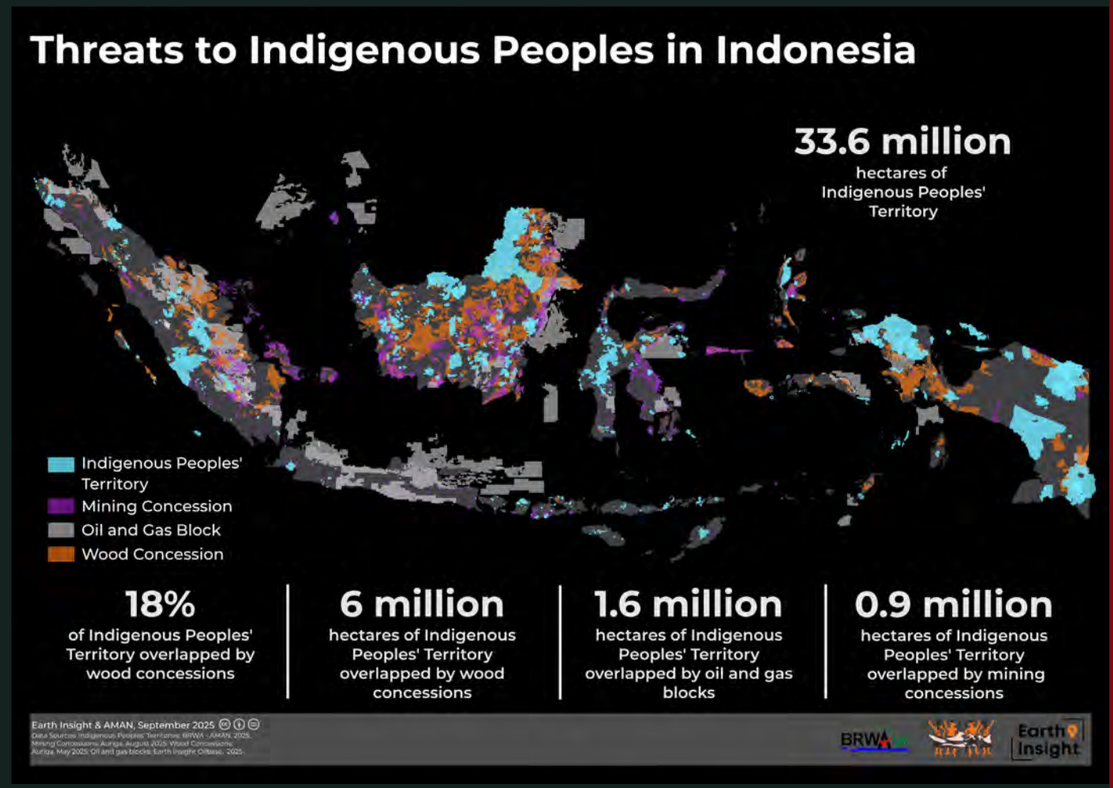




Mining concessions overlap 18.7 Mha (17%) of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' lands in Mesoamerica, while oil and gas concessions overlap 3.7 Mha.[94]



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.**[95]

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.

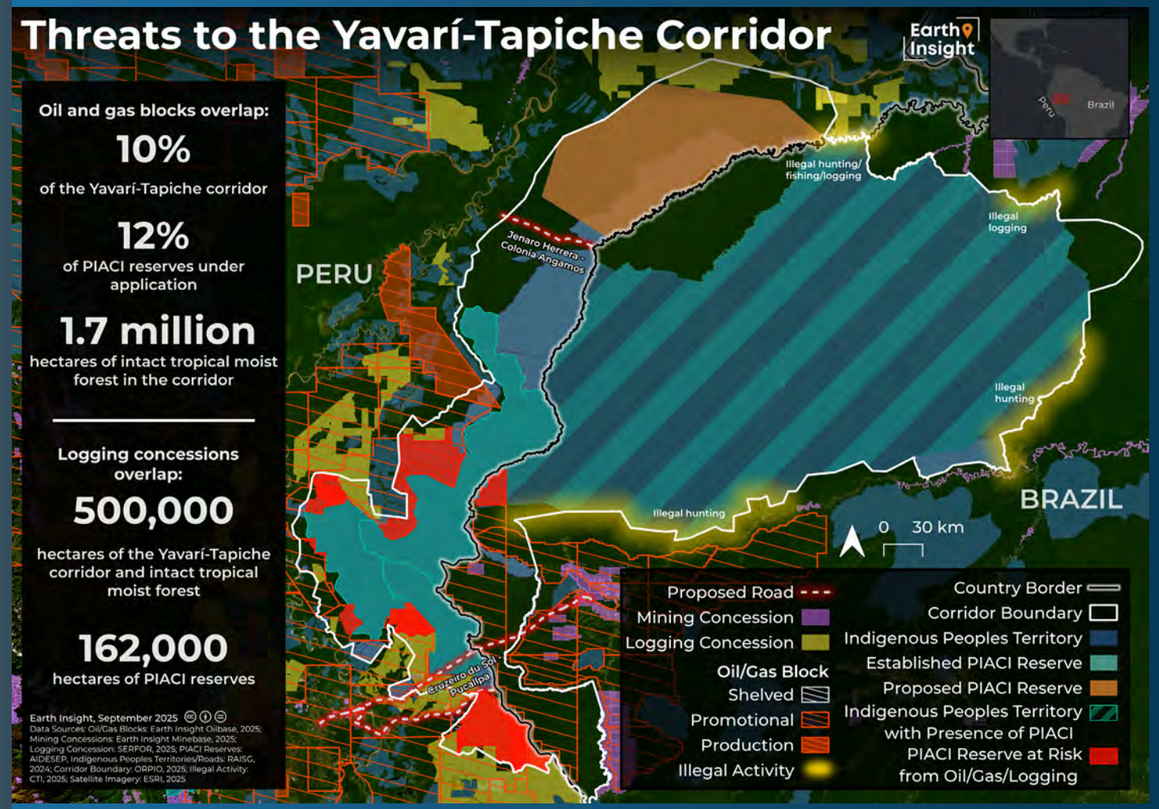


Villiagers pass by illegally logged timber in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.
Image credit: via Wikimedia commons. CC BY 2.0

Extractive and Industrial Threats to IP, LC, and ADPs' Territories'

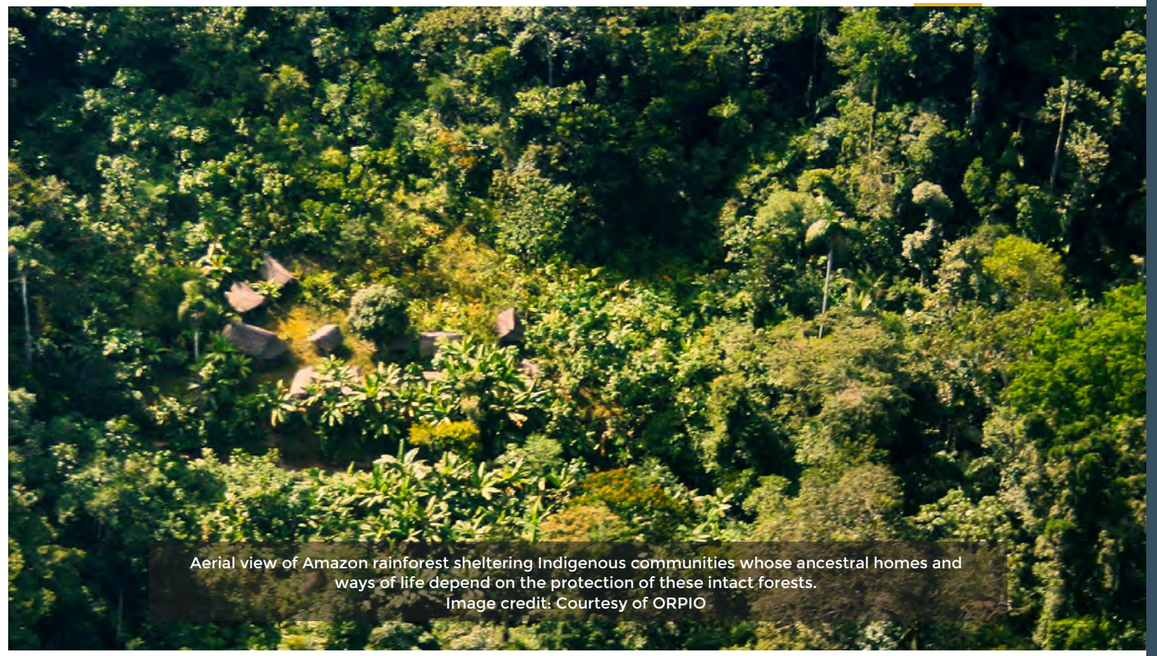
The case studies below illustrate these dynamics across different tenure and governance contexts and forms of industrial pressure.

Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor: Industrial Pressures and Indigenous-Led Territorial Protection



Home to the world's highest known concentration of PIACI, the proposed Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor spans 16 Mha, an area roughly twice the size of Panama, across Peru's eastern Amazon into western Brazil. The proposed cross-border corridor holds some of the most biodiverse habitats on Earth, with the highest-recorded diversity of primate species, at least 150 mammal species, more than 530 bird species, and over 500 fish species.[96]

Yet it is threatened by substantial extractive and infrastructure pressures. According to recent analysis, oil and gas blocks overlap 10% of the proposed corridor and 573,000 hectares of PIACI reserves within it. The corridor straddles two enormous drainage systems of the Ucayali and Yavarí basins.



Aerial view of Amazon rainforest sheltering Indigenous communities whose ancestral homes and ways of life depend on the protection of these intact forests.
Image credit: Courtesy of ORPIO

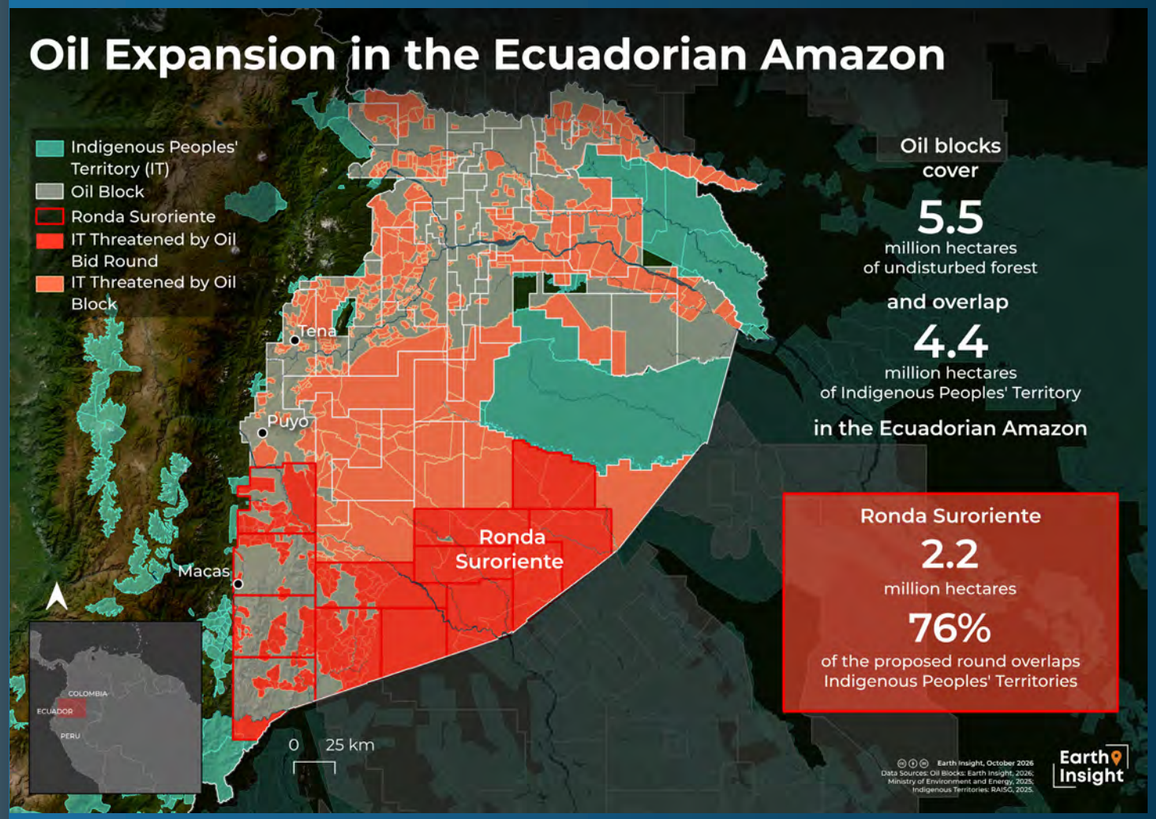
Given Peru's history of more than 800 oil spills in the Amazon,[97] **oil and gas development poses existential risks to downstream, transboundary freshwater systems, along with the peoples and species who depend on them.**[98] **Logging concessions overlap 500,000 hectares of the corridor.** Between 2001 and 2023, extractive activities were responsible for half of the more than 3 Mha of forest loss in Peru's Amazon. The two departments that comprise much of the Peruvian portion of the corridor, **Loreto and Ucayali, lost more than 500,000 hectares each.**[99]

Proposed roads across 190 km of the corridor could increase forest access and heighten the risk of unwanted and lethal contact for PIACI communities. It is estimated that **for every kilometer of legal road, another three kilometers of illegal road will spread into surrounding forests.**[100]

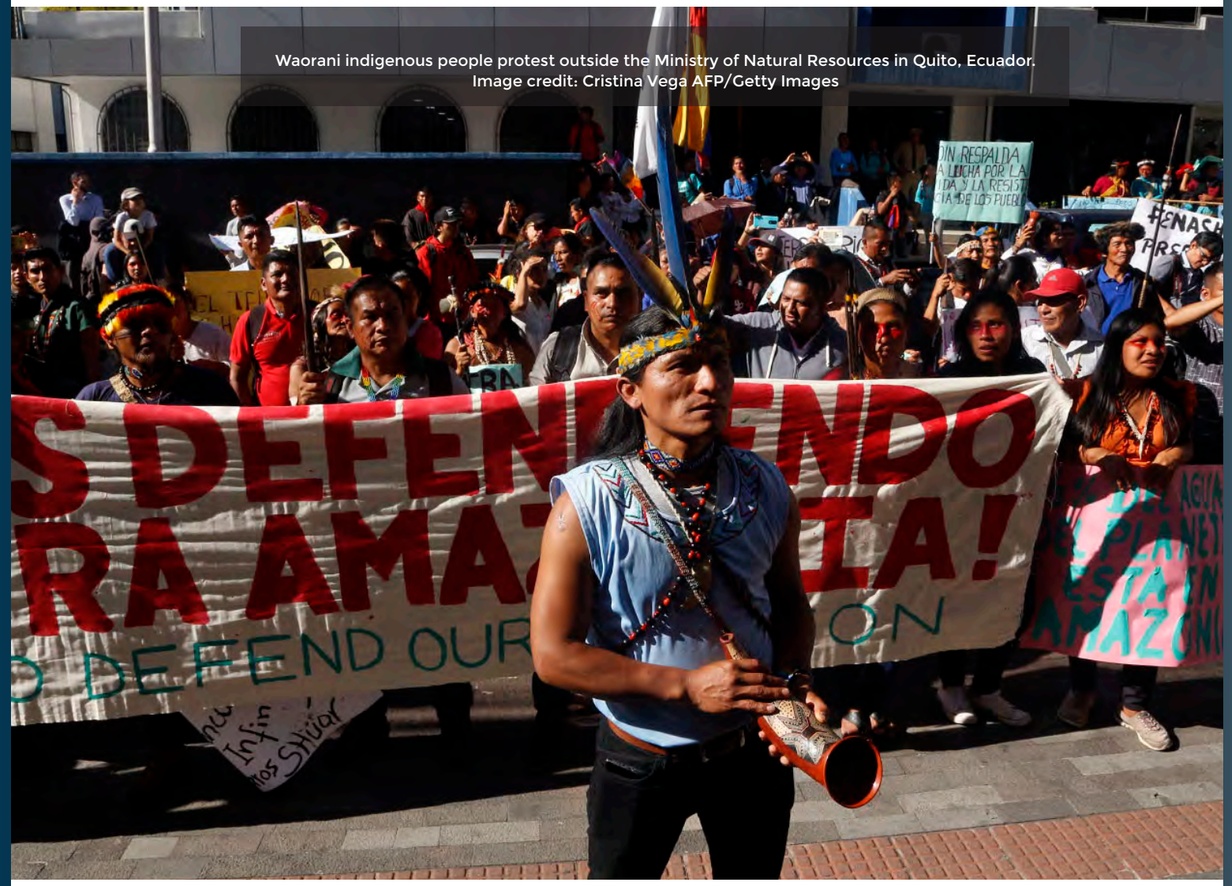
Against these pressures, Indigenous organizations have worked for more than two decades to advance a binational approach to protect the Yavarí-Tapiche landscape and the rights of the people who inhabit it. Their efforts have continued amid organized opposition and disinformation concerning PIACI and proposed territorial protections.[101] In 2022, the Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the East (ORPIO) and four of its base community organizations and federations from Loreto and Ucayali formed the Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor Political Platform, which advocates for implementation of a Strategic Plan for the Protection of the Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor. IP organizations also support territorial monitoring, rapid-response protocols, and protective measures intended to prevent unwanted contact with PIACI.[102]

This case study highlights the need to accelerate legal recognition of proposed PIACI reserves and transboundary territorial management strategies that ensure the effective protection and intangibility of Indigenous territories, as well as the urgency to address competing land claims, industrial concessions, and illegal activities that threaten these territories. It also shows how the ILTC could be used to underscore the importance of supporting Indigenous-led approaches to safeguarding connected territories across national boundaries.

Ecuador: Oil Expansion and Indigenous Territorial Governance



In the Ecuadorian Amazon, a new wave of industrial expansion is creating renewed pressures on decades of hard-won Indigenous territorial rights. In October 2026, the Ministry of Environment and Energy announced oil and gas investment opportunities across the country.[103] The largest onshore opportunity is the Suroriente oil licensing round, a round that covers approximately **2.2 million hectares, of which 1.6 million hectares, or 76%, overlap titled Indigenous territories.** The newly proposed Ronda Suroriente blocks alone pose a threat to nearly a quarter of Indigenous territories in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The sheer scale of the overlap underscores the urgency for strengthening tenure rights even where Indigenous land rights exist.



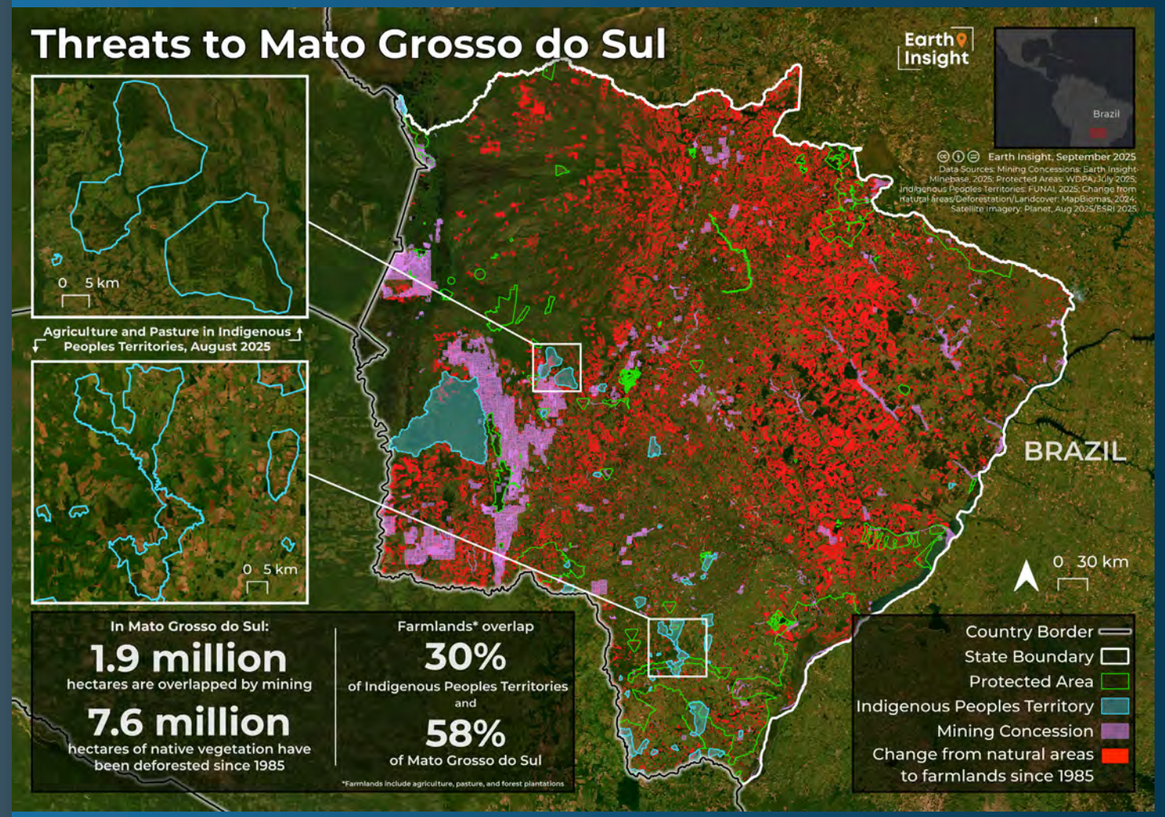
Waorani indigenous people protest outside the Ministry of Natural Resources in Quito, Ecuador.
Image credit: Cristina Vega AFP/Getty Images

Across the Ecuadorian Amazon, oil blocks at all stages of development cover approximately **6.8 Mha, or 55% of the region, including 4.5 Mha of Indigenous territories. In total, oil blocks overlap 67% of recognized Indigenous territories in the Ecuadorian Amazon.**

Preceding the Ecuadorian government's announced plans to auction several oil and gas blocks in the coming year, each new licensing round has catalyzed renewed regional Indigenous mobilization around territorial rights and Indigenous Peoples' authority over decisions concerning development affecting their territories. Last year, the Waorani people renewed their Pikenani Mandate, originally adopted in 2018, which rejects extractive activities in their territory. In 2019, the Waorani organized the Resistencia Waorani, known as a "watershed moment" in territorial defense that contributed to broader Indigenous mobilization.[104]

Ecuador's experience shows that Indigenous territories remain at risk from extractive pressures, underscoring the importance of using mechanisms like the ILTC to ensure that Indigenous territorial rights are recognized, respected, and effectively upheld, even in the face of oil licensing and investment decisions. It is critical that external extractive industries and the government respect IPs' decision-making authority and follow meaningful FPIC processes, that territorial governance bodies are involved in licensing decisions, and that any land use is compatible with territorial life and management plans developed by communities.

Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil: Territorial Dispossession and Indigenous-Led Recovery



Brazil's Mato Grosso do Sul state illustrates how historical dispossession, weak Indigenous territorial recognition and contemporary industrial pressures can combine into an existential biocultural threat to Indigenous people and their way of life. Beginning in the 1960s, the expansion of export-oriented agribusiness drove a pattern of land grabs, forced evictions and persecution in the region. **After losing 99% of their ancestral lands, many of the estimated 50,000 Guarani-Kaiowá Indigenous people are now confined to eight overcrowded reserves**, and industrial farms cover a third of their remaining territory.[105] More than 76% of households on the reserves experience food insecurity, with families confined to plots of less than two hectares that are too small for traditional farming, hunting, and medicinal plant cultivation.[106] (Unlike western and industrialized farming, Guarani-Kaiowá families regenerate their soils by moving between landscapes.)[107]



Guyraroka Village: Guarani-Kaiowá claim their traditional territory (tekohá) before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Caarapó, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil). Image credit: Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos. CC BY 2.0

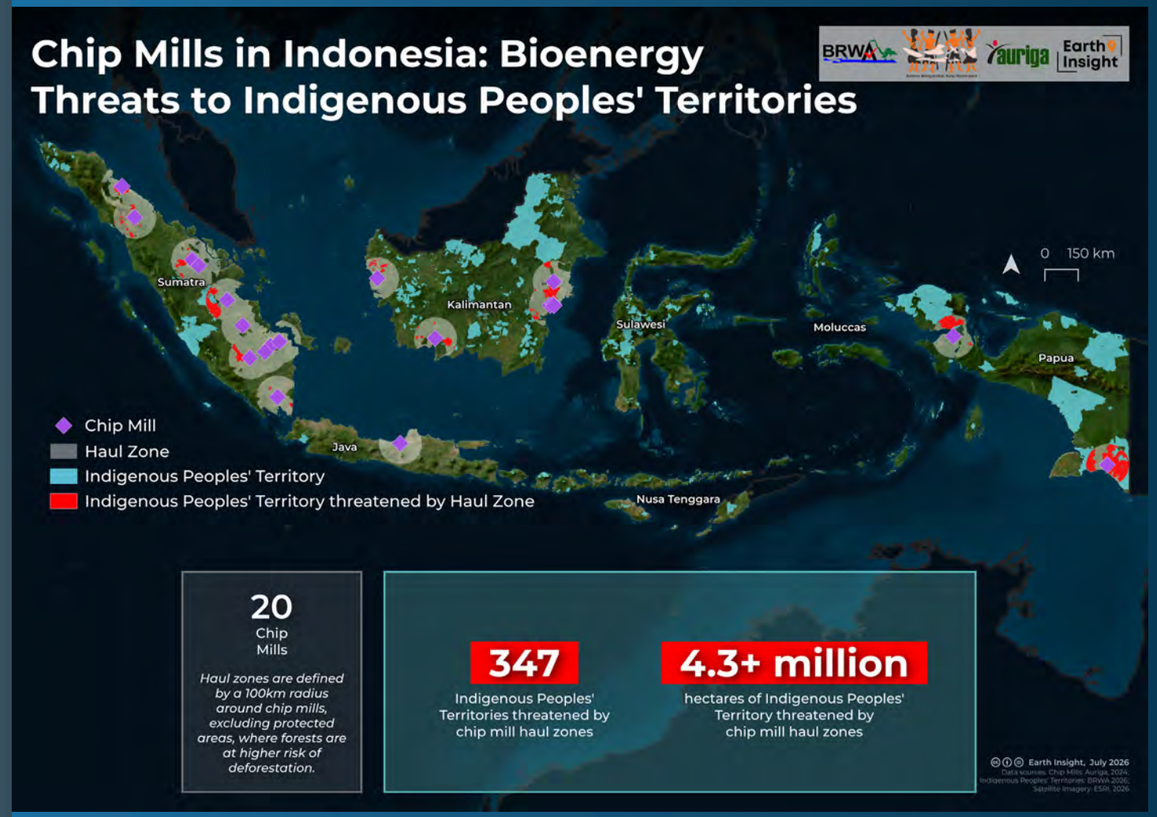
Between 2003 and 2021, 608 Guarani-Kaiowá land activists were killed in Mato Grosso do Sul.[108] One genocide studies scholar has called this process of dispossession and destruction of the conditions necessary for Guarani-Kaiowá survival as "Kaiowcide."[109]

The Guarani-Kaiowá have mounted sophisticated self-defense campaigns "infused with creative politico-economic agency"[110] to recover ancestral territory they call *tekoha*. For at least 40 years, communities have practiced *jeike jey*, or "we enter again" (also called 'retomada,' or "retaking," in Portuguese), in which they "take geography into their own hands"[111] and reoccupy their lands. Jeike jey has been described as a political-spiritual movement guided by traditional knowledge and nonhuman beings, including animals, plants, soil, and rivers.[112] Outreach strategies have created a "globalized Kaiowá space" that mobilizes solidarity among Indigenous and non-Indigenous movements around the world.[113]

Efforts to reclaim ancestral territories through retomadas (land reoccupations) have been obstructed by prolonged demarcation disputes and a controversial proposed cutoff rule, known as the "Marco Temporal" doctrine, which sought to deny recognition of lands from which Indigenous communities had been forcibly displaced before 1988. **The ongoing legal insecurity fuels the cycles of violence against communities.**[114]

The ILTC's commitment could help generate political will and mobilize financial support to accelerate the recognition and restitution of ancestral lands, resolve overlapping land claims, prevent illegal encroachment, enforce protections against forced displacement, and restore access to the forests, farmland, and natural resources essential to Indigenous food security, livelihoods, and cultural survival. This case also underscores that strengthening Indigenous governance over recognized territories cannot substitute for recognition and restitution of ancestral lands where rights remain unrecognized.

Indonesia: Industrial Pressures and Recognition of Indigenous Territories



Under the three-decade Suharto regime, more than half of Indonesia's land area was designated as state forests.[115] Since then, a decentralized, complex system of land and resource governance has continued to generate overlapping claims, including customary (or *adat*) tenure, state forests, and multiple concessions. Despite constitutional recognition of customary rights, the post-Suharto power dynamic is often shaped by "an alliance between corporate interests and political and bureaucratic elites which obstruct recognition of adat communities' customary land claims, particularly when such claims threaten their access to valuable natural resources."[116] **As a result, only 1% of an estimated 22.8 Mha of potential customary forest land has been formally recognized.**[117]



Clear-cut forest concession in Gorontalo haul zone of a wood chip plant. Image courtesy of Auriga Nusantara

In the last ten years, industrial expansion in Indonesia has taken more than 11.7 Mha of Indigenous territories, an area larger than South Korea.[118] Fueled in part by domestic policies and subsidies from Japan and other countries, Indonesia's bioenergy industry is expanding rapidly and threatening millions of hectares of customary lands. Across the country, haul zones[119] that supply wood chip and pellet mills overlap 347 Indigenous territories covering more than 4.3 Mha. Haul zones cover more than 11 Mha of forest, including 6.9 Mha of undisturbed forest, and overlap 43 Key Biodiversity Areas totaling more than 2.8 Mha. Chip mill haul zones intersect 3 Mha of orangutan habitat, threatening the Bornean, Sumatran, and critically endangered Tapanuli orangutans.

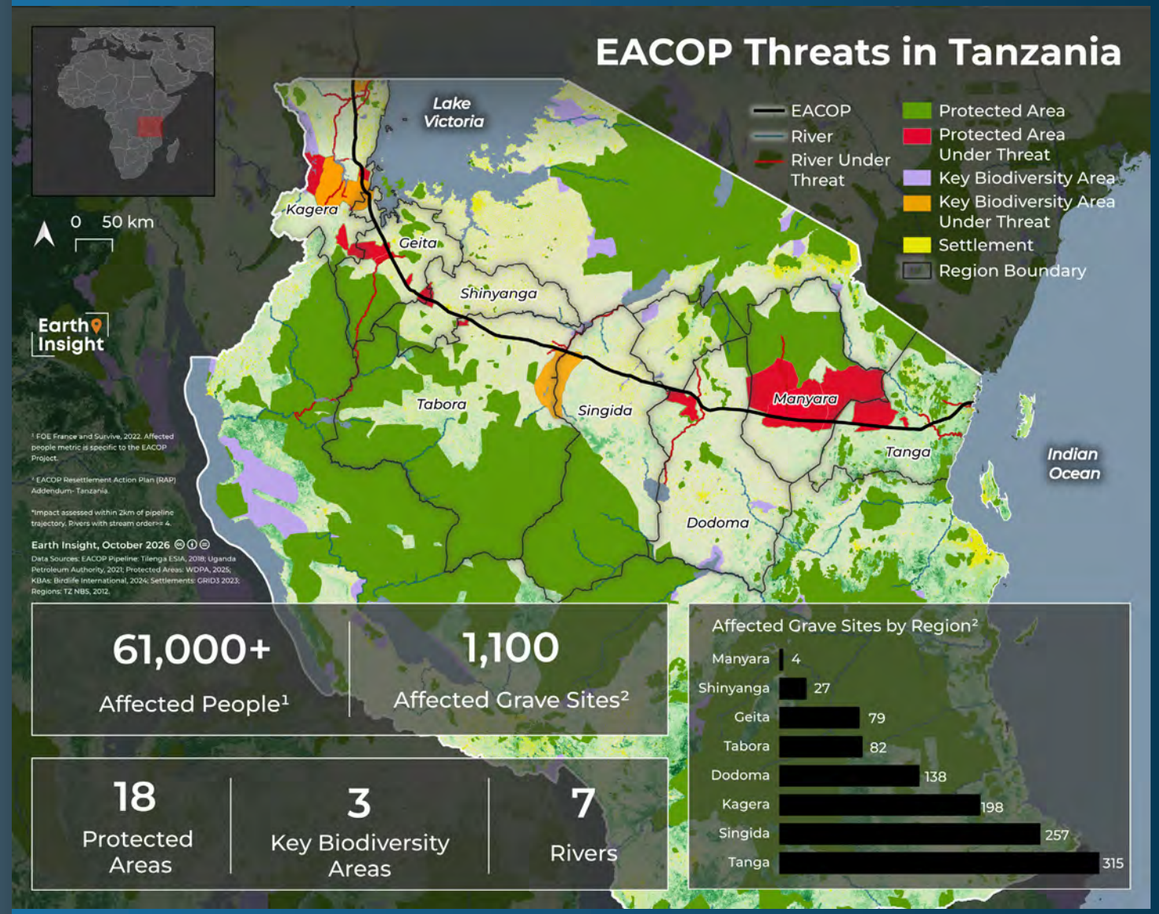
In Gorontalo, forest concessions increasingly encircle the Polahi, an Indigenous people living in voluntary isolation and initial contact, whose survival depends on intact tropical forests.

This case underscores that without legal recognition, Indigenous customary territories remain acutely vulnerable to industrial pressures. In Indonesia, the ILTC has already expanded the pathway for Indigenous territorial recognition. This progress illustrates how the ILTC can help overcome institutional barriers to recognition, but must also be leveraged to ensure that land-use, concession, and investment decisions uphold customary rights and Indigenous governance.

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119 Haul zones are defined by a 100km radius around co-firing plants and chip mills, excluding protected areas, where forests are at higher risk of deforestation.

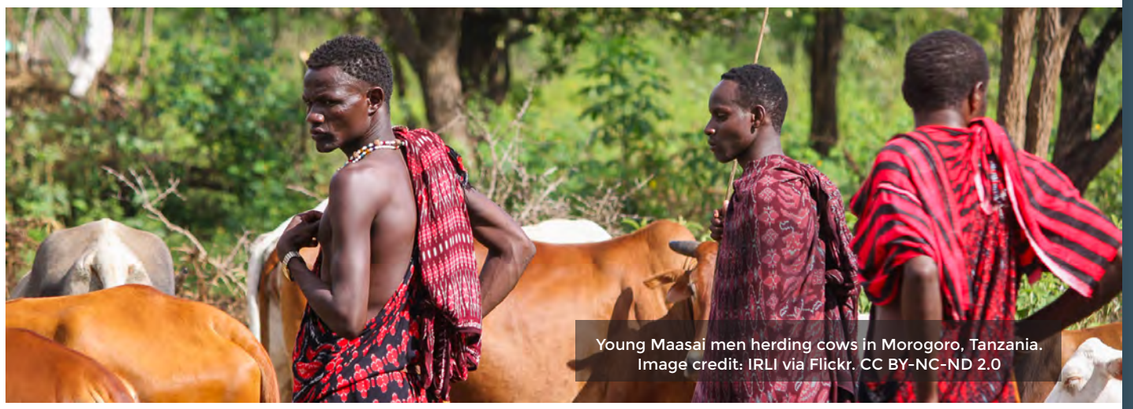
Tanzania: Infrastructure Development and Community Lands



Large-scale infrastructure development can exert pressure on territorial rights far beyond immediate sites of resource extraction. In Tanzania, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project underscores the need for tenure security as a defense against community disruption. Over 1,100 km of pipeline cuts across Tanzania, bisecting grazing lands used by pastoralist communities, and affecting more than 61,000 people[120] and 1,100 grave sites.[121] In the Tanga region, for example, a family forced to relocate and rebury their father's grave to make way for the pipeline received inadequate compensation and support for culturally appropriate reburial ceremonies.[122]



Pipeline crossing Indigenous Peoples' grazing land in the Tanga Region
Image courtesy of PINGO's Forum



Young Maasai men herding cows in Morogoro, Tanzania.
Image credit: IRLI via Flickr. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

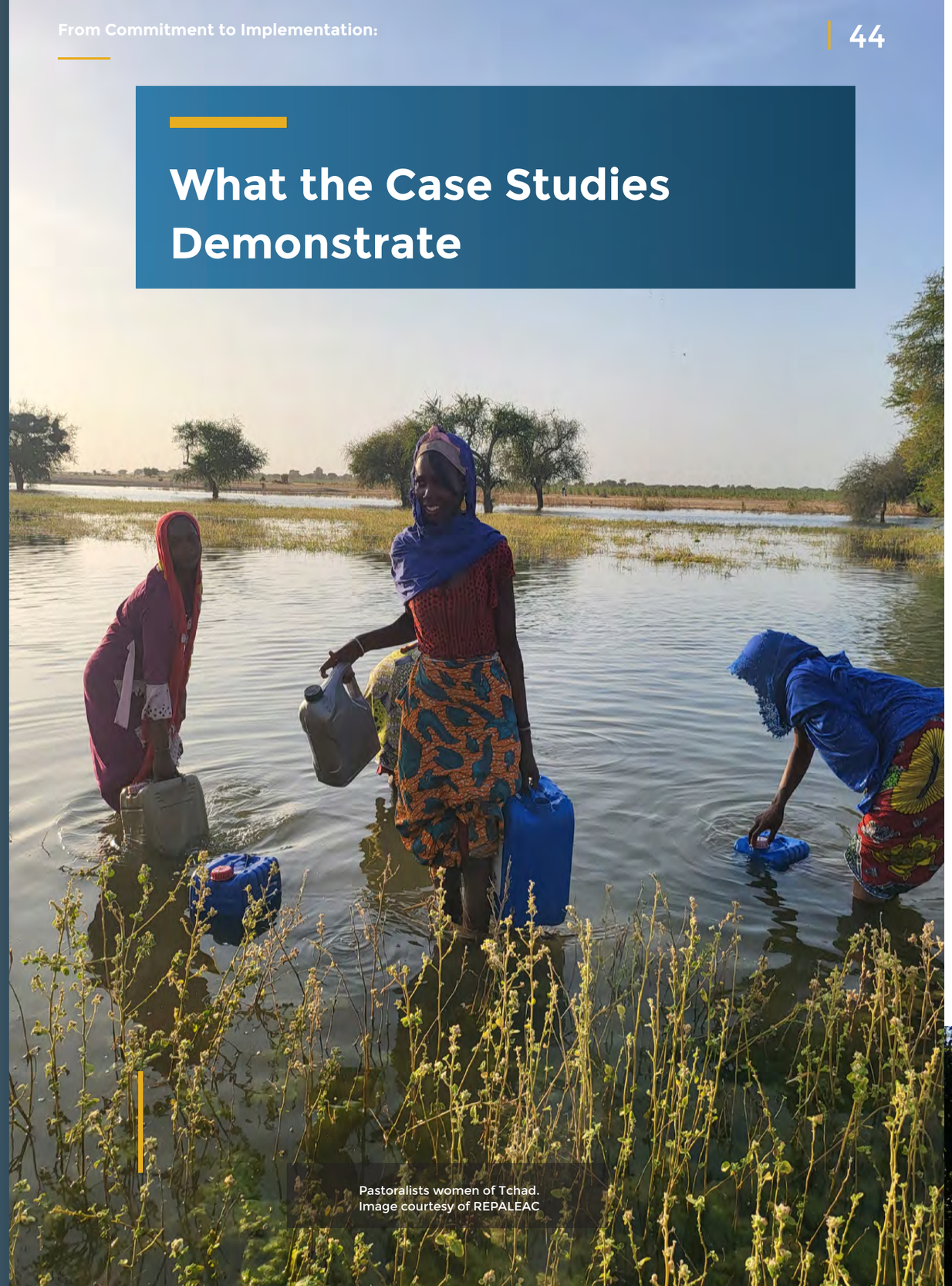
The pipeline's own environmental and social impact assessment identifies risks to community health and welfare, including reduced availability of potable water, blocked customary livestock routes, loss of grazing land, respiratory impacts near facilities, communicable diseases associated with workforce influx, and conflicts with project security.[123]

The project illustrates how linear infrastructure can intersect with multiple territories, livelihoods, and governance systems, potentially affecting access to land and resources, mobility, and cultural relationships with landscapes.

Tanzania's recent treatment of the Maasai underscores a historical pattern of displacement, forced evictions, arrests, and violence to remove people from their ancestral lands for conservation, tourism, and trophy hunting. In June 2022, for example, without any notice, the government declared 1,502 square kilometers of village lands used by Indigenous Maasai pastoralists in Ngorongoro District as the Pololeti Game Reserve. The year before, **restrictions cut off some 70,000 people from critical grazing lands.**[124]

These experiences highlight the need to advance recognition of customary tenure rights while strengthening their effective protection against displacement, restrictions on land access, and competing land uses. The ILTC offers a framework for advancing these priorities and exploring how infrastructure and conservation decisions can better respect territorial rights and governance, safeguard pastoral mobility, and protect communities' access to the lands and resources on which their livelihoods and cultures depend.

What the Case Studies Demonstrate



Pastoralists women of Tchad.
Image courtesy of REPALEAC

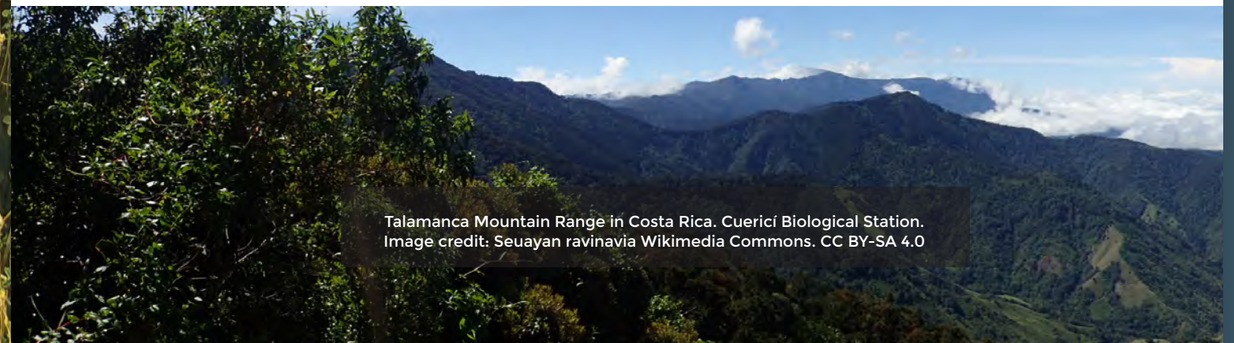
The threat case studies presented here show that industrial, infrastructure, and other competing land-use pressures are threatening the territories of IPs, LCs, and ADPs across different tenure and governance contexts. They also reveal distinct but interconnected challenges and opportunities for ILTC implementation. In Indonesia and parts of Tanzania, inadequate or absent formal recognition of territorial rights leaves communities particularly vulnerable to these pressures, underscoring the urgency of securing legal recognition. In Brazil, Ecuador, and the Yavarí-Tapiche Corridor, threats to formally recognized territories reveal gaps in the implementation and enforcement of those rights. Formal recognition is the foundation of territorial security, but it only holds when backed by effective protection and strong community governance. **ILTC implementation must therefore pursue both tracks at once: accelerating recognition where rights remain unsecured, and strengthening protection and governance across all territories, including those already recognized.**

These threats also reach well beyond the boundaries of any single concession or project. Roads, pipelines, associated infrastructure, pollution, forest fragmentation, and changes in access to land can affect broader landscapes, watersheds, territorial connectivity, livelihoods, and cultural relationships with land. Conservation can do similar harm when it is not rights-based. As the Tanzania case study shows, protected areas that restrict access to ancestral lands can erode the customary rights that sustain stewardship, which is why conservation must recognize and support community governance rather than override it.

These pressures are particularly consequential for PIACI, for pastoral communities, and for territories whose ecological and cultural integrity depends on maintaining large, connected landscapes.

The cases also demonstrate that IPs, LCs, and ADPs are not only responding to these pressures but are leading the response. Their strategies for recognizing, recovering, governing, and protecting their territories range from land reoccupation and territorial mandates to participatory mapping, monitoring systems, and transboundary corridors. These approaches arise from different legal and cultural contexts, but together they show how Indigenous- and community-led action is shaping how territorial rights are recognized, exercised, and protected worldwide.

This is consistent with the broader literature: **recognition matters, but so does the authority Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples can exercise over decisions affecting their lands and resources.** The ILTC already recognizes this, committing half of its target to strengthening governance in titled territories. **Signatories now have both the opportunity and the responsibility to turn these commitments into secure territorial rights in practice.** This will require not only legal and institutional measures but also land-use, industrial licensing, infrastructure, and conservation decisions that uphold those rights. The following section explores how implementation, financing and partnerships could contribute to this objective while building on Indigenous- and community-led priorities and approaches.



Talamanca Mountain Range in Costa Rica. Cuericí Biological Station.
Image credit: Seuayan ravinavia Wikimedia Commons. CC BY-SA 4.0

LEVERAGING THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL LAND TENURE COMMITMENT

Key Recommendations

The ILTC provides a platform for accelerating the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' local communities' and Afro-descendant Peoples' tenure rights while strengthening land governance rights and protection where tenure is already recognized. Together with the renewed Forest and Land Tenure Pledge, it offers an opportunity to connect political commitment, implementation finance, and community priorities.

The evidence in this report converges on a central finding: Effective ILTC implementation depends not only on the area over which rights are formally recognized but on the conditions in which rights-holders can exercise governance and decision-making authority over their lands and resources, free from activities that undermine those rights. **The ILTC gives signatories an opportunity to align tenure recognition and governance with land-use planning, licensing, and investment decisions, while respecting the rights and priorities of affected peoples and communities.** Seven interconnected priorities emerge as key recommendations from the analysis:

Image above: Tranquil River Village with Thatched Roof Houses in the Peruvian Amazon region.
Image credit: jkraft5 via Envato Elements.

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. This should include unresolved ancestral land claims, territorial restitution, and pending reserves for PIACI. Measures to strengthen governance and protection should reinforce, rather than delay or create additional conditions for, recognition where rights remain unsecured.

Recognition processes must ensure the effective and meaningful participation of IPs, LCs, and ADPs, and respect customary tenure systems, traditional governance structures, and the right to FPIC. For Indigenous Peoples, applicable rights should be consistent with UNDRIP; for local communities, with UNDROP. Participation processes should also enable meaningful involvement of women and youth, recognizing their essential roles in territorial governance and community decision-making.

Participatory and Indigenous- and community-led mapping can support these processes, while spatial analysis can help identify areas where competing concessions or land uses may require particular attention during implementation. Such analysis can also help identify potential conflicts early, before new concessions, infrastructure, or other development decisions further complicate recognition or the exercise of recognized rights.

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 funding, monitoring, and protection mechanisms consistent with their governance systems and priorities.

Support should encompass territorial planning, including community-led life plans, community-led monitoring and protection, legal support, and investing in traditional governance bodies and decision-making processes. Support can also be provided for coordination across territories. It should support Indigenous and community FPIC protocols, traditional livelihoods, territorial enterprises, and socio-bioeconomies that strengthen territorial governance, livelihoods, and stewardship.

Support should also ensure the participation of women and youth in territorial governance, intergenerational knowledge transmission, and community-led economies, without prescribing externally determined representation or governance structures.

3 ADDRESS INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRESSURES AFFECTING TERRITORIES

Governments should integrate territorial rights into decisions on mining, oil and gas, logging, industrial agriculture, energy and infrastructure, and strengthen mechanisms for identifying, preventing and resolving conflicts between territorial rights and concessions or development plans. Aligning broader development policies with the ILTC requires coordination across ministries responsible for tenure, finance,[125] investment, and sectoral development. Governments should review existing concessions and planned investments for conflicts with territorial rights, integrate rights safeguards into licensing and public financing, and establish clear responsibilities for resolving overlaps and ensuring compliance. Such coordination must ensure that industrial and infrastructure decisions uphold territorial rights, including consultation, participation, and applicable FPIC requirements.

Indigenous- and community-led monitoring, supported where useful by independent spatial analysis, can help identify emerging pressures and competing land and resource uses. Where appropriate and consistent with the rights and decisions of affected IPs, LCs, and ADPs, rights-based planning may include geographical exclusions from unwanted extractive and other large-scale industrial activities.

Governments should take preventive and corrective action where industrial concessions, infrastructure, or other land uses threaten territorial rights and address harmful existing activities. Conservation policies and protected-area designations must likewise respect customary tenure, territorial governance, and access to land and resources.

4 STRENGTHEN INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT

Monitoring and reporting on ILTC implementation must meaningfully involve IPs, LCs, and ADPs, including women and youth, while capturing customary and collective tenure arrangements and progress in recognition and the effective exercise of governance rights.

The annual Forest Governance and Tenure Progress Report, which the ILTC tasks the FCLP Secretariat with preparing, could provide an important basis for assessing progress on the commitment. Complementary monitoring could examine how land-use policies, industrial concessions, and planned infrastructure affect territories, including measures to prevent and resolve conflicts and strengthen legal protections.

Drawing on Indigenous- and community-led monitoring and, where useful, independent spatial analysis could help identify where development decisions reinforce, or undermine, ILTC implementation and where corrective action is needed. Monitoring of the renewed Forest and Land Tenure Pledge could also assess how much funding reaches rights-holders and what activities it supports. Reporting categories should be developed with IPs, LCs, and ADPs, with meaningful participation of women and youth, to reflect their priorities and strengthen transparency and accountability.

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.

The renewed Forest and Land Tenure Pledge and other financing mechanisms provide opportunities to align international finance with ILTC implementation. 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. Coordination with other relevant funds should follow their mandates and eligibility criteria, complement existing mechanisms and avoid imposing additional burdens on rights-holders.

Finance should support both dimensions of the ILTC: recognition where rights remain unsecured and stronger governance and protection where tenure is already recognized. Funding arrangements should also be accessible to women- and youth-led initiatives within these organizations and communities, consistent with their priorities and governance systems.

6 STRENGTHEN POLICY COHERENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LAND-USE AND INVESTMENT DECISIONS

The ILTC offers an opportunity to strengthen coherence between territorial rights, national development strategies, and climate and biodiversity commitments. 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.

Governments should review existing concessions and planned investments for potential conflicts with territorial rights, prevent new authorizations that would undermine those rights, and establish mechanisms for corrective action and remedy where authorizations or activities have already affected them.

7 STRENGTHEN POLICY COHERENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN LAND-USE AND INVESTMENT DECISIONS

ILTC implementation can reinforce countries' delivery on related commitments on Indigenous Peoples' rights, biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development. Governments should integrate territorial rights and Indigenous- and community-led governance into NBSAPs, NDCs, land-use and development planning, and other relevant national implementation frameworks, consistent with applicable rights and decision-making processes.

Implementation should strengthen coordination across government institutions and ensure that these frameworks and related policies uphold territorial rights and support their effective protection, as well as reduce duplication in implementation. Partnerships among IP, LC, and ADP organizations, governments, donors, and technical partners can mobilize political, financial and technical support around priorities identified by rights-holders. Technical partners can support legal recognition, mapping, GIS, territorial planning, monitoring, information management, and knowledge exchange where requested, while respecting Indigenous data governance, traditional knowledge systems, and appropriate protocols for data and knowledge sharing.

Across these priorities, implementation should build on the approaches of IPs, LCs, and ADPs to recognition, territorial recovery, governance, monitoring, protection, and economic development. Their organizations can continue strengthening self-determined territorial governance, advocacy, alliances, and knowledge exchange according to the priorities and decisions of each people and community. The approaches documented here offer practical starting points for collaboration.

CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS

The evidence presented in this report points to a central conclusion: **Meeting the ILTC's hectare commitments is essential, but meaningful implementation depends on whether territorial rights are effectively respected and exercised after recognition.**

The case studies demonstrate that formal recognition does not necessarily protect Indigenous Peoples', local communities', and Afro-descendant Peoples' territories from industrial concessions, infrastructure and competing land uses. Governments must therefore ensure that recognition is accompanied by effective governance and protection, including on newly recognized lands, and that licensing and investment decisions uphold territorial rights, rights-holders' own governance plans, and applicable consultation and FPIC obligations.

The ILTC offers an opportunity to generate political will, mobilize resources, and strengthen coherence across government policies and institutions. **Its potential lies not only in expanding the area of recognized tenure, but also in ensuring that those rights are respected in practice.**

Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples are already leading this work through territorial recovery, life plans, community monitoring, and transboundary corridors. Their approaches show what effective implementation can look like. This report invites governments, donors, and partners into dialogue on how ILTC implementation can support these efforts, addressing industrial pressures while advancing recognition, self-determined governance, and the effective protection of rights.



Women from the Indigenous Bayaka community preparing or handling traditional hunting nets in a Central African rainforest. Image Courtesy of REPALEAC



Belem – Sonia Guajajara, Minister for Indigenous Peoples of Brazil attends the "Global March: The Answer is Us" during the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30).
Image credit: Hermes Caruzo/COP30 via Flickr. CC BY-ND 4.0

Methodology

All data analysis was performed in QGIS, an open-source geographic information system.

Data Disclaimer:
The maps and geospatial analysis in this report are an attempt to demonstrate the stewardship Indigenous Peoples', local communities', and Afro-descendant Peoples' territories can provide, as well as the extent of extractive and large-scale industrial threats to these territories. These maps and analyses use the most recent, accurate, and precise data and methods available; results of these analyses may change between reports as data and/or methods are updated.

There is inconsistency in the documentation and tenure status of IP and LC lands, data availability, and political context across regions and between countries, and our approaches to local and regional-level maps have been adapted accordingly. Spatial data on recognized IP and LC lands were used where available, while community resource rights, unrecognized IP and LC lands, and proxy indicators have informed the analysis in areas with limited data. ADPs' lands were not used in these analyses, except where identified as 'local community' lands. Areas without data on maps in this report may have uncollected, unrecorded, or unrecognized IP, LC, or ADP lands and should not be interpreted as having no IP, LC, or ADP presence or claims to land.

Earth Insight takes a precautionary approach to estimating the potential area under oil, gas, mining, and logging threats. Oil and gas data used in the analyses in this report include active production blocks as well as areas under multiple stages of exploration and permitting. This approach provides the most expansive view of areas under threat of extractive industries. There are places where the oil and gas blocks, mining concessions, and logging concessions overlap. Given the distinct threat each industrial activity poses, the overlaps with ecosystems and communities have been calculated separately for each and should not be combined.

Indigenous Stewardship Analysis

Peru
Prior to calculating the areas of PIACI reserves and protected areas, duplicate and overlapping features were removed. Forest cover within PIACI reserves was calculated by intersecting the JRC Tropical Moist Forest (TMF) cover product with PIACI reserves using the Zonal Histogram function in QGIS, and then summarizing the number of undisturbed forest pixels. Forest loss was calculated by intersecting the 2025 Global Forest Change Forest Loss Year dataset with PIACI reserves and the Peruvian Amazon. The area of forest loss within PIACI reserves was then divided by the total area of TMF within PIACI reserves to calculate the proportion of forest cover lost. The same calculation was repeated for areas outside PIACI reserves within the Peruvian Amazon, allowing forest loss within PIACI reserves to be compared with forest loss outside of them.

Indonesia
Prior to calculating the areas of Indigenous Territories, Customary Forests, oil and gas blocks, and mining concessions, duplicate and overlapping features were removed. The forest cover area within Customary Forest concessions was calculated by intersecting the JRC Tropical Moist Forest cover raster (Vancutsem et al., 2021) with the concession areas, then summarizing the number of pixels within the buffers. The forest loss area within Customary Forest concessions was calculated by intersecting the 2025 Hansen Global Forest Change product (Hansen et al, 2013) with the concessions, using Zonal Histogram, and then summarizing the number of pixels of forest loss per year within the area.

DRC
Forest loss within the Boso Asukomo sacred forest concession (digitized from T-SIG CTIDD and Local Boso Asukomo Community, 2024 map) was quantified using the 2025 Hansen Global Forest Change forest loss dataset. The forest loss raster was clipped to the boundary of the sacred forest concession, and a zonal histogram was generated to summarize the number of pixels representing forest loss within the concession. The resulting pixel counts were converted to area using the spatial resolution of the Hansen dataset, providing an estimate of the total area of forest loss within the concession for 2025.

Costa Rica
Prior to calculating the areas of Recognized Indigenous Territories and agriculture, duplicate and overlapping features were removed. Forest loss was calculated by intersecting the 2025 Global Forest Change Forest Loss Year dataset with Indigenous Territories and the total area of Costa Rica. The area of forest loss within Indigenous Territories was then divided by the total area of TMF within Indigenous Territories to calculate the proportion of forest cover lost. The same calculation was repeated for areas outside of Indigenous Territories within Costa Rica, allowing forest loss within Indigenous Territories to be compared with forest loss outside of them. Area of agriculture within Indigenous Territories was calculated by intersecting agriculture with the Indigenous Territories layers.

Extractive Threat Analysis:

Oil and Gas Blocks
The extent of oil and gas blocks was compiled by Earth Insight based on recent official publications and/or data released by the relevant ministries, agencies, and the national petroleum companies. Oil and gas data in Indonesia and Venezuela was supplemented by data from NGOs and other data providers. Earth Insight takes a precautionary approach to estimating the potential area under oil and gas blocks. Oil and gas data used in the analyses in this report include active production blocks and areas under multiple stages of exploration and permitting, including blocks open to future licensing and shelved blocks. This approach provides the most expansive view of areas under threat of extractive industries. Overlapping features were removed before performing area-based calculations.

Mining Concessions
The extent of mining blocks was compiled by Earth Insight based on recent official publications and/or data released by the relevant ministries and agencies. Mining concession data in Indonesia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Suriname, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Gabon, and Cameroon was supplemented by data from NGOs and other data providers.

Earth Insight takes a precautionary approach to estimating the potential area under mining concessions. Mining concession data used in this analysis includes concessions that are titled, in production and exploration, pending approval, and expired and shelved concessions. This approach provides the most expansive view of areas under threat of extractive industries. Overlapping features were removed before performing area-based calculations.

Regional Extractive Threat Maps:

The Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' layer used for analysis was created by removing duplicate and overlapping IP and LC territories, before running area-based analyses.

The areas of IP and LC lands under oil and gas blocks, mining concessions, and logging concessions were calculated by intersecting these lands with the oil and gas, mining, or logging layers. The resulting areas of overlap were summed by region.

Note on domain:
The "Amazon Region" boundary from Red Amazónica de Información Socioambiental Georreferenciada (RAISG) was used to define the Amazon boundary in the analysis. Note that this differs slightly from the Amazon Basin and Amazon Biome boundaries.

Case Study Extractive Threat Maps:

Yavarí-Tapiche Corridor
Prior to calculating the areas of PIACI reserves, oil and gas blocks, mining concessions, and logging concessions, duplicate and overlapping features were removed. The areas at risk were calculated by intersecting the Yavarí-Tapiche Corridor and PIACI reserves with oil and gas blocks, mining concessions, and logging concessions layers. Undisturbed tropical moist forest under threat of oil and gas blocks and logging concessions within the corridor was calculated by intersecting the JRC Tropical Moist Forest (TMF) cover product (Vancutsem et al., 2021) with the extractive layers using Zonal Histogram, and then summarizing the number of pixels. This map has been created in consultation with The Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the East (ORPIO), The Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest AIDESEP), and Center for Indigenous Work (CTI).

Ecuadorian Amazon

This analysis included only Indigenous territories and oil blocks in the Ecuadorian Amazon, calculated using the RAISG regional boundary. Prior to calculating the areas of Indigenous territories, overlapping features were removed. The areas of Indigenous territories at risk of oil blocks were calculated by intersecting Indigenous territories with all oil blocks, as well as the specific blocks included in the Ronda Subandina and Ronda Suroriente. The area of undisturbed tropical forest under oil blocks was calculated by intersecting the JRC TMF cover product (Vancutsem et al., 2021) with the oil block layer using Zonal Histogram, and then summarizing the number of pixels.

Mato Grosso do Sul

Prior to calculating the areas of Indigenous Territories and mining concessions, duplicate and overlapping features were removed. The area of farmlands was calculated using the Collection 10.0 Land Cover and Use of Brazil dataset from MapBiomas. The "Farming" category was used to define farmlands in the analysis, and consists of agriculture, pasture, and forest plantation land-use types. The area of deforestation was calculated using the Collection 9.0 Deforestation of Brazil from MapBiomas. The area of farmland and deforestation in Indigenous territories was calculated by intersecting the farmlands and deforestation raster layers with the Indigenous territories layer using Zonal Histogram, and then summarizing the number of pixels. This step was repeated for the boundary of Mato Grosso do Sul.

Indonesia

The chip and pulp mill dataset contains 21 records, but only 20 are geolocated at the time of this analysis. Haul zones are defined by a 100 km radius around chip mills, excluding protected areas, where forests are at higher risk of deforestation. The Indigenous territories layer from AMAN was intersected with the haul zone buffer to calculate the area under threat of chip mills. This area does not include indicative Indigenous territories. This map was made by AMAN in collaboration with Earth Insight.

Tanzania

The EACOP pipeline trajectory was sourced from the Uganda Petroleum Authority (2021). A 2 km buffer was applied to the pipeline for analysis. This buffer distance was selected based on its use in Total's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (TZ ESIA, 2019), where it was identified as the expected zone of impact from the pipeline.

Both the protected area and KBA layers were intersected with the pipeline buffer using the Intersection function, and the overlapping feature counts were calculated. River data (HydroRIVERS; Lehner & Grill 2013) was used to identify rivers at risk from pipeline construction and contamination. Rivers with a stream order >= 4 were selected to filter out small streams and rivers. The resulting river dataset was intersected with the pipeline buffer using the Intersection function and overlaying river features were counted and identified as rivers at risk.

The count of affected people was generated by Friends of the Earth France and Survie, who calculated the count of affected individuals by multiplying the official number of affected households (provided in TotalEnergies' regional Resettlement Action Plans) by the official average household size for Tanzania (FOE and Survie, 2022). Affected grave sites by region, depicted on the map graph, were gathered from the EACOP Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) Addendum, 2023.

Spatial Data Sources:

Country Borders: Global Database of Administrative Areas - GADM (v. 3.6) [dataset]. Available at https://gadm.org/index.html

Forest Cover: C. Vancutsem, F. Achard, J.-F. Pekel, G. Vieilledent, S. Carboni, D. Simonetti, J. Gallego, L.E.O.C. Aragão, R. Nasi. Long-term (1990-2019) monitoring of forest cover changes in the humid tropics. Science Advances 2021

Forest Loss: Hansen, M. C., P. V. Potapov, R. Moore, M. Hancher, S. A. Turubanova, A. Tyukavina, D. Thau, S. V. Stehman, S. J. Goetz, T. R. Loveland, A. Kommareddy, A. Egorov, L. Chini, C. O. Justice, and J. R. G. Townshend. (2013). High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change. Science 342 (15 November): 850-853. Data available on-line from: https://glad.earthengine.app/view/global-forest-change

Key Biodiversity Areas: BirdLife International (2024) World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas. Developed by the KBA Partnership: BirdLife International, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, American Bird Conservancy, Amphibian Survival Alliance, Conservation International, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Global Environment Facility, Re:Wild (formerly Global Wildlife Conservation), NatureServe, Rainforest Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund. September 2024 version.
Available at: http://keybiodiversityareas.org/kba-data/request

Protected Areas: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2025), Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM) [Online], (multiple versions), Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net

Satellite Imagery (Basemap): Esri. "World Imagery" basemap. Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community

Tropical Moist Forest: C. Vancutsem, F. Achard, J.-F. Pekel, G. Vieilledent, S. Carboni, D. Simonetti, J. Gallego, L.E.O.C.

Aragão, R. Nasi. (2021). Long-term (1990-2019) monitoring of forest cover changes in the humid tropics. Science Advances. (Undisturbed and degraded tropical moist forest 1982-2024) Available at: https://forobs.jrc.ec.europa.eu/TMF

Amazon

Amazon Region Boundary: RAISG (Red Amazónica de Información Socioambiental Georreferenciada). RAISG Limits, 2024. Available at: https://raisg.socioambiental.org/

Change from natural areas to farm lands since 1985 (Mato Grosso do Sul): MapBiomas – Collection 9.0 of the annual series of Maps of Transition of Brazil, accessed through the link: https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/colecoes-mapbiomas/

Country Borders: Natural Earth (2024).

Deforestation (Mato Grosso do Sul): MapBiomas – Collection 9.0 of the annual series of Maps of Deforestation of Brazil, accessed through the link: https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/colecoes-mapbiomas/

Disputed boundaries: University of California, Santa Barbara, World Boundaries of Disputed Areas. Available at: https://hub.arcgis.com/datasets/ucsb::world-boundaries-of-disputed-areas/about

Illegal Activity: Centro de Travalho Indigenista, 2025.

Indigenous Territories and Local Communities: Amazon (Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Suriname, Guyana, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela, French Guiana): RAISG, 2024; Mato Grosso do Sul: FUNAI, 2025.

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