



Call to Action

Background

The Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), launched at COP27, is a high-ambition group of 33 governments that are committed to work together to drive global ambition to support the delivery of the 2030 target to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation. Members work together on a number of critical global policy issues; support for Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities is one of them.

Norway and Peru launched the **PLATFORM TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN FOREST CLIMATE ACTION** at COP28. The Platform constitutes governments, donors from the Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG), and Indigenous organisations including the Global Alliance for Territorial Communities (GATC). The Platform is initially working together to deliver two key outcomes:

1. **Policy action at national level:** By 2030 the Platform has supported at least six tropical forest countries to advance in: (1) shifting policies to strengthen tenure rights and secure a path towards zero deforestation and zero violence in IP and LC territories, and/or (2) redirecting or increasing finance flows towards more positive outcomes for IP & LCs, and/or (3) developing and strengthening more inclusive climate governance² models at the national/regional level.
2. **Policy action at global level:** Between 2024 and 2030, the Platform has regularly contributed to increased high-level political attention on IP and LC issues raised by IP and LC organizations and FCLP country members, utilizing regional and geopolitical opportunities to influence decision-making and political (including donors) agendas. Under this outcome Platform members have agreed to pursue the following outputs¹:

Output 2A: Map the opportunity for a global inter-governmental commitment to recognize XX hectares of indigenous lands by 2030.

Output 2B: Support a consultative and inclusive approach to deliver a second Forest Land Tenure Pledge at COP30.

The problem and the ambition

With territories covering millions of hectares of healthy and primary forests of the Earth's terrestrial surface, Indigenous Peoples and traditional rural communities contribute to global climate change

¹ More details are included in the Work Plan 2024-2025 of the Platform to Support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities that will be shared with the consultants.

mitigation, biodiversity, and inclusive and sustainable development. However, only 11% of the land they conserve is recognized as theirs whilst 83% is not, and the remaining 6% has limited designation. In the 49 countries that record data, it is estimated that an additional 1,375 million hectares (almost the size of Antarctica) need to be recognized. Even if only the existing legal framework were implemented, the forest tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities could increase by over 260 million ha.

Deforestation rates on Indigenous lands were between 17% and 26% lower on average compared to unprotected tropical forests globally. In Africa, Indigenous lands preserved forest cover better than protected areas. In the Asia-Pacific region, spanning from India to Fiji, deforestation rates were similar on Indigenous lands and in protected areas. Both had deforestation rates that were roughly one-fifth lower than unprotected areas managed by the governments.

Commitments such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which proposes protecting 30% of land by 2030, and the Glasgow Leaders Declaration, which aims to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030, cannot be achieved without preserving forests and ecosystems where Indigenous Peoples and local communities live.

FCLP members consider that government commitments to scale up the recognition of forest tenure rights as a key solution to the climate and nature crisis will be a game changer in land tenure and climate change mitigation. Some countries are already delivering results, but we need all countries to act with the same ambition to protect people, forests, and climate.

Goals of the Call to Action

The Call to Action is a voluntary and informal commitment signed by governments that have decided to work together in the next 10 months to define a global goal, based on national commitments, of protecting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' territories, which are also their source of life, culture, and religion. It is a demonstration of intention to:

- Map the opportunity for a **global inter-governmental pledge to recognize XX hectares** of indigenous lands or territories by 2030 as a complementary commitment of the forest tenure financial pledge to provide a political push to scale results.
- Invite **countries, donors, and partners** to join The Platform and work together in the next 10 months to deliver a pledge on a # of hectares to be protected to protect IP and LC.
- Mobilize technical support, financing, and alignment between donors and national ambition to achieve quick and measurable results on forest tenure.

Support needed by countries

Different countries will need different levels of support to support their political ambitions. In 2025, Platform Members will seek to support the planning process and support countries to identify lands that could be recognized in order to make a political commitment based on a robust process. Beyond 2025, Platform Members will seek to support the implementation of that commitment based on their technical and operational abilities.

This is not about aligning metrics and policies across countries. For example, every country will have different legal frameworks for forest tenure recognition. The joint ambition will respect these national frameworks and define categories of rights to pledge to allow for different national circumstances

and legal frameworks. For example, some countries can pledge to title new Indigenous territories, while other countries can pledge to give access and withdrawal rights limitations, give community-based forestry concessions, or create community-based conservation areas, and recognize ancestral possession. Several studies already exist that can be useful to define a baseline on where the country is and what is needed.²

Moreover, we recognize that supporting internal coordination will be essential.

Forest tenure is not always within the competence of environment ministries or forest authorities. Depending on the country, the forest tenure authorities are in the agrarian sector or an independent authority with a specific mandate. Jurisdictional governments (municipalities, states) are essential actors that have the power to decide about planning and zoning, cadaster management, and enact local ordinances that impact on forest tenure issues (every country has their own governance). For that, FCLP is calling partners to support conversations and multisector dialogues in the country (virtually or in person) in accordance with national realities.

Timeline

Time	Action
CBD COP16 2 October 2024	Launch Call to Action or invitation to countries to join.
COP29 November 2024	Opportunity to increase signatories from CBD COP16 launch.
October 2024 to January 2025	Mobilize support to interinstitutional coordination and data in the country.
December 2024 to November 2025	Support internal coordination processes in signatory countries.
October 2025	Finalisation of Pledge Texts and Commitments.
COP30 November 2025	Announcement of Financial and Political Commitments on IPs and LCs.

² Some studies that are in place are: [Amazonia 2023 – Protected Areas and Indigenous Territories – RAISG](#); [Who Owns the World’s Land? - Rights + Resources - Supporting Forest Tenure, Policy, and Market Reforms \(rightsandresources.org\)](#); [Over 100 Mha of additional lands recognized for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities since 2015 - Rights + Resources - Supporting Forest Tenure, Policy, and Market Reforms \(rightsandresources.org\)](#); [Measuring Individuals' Rights to Land : An Integrated Approach to Data Collection for SDG Indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 : Measuring Individuals' Rights to Land : An Integrated Approach to Data Collection for SDG Indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 \(worldbank.org\)](#); [Land Tenure \(worldbank.org\)](#).