

2024 WORLD BANK LAND CONFERENCE

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## Insights on Global Recognition of Women's Community-based Tenure Rights

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May 16, 2024

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[rightsandresources.org](https://rightsandresources.org)



# POWER & POTENTIAL (2017)



## A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS - WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO COMMUNITY FORESTS

### CONTEXT

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Examines if and how national laws and regulations concerning community-based forest tenure recognize the rights of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women.

### SCOPE

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30 LMICs across Africa, Asia, and Latin America

78% of LMIC forests worldwide

80 CBTRs

### INDICATORS

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Overarching Indicators  
+  
Community-Level Indicators:

Membership  
Inheritance  
Governance  
Dispute Resolution

**Community-Based Tenure Regime (CBTR):** A distinct set of national laws and regulations governing all situations in which the right to own or manage land or natural resources is held by the community.



The vast majority of national laws regulating Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' forest tenure **fail to adequately acknowledge and protect women's rights** to property, inheritance, community membership, community-level governance, and community-level dispute resolution.

Although all 30 countries ratified CEDAW and 28 constitutional guarantee women's equal protection, only...



*Of the 80 CBTRs analyzed, the proportion that have adequate gender-sensitive provisions for specific rights are only:*

**3%** *for women's voting rights*

**5%** *for leadership*

**10%** *for inheritance*

**18%** *for dispute resolution*

**29%** *for membership*

## LAND REPORTING IS LOW; REPORTING AND COMMITMENTS ON COMMUNITY LAND IS EVEN LOWER

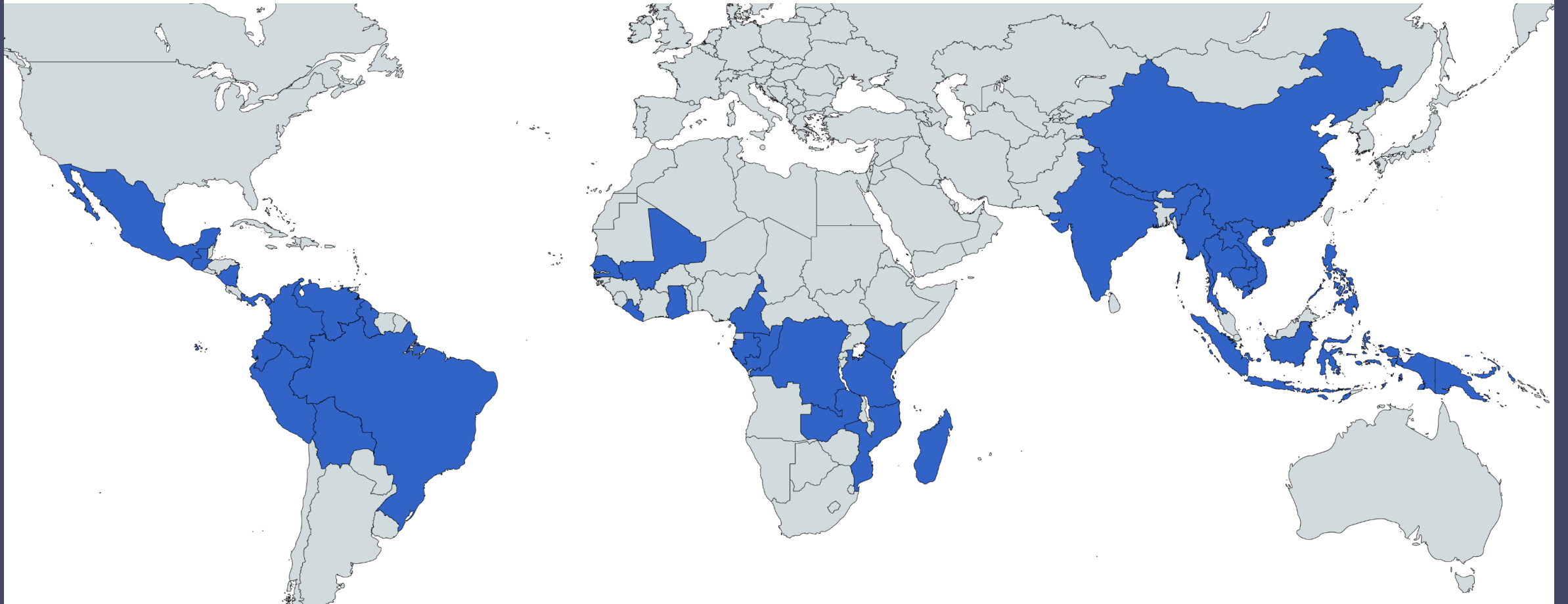
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- **Only 43 countries** to date have formally reported on their progress towards **SDG Indicator 1.4.2** on land tenure security, and even fewer report decisive actions to strengthen inclusive land rights or the land rights of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and/or local communities specifically (SDG Momentum Group 2023).
- **Only 68 countries** have reported on **SDG indicator 5.a.2**.
- Review of 27 NBSAPs found **only 1/3 included provisions to strengthen IPs' and LCs' rights** and land tenure, and none include recognition of community women's rights or tenure as a biodiversity conservation strategy (Forest Declaration Partnership, 2023).
- While references to Indigenous Peoples in NDCs are rising, just **28/130 second round submissions** mention them as rightsholders (IWGIA 2022).

# FORTHCOMING DATA

STRENGTH AND GENDER-SENSITIVITY OF 90+ CBTRS ACROSS 35 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA



# TRENDS IN WOMEN'S TENURE RIGHTS

(FORTHCOMING ANALYSIS)

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Overarching protections for all women's rights are increasing, but this does not always translate into community-specific legal protections and sometimes creates incoherence between laws

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As a region, Africa has seen the most significant reforms recognizing customary tenure rights through gender-sensitive legislation

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Few protections for procedural rights of women with respect to community-level governance (Leadership and Voting)

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Reforms to land and forest laws in Asia have not significantly expanded community tenure rights, and have sometimes even eliminated previously-gender-sensitive provisions

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National Instruments still fail to connect land, water and women's rights in line with key Global developments

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# STATE OF FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS, AFRO-DESCENDANT, AND LOCAL COMMUNITY WOMEN

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- Direct funding for grassroots women is a major challenge and limits their economic autonomy, empowerment, and self-determination rights. **Only 1 in 100 gender equality dollars goes to feminist or women-led organizations worldwide** ([AWID 2022](#)).
- Indigenous Peoples are 6.2% of the global population, but receive just **0.4%** of U.S. philanthropy ([Alliance Magazine 2021](#)).
- **Official data on funding reaching Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women in the Global South is virtually non-existent**, reflecting government neglect of women and girls from these ethnic groups.
- Recent research analyzing donor support for community tenure and forest management issues between 2011–2020 found that **only 32% of these funds include gender-related keywords** in project descriptions ([RRI 2022](#)).



# KEY TAKEAWAY S

- Reforms must be **cross-sectoral, gender-sensitive, and take into consideration women's unique position** to lands, territories and resources.
- **Countries must improve reporting** practices to understand and make visible the situation of communities' and community women's tenure security.
- Direct, **fit-for-purpose funding for grassroots women's organizations** is critical to advancing tenure security that truly extends to all.

THANK YOU.

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# **Path to Scale Funding Dashboard**

**DONOR FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND AFRO-DESCENDANT PEOPLES  
IN TROPICAL FORESTED COUNTRIES (2011–2023)**

May 16, 2024



# Background of previous work

## 1. Falling Short – Donor Funding for IPs and LCs

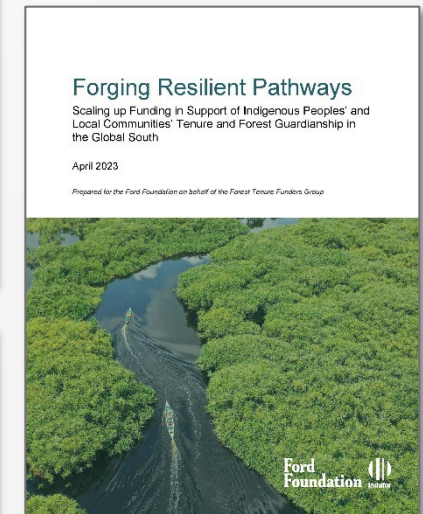
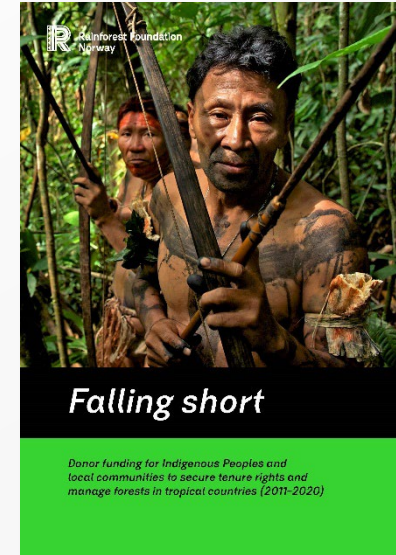
Donor funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to secure tenure rights and manage forests in tropical countries. The first systematic analysis of official development assistance (ODA) funding to IP and LC tenure and forest management.

## 2. Funding With Purpose

A study to inform donor support for IP and LC rights, climate, and conservation. Advanced practical, data-driven guidance to increase direct financing of 'Fit for Purpose' funding to IPs and LCs.

## 3. Forging Resilient Pathways

An independent evaluation of funding pathways, including 10 case studies of financing mechanisms in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The evaluation provided timely analysis to support decision-making for broadening and deepening donor support to IP and LC tenure rights and forest guardianship ahead of COP 27.





Chapter

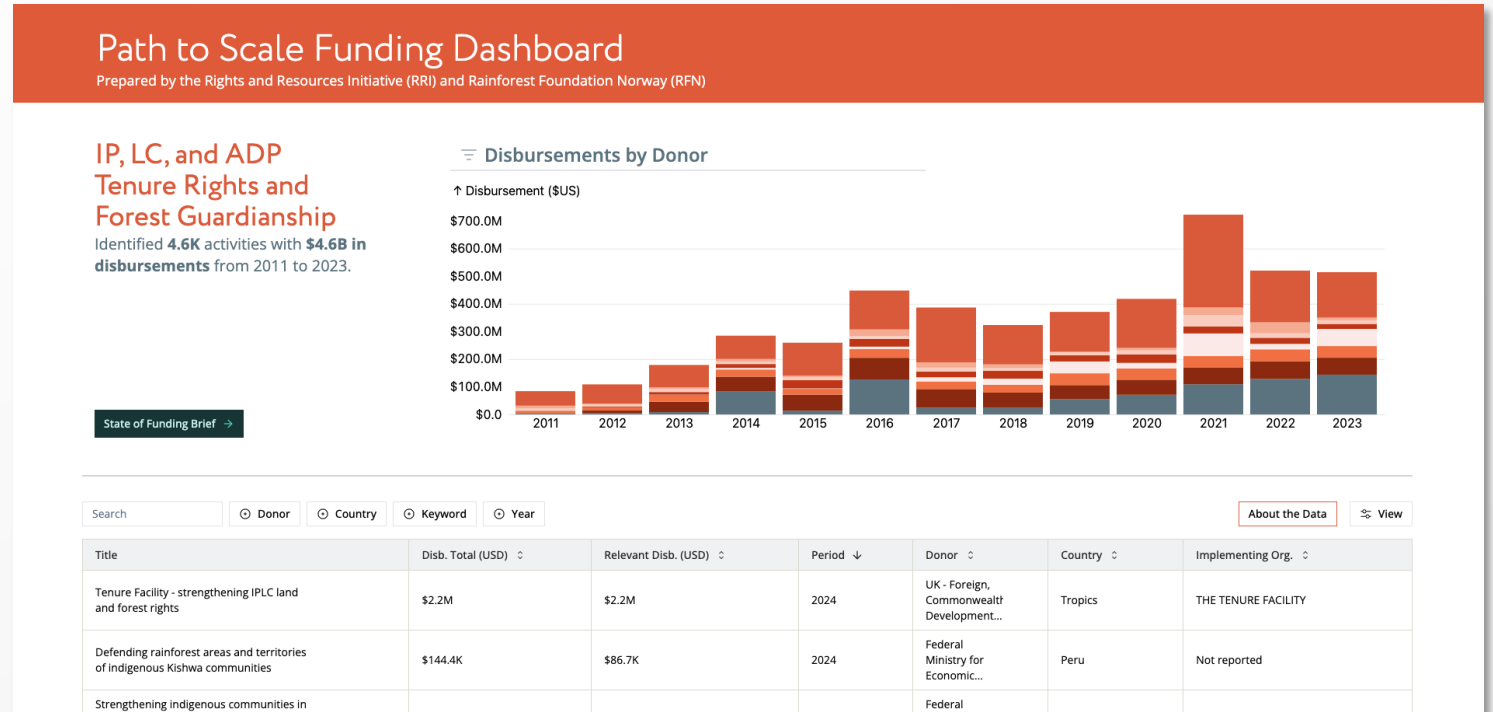
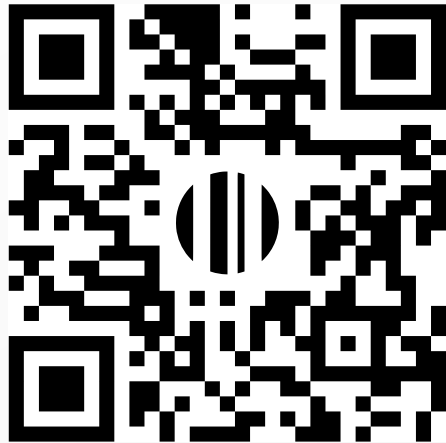
# The Path to Scale Funding Dashboard



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# Path to Scale Funding Dashboard

- ❑ Provides open access to all publicly available funding data for IP, LC, and ADP tenure rights and forest guardianship since 2011.
- ❑ Co-developed with the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and the Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN)



[dashboard.pathtoscale.org](https://dashboard.pathtoscale.org)

# Path to Scale Funding Dashboard

## Scope

- ❑ Builds on “Falling Short”, “Funding with Purpose”, and “Forging Resilient Pathways”
- ❑ Dataset is specific to international donor funding for IP, LC, and ADP tenure, rights, conservation, climate, and development in Low- and Middle-income Countries (LMICs).

## Methodology

1. Collect all donor-reported microdata, grant databases, and International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) data, and supplement poor-quality data with other targeted databases (e.g., CAFI, GEF, CIF, GCF, GEF SGP).
2. Restructure to the IATI format, which includes essential data points (i.e., unique ID, title or description, reporting organization, implementing organizations, geographic details, and transaction data).
3. Filter activities through a multistep process for quality and relevance. Activities are scored based on the presence of known terms and an evaluation by AI large language models (LLMs)
4. Manually inspect a subset of activities—all approved activities by the LLMs, and an additional sample that meets specific relevance criteria



# Path to Scale Funding Dashboard

- ❑ Accompanied by the brief “State of Funding for Tenure Rights and Forest Guardianship.”
- ❑ Analyzes key funding trends from 2011-2023, focusing on developments since 2020 and the IPLC Forest Tenure Pledge.
- ❑ Finds that more coordination is required amongst donors, governments, implementing organizations, and rightsholders to advance direct, locally led funding arrangements, as well as ensure that community rights and conservation efforts are mutually supportive.





Chapter

# State of Funding for Tenure Rights and Forest Guardianship



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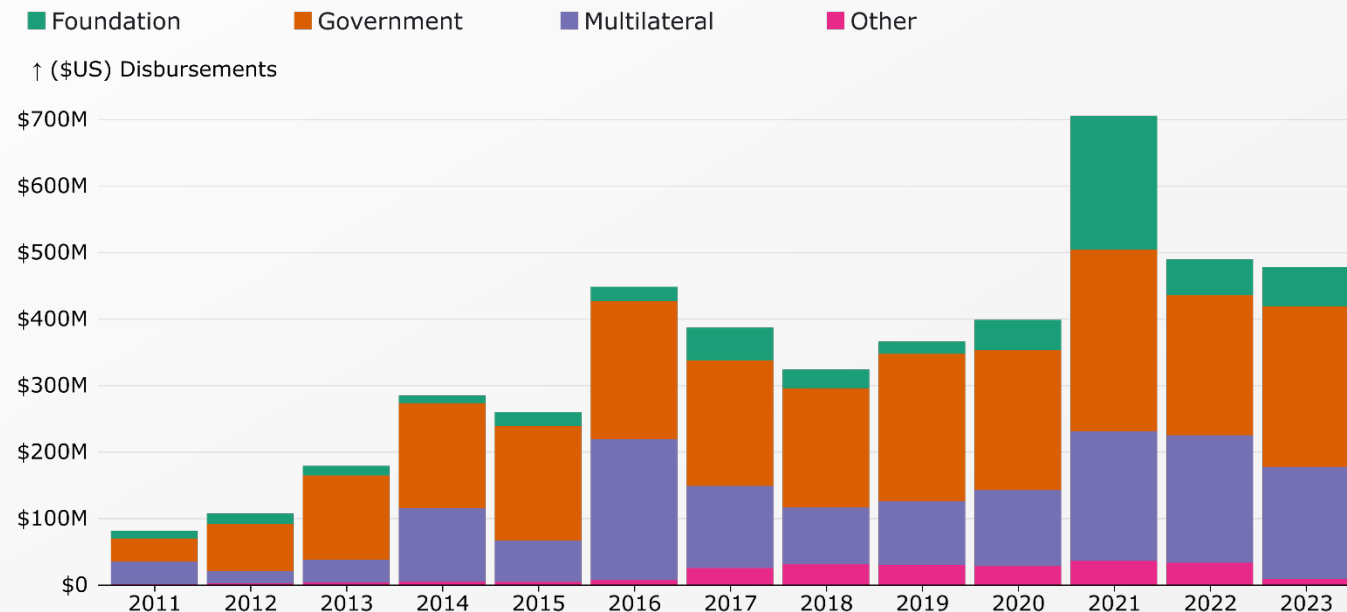
# State of Funding

## Key Findings

### 1. Global Funding Trends: A promising step-up driven by the Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG)

- Global climate funding for IP, LC, and ADP tenure and forest guardianship averaged US\$517 million per year between 2020 and 2023, up 36% over the preceding four years.
- Despite an overall rise in funding, there is no evidence indicating a systematic change in funding modalities or more direct donor funding to IP, LC, and ADP organizations.

**FIGURE 1 | Global Annual Disbursements to IP, LC, and ADP Tenure Rights and Forest Guardianship (2011–2023)**



Note: Some donors publish disbursements retroactively with reporting lags, 2023 estimates are preliminary.

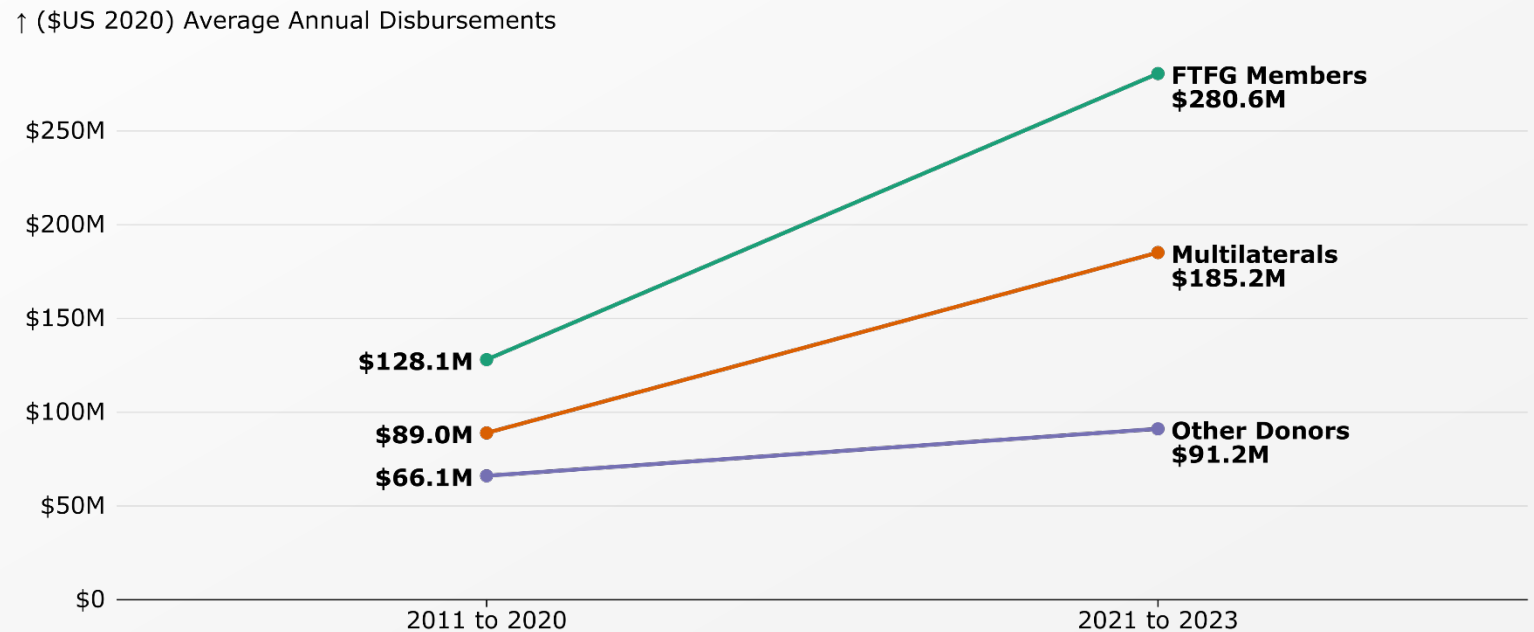
# State of Funding

## Key Findings

### 1. Global Funding Trends: A promising step-up driven by the Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG)

- There is clear evidence that 2021 represented a step-change for funding from donors that are part of the FTFG, consistent with their first annual report. Approximately 72 percent of the increase from the prior period was driven by the FTFG.
- The proportion of total funding from private foundations rose from 8% to 17%, although most funding for IPs, LCs, and ADPs is still driven by bilateral and multilateral sources.

FIGURE 2 | Change in Average Annual Disbursements, FTFG, Multilaterals, and Other Donors



Note: All data is converted and adjusted for inflation to the same period as “Falling Short” (December 2020) for comparison purposes.



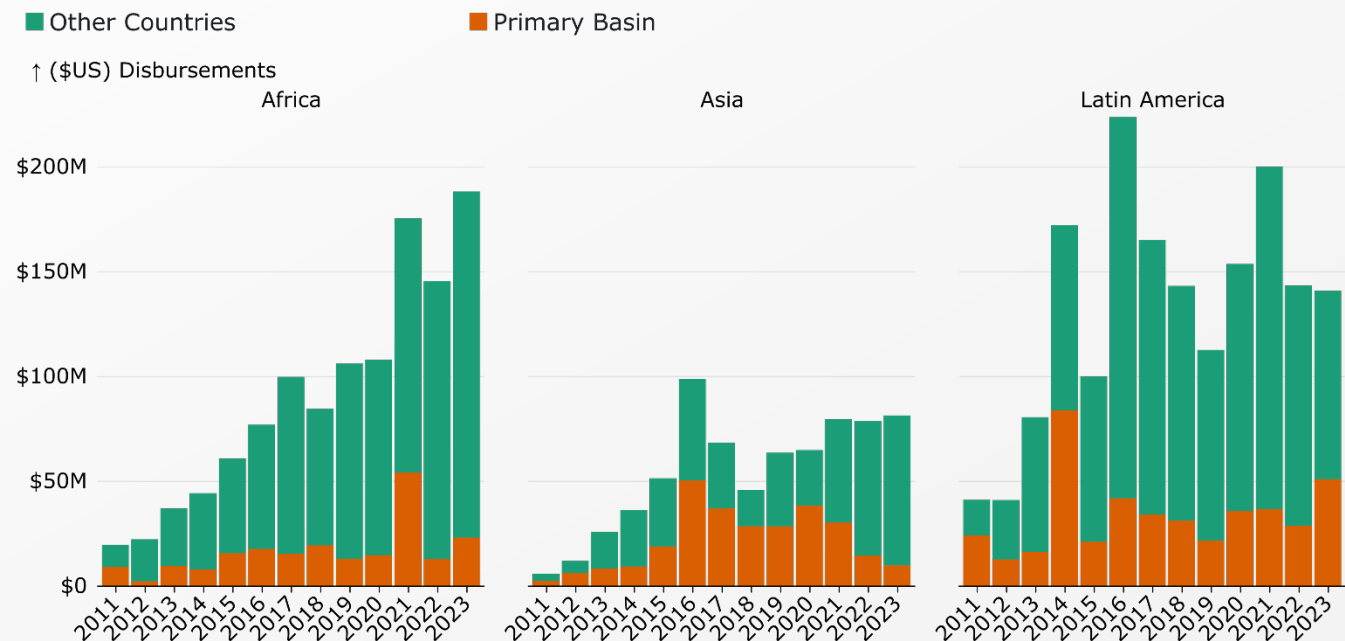
# State of Funding

## Key Findings

### 2. Regional Funding Trends: Increased diversity of funding, but still insufficient to meet needs

- Funding also increased in all regions and is being dispersed across more countries. From 2016 to 2019, 38 countries received an average of at least \$1 million per year in relevant funding, but this grew to 47 countries between 2021 and 2023. In 2023, Africa likely received more funding than Latin America for the first time.

**FIGURE 3 | IP, LC, and ADP Tenure Rights and Forest Guardianship Disbursements by Continent (2011–2023)**



Note: Many large activities since 2021 are cross-basin and thus are not included in this figure. Because a large share of this funding includes Latin America, Latin America's disbursements are likely undercounted in this graph. Primary basin countries are Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, and Brazil, respectively.

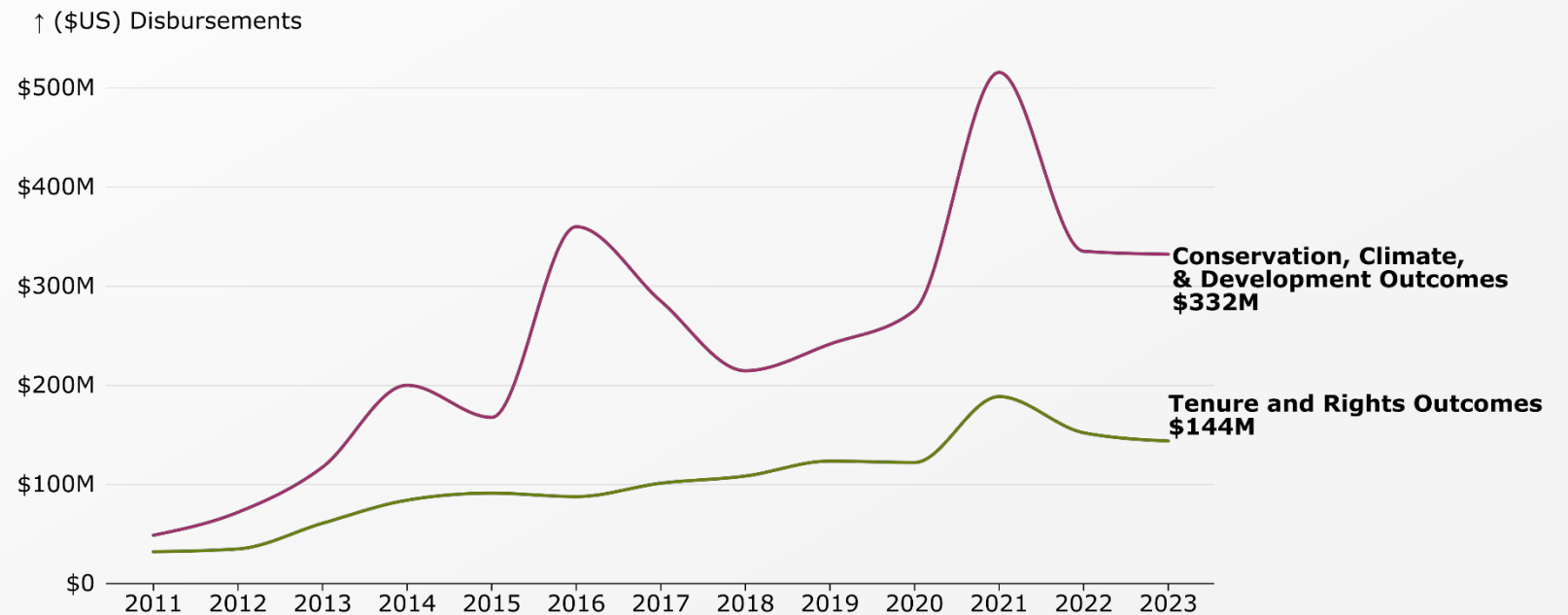
# State of Funding

## Key Findings

### 3. Thematic Funding Trends: Increase led by conservation, climate, and development focused activities

- Based on an activity-level thematic classification to identify trends in the language donors and implementers use to describe their activities.
- Disbursements for tenure and rights outcomes have increased in Africa and Asia, while declining in Latin America.

**FIGURE 4 | Annual Disbursements by Outcome Category (2011 – 2023)**





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# The Community Land Rights and Conservation Finance Initiative

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The World Bank Land Conference

May 15, 2024

Rights and Resources Initiative

[rightsandresources.org](https://rightsandresources.org)




A woman wearing a traditional conical hat and a striped shirt is holding a large woven basket filled with red and white produce, likely chili peppers and garlic, in a market setting. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and market stalls.

CLARIFI's **value** lies its **unique** characteristics:

- Indigenous, local community, and Afrodescendant **led and governed**
- **Direct access to funding** for Indigenous, local community, and Afrodescendant organizations
- CLARIFI is a **global mechanism** and gives grants in all lands and territories.





## CLARIFI 2024 Strategy

- Implement legal structure advice: develop governance and operational models in alignment with new legal structure.
- Develop MERL framework.
- Implement fundraising and communications strategies.
- Integrate lessons from pilot grantmaking cycle into a fit-for-purpose grantmaking model.
- New granting cycle of projects, prioritizing new batch of projects

# UPDATE ON ONGOING PROJECTS



Project Type	# of Projects	Funding
Active	44	\$8,931,792.00
Completed	34	\$2,777,280.00
In Development	29	
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	

Average Grant Size	
All projects	\$150,114.84
Africa	\$133,505.67
Asia	\$321,405.33
Latin America	\$141,077.72

Total Funding by Region	
Africa	\$5,607,238.00
Asia	\$964,216.00
Latin America	\$4,091,254.00

Number of Collaborators	
Total	67

Number of Countries	
Total	24



# CLARIFI Priority Areas

<b>Window</b>	<b>Example Projects</b>
<b>Tenure Security, Advocacy and Legal Support:</b>	Legal aid, Mapping, <b>Strategic analysis</b> , Policy development, Global advocacy support for IP networks and confederations
<b>Conservation and Resource Management</b>	<b>Community conservation plans and monitoring, Community-forest management and conservation, Restoration, training for conservation staff</b>
<b>Organizational Capacity</b>	Financial and fundraising capacity building; funding for key staff and core operational costs
<b>Environmental/ Human Rights Defenders</b>	Legal support, Advocacy, Safe housing, Scholarships to support extraction/ safety during moments of physical threats
<b>Indigenous and Local Economies</b>	Traditional livelihoods, Subsistence activities, Rights-based business, Business plans, Marketing studies
<b>Gender Justice</b>	Strengthen Indigenous, local community a ▾ Afro-descendant women organizations at national level, support women's access to land and advocacy spaces, regional and global networks, support women-led enterprises and cultural activities.



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS – WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

In Colombia, OPIAC organized convenings of Indigenous women to solicit their input into Colombia’s National Development Plan.



In the Ngo district of Rep. Congo, ACFAC leveraged land rights legislation to convince village chiefs and local landowners to sign commitments allowing women to cultivate land.

A CLARIFI project strengthened the coordination and political participation of women within COICA – achieving 50% women’s representation for the first time at its eleventh Congress.



In DRC, The Association des Femmes Autochtones Pygmées increased the economic empowerment of Indigenous women through resilient and sustainable agriculture.





A global coalition of over 150 rights holders organizations and their allies dedicated to advancing the forestland and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, local communities, and particularly the women within them.

A partnership of the Wyss Campaign for Nature, National Geographic Society, and a growing coalition of over 100 conservation organizations around the world.

We invite you to discuss how your organization can participate in the design and launch of this initiative.

-Contacts-

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# Can safeguards 'do better' for Indigenous Peoples and local communities?

## Lessons from REDD+ (and the Land Rights Standard)



Juan Pablo Sarmiento Barletti, Anne M. Larson & colleagues



# Safeguards: buzzword or transformational practice?

- Arose in the work of development banks to **avoid, mitigate, and minimize adverse impacts** from investment and development activities.
- **Cancun safeguards** → response to IP&LC concerns over REDD+'s impact on their rights and territories.
- Standards for **VCMs** & guidelines by multilateral financial institutions.
- Urgent to understand their role as the climate crises prompts interest in '**nature-based solutions**'.





# Safeguards: supporting equity, supporting effectiveness

- **Influx of investment in tropical forests can bolster sustainable development objectives, but also poses risks to communities.**
- Opportunity to expand rights **and** support country climate (e.g., NDCs) and development (e.g., SDGs) ambitions (recognition of IP & LC contribution)
- How best to recognise and address challenges on the mainstreaming of the realisation that **equity supports effectiveness?**
- Can safeguards **leverage a transformation** in financial flows to support rights?





Table 1. Comparative summary of safeguards standards and guidelines

	Multilateral funding institutions					Independent voluntary standards					
	African Development Bank (AfDB) <sup>1</sup>	Asian Development Bank (ADB) <sup>1</sup>	Green Climate Fund (GCF)	Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) <sup>1</sup>	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Carbon Fund (FCPF)	The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES)	Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Standards	Land Rights Standard <sup>2</sup>	The Plan Vivo Standard	Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)	VCS Jurisdictional & Nested REDD+ (JNR)
(a) Level	Project	Project	National (subnational interim)	Project	Subnational & programmatic	Subnational & national	Project	Project	Project	Project	Subnational
(b) Groups	Vulnerable groups & IPLCs	IPLCs	IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants & traditional peoples	IPLCs & other relevant communities	IPLCs & 'equivalent'	IPLCs & communities with values / livelihoods derived from the area	IPLCs and Afro-descendants	Rural smallholders & communities	Local stakeholders & communities	IPLCs & relevant carbon rights holders
(c) Cancun safeguards	N/A	N/A	Yes	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (not explicitly)	No	No (not explicitly)	Yes
(d) Gender	Yes (mainstreamed)	Yes (gender & women)	Yes (GCF Gender Policy)	Yes (gender & women)	Yes (benefit sharing; WB standards)	No	Yes (procedural, benefits, well-being)	Yes	Yes (procedural)	Yes (procedural)	Yes (benefit-sharing)
(e) IPLCs' rights under international law	No (human rights in general)	Yes	Yes (GCF IP Policy)	Yes (includes Afro-descendants & traditional peoples)	Yes (per UNFCCC & WB standards; criteria & indicators)	Partial (no uniform standard; no indicators for rights)	Yes (per UNFCCC; addresses FPIC & rights to land & resources)	Yes (recognized under applicable law)	No	No	Partial (per UNFCCC & local law; no explicit acknowledgement or monitoring)
(f) Land & resource rights	No	Partial (no mandated recognition of rights)	Partial (no specific provisions)	Yes	Yes (recognized or not)	Partial (no uniform standard)	Yes (with indicators; recognized or not)	Yes (recognized or not)	Partial (only where recognized)	Partial (only where recognized)	Partial (only where recognized)
(g) Community carbon rights	N/A	N/A	No	N/A	Partial (carbon rights assessment; no recognition of community rights)	No	No	No	No	No	No
(h) FPIC	No (consultation rather than consent)	Partial (consultation)	Yes (incl. description of how stakeholders were identified, involved & consulted)	Yes (requirements for 'meaningful' consultation)	Partial (monitoring & reporting; limited other circumstances)	Partial (no procedural guidance)	Yes (with indicators)	Yes (protocol for consultations)	Yes (incl. design & implementation)	Partial (no procedural guidance)	Partial (no procedural guidance)
(i) Formal benefit-sharing mechanism	No	No	No (optional)	No	Yes (transparent & participatory design; guidelines)	No (distribution follows international conventions & national/subnational legal frameworks)	No (but optional)	Yes (mutually agreed & equitable arrangement)	Yes (agreed with communities; awareness of change over time)	No	Yes (equitable, transparent & legally binding)
(j) Formal grievance mechanisms	Yes (project cycle)	Yes (ADB's own mechanism)	Yes (must report how complaints were received & resolved)	Yes (project's own; IDB also has one)	Yes (guidelines & standards)	No	Yes (detailed)	Yes (entire project life)	Yes (reported)	Yes (planning, implementation; benefit-sharing)	Yes (design, implementation, evaluation)
(k) MRV of social/ rights concerns	Yes (with procedure & guidance)	Yes (due diligence & review)	Partial (disbursements not contingent on safeguards performance)	Yes (project reports, bank also monitors)	Yes (indicators; includes 'default' events)	Partial (demonstration of procedural requirements; no awareness of change over time)	Yes (indicators; independent validation/verification bodies)	Yes (failure to report annually results in de-certification; incl. statement on grievance mechanism)	Partial (socioeconomic baselines; impacts to be reported)	No (initial information on how safeguards were addressed, no monitoring)	No (initial information on how safeguards were addressed, no monitoring)

Notes: 1 Safeguards guidelines reviewed were not only for REDD+ but the institutions fund REDD+ activities in their portfolios; 2 The standard is not limited to REDD+



# Safeguards: buzzword or transformational practice?

- Considerable variation in their conceptualization and articulation:
  - **Mitigative (“do no harm”)** → bulwarks against the impacts of interventions.
  - **Promotive (“do good”)** → promote mechanisms of participation, accountability, and transparency.
  - **Transformative (“do better”)** → catalyse legal shifts and institutionalization of participation and accountability.
- Failure to require IP&LC involvement in initiatives’ **full lifetime**.
- **Different practices in the name of FPIC**; lack clear guidelines or concrete indicators.
- Very few require the recognition of respect for land & resource rights, **when rights are not formally recognized**.
- Seldom require **formal benefit-sharing mechanisms that are equitable, transparent & legally-binding**.
- Reporting requirements **lack clear indicators, consequences for non-compliance, and/or 3rd-party verification**.



# The Land Rights Standard

- LRS reconsiders relationships in terms of **duty bearers and rights holders** with self-determination, capacities, and mechanisms to hold the former accountable (**not subjects who require 'safeguarding'**).
- **Rights-holders own** living principles that build on existing international legal requirements and best practice standards.
- Recognizes **FPIC as dynamic**; consent can be given, withheld, or be reconsidered.
- Partnerships/agreements based on:
  - mutually agreed and equitable **sharing of benefits**;
  - respect for **traditional knowledge**;
  - **fair compensation for current and future impacts** on territories and resources
  - preservation of **locally-defined livelihoods and priorities**.
- **Emphasizes rights and contributions** of women and youth.
- Updated to include the **recognition of community carbon ownership**.



The idea of **transformative safeguards may be a contradiction**; the reconfiguration of power relations that transformation would require lie beyond the realm of safeguards as they are currently understood.

The **Land Rights Standard** provides a potentially transformative pathway to rethink safeguards and re-engage communities and their organizations by supporting their self-determined well-being pathways, livelihoods, and territorial management practices.





**Safeguards at a glance**  
Supporting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in REDD+ and other forest-based initiatives

December 2021

Juan Pablo Sarmiento Barletti, Anne M. Larson, Katherine Leftz and Abhin Frechetz

**Key messages**

- Pledges for new investment in tropical forests may support sustainable development objectives, but also pose risks to forest-dependent communities.
- This first in a series of voluntary safeguard standards relevant to REDD+, as well as the guidelines of regional and international multilateral funding institutions.
- We compared nine criteria to understand differences across standards and guidelines, focusing on their engagement with the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- There is considerable variation in how safeguard standards and guidelines engage with the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Voluntary standards can support a transition from "doing no harm to doing better" by catalyzing a rights-based transformation for its engage with the women and men of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

**Introduction**

This first in a series of voluntary safeguard standards and guidelines for REDD+ and other forest-based initiatives. The series explores standards and guidelines regarding the rights and social inclusion concerns of the women and men of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) that dwell in the forests where climate solutions are implemented. They provide a review for application in different contexts, enable targeted proposals to improve their safeguard practices, present evidence on the inclusion and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and contribute to the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making and monitoring of safeguards.

**1** CIFOR  
**2** CGIAR  
**3** Resilient Landscapes Initiative

**Safeguards at a glance**  
Are voluntary standards supporting gender equality and women's inclusion in REDD+?

December 2022

Juan Pablo Sarmiento Barletti, Nicole Heise Vigil, Elisabeth Garner and Anne M. Larson

**Summary**

- Measures from forest-based initiatives (FBIs) and local communities (LCs) play a role in forest management, yet are frequently marginalized from decision-making related to actions in their forests.
- Overall, the design and implementation of REDD+ actions may be resulting in the inclusion of women and local communities and development actions that build in response to women's rights and gender equality.
- Our analysis shows that results a considerable far away from gender-equal requirements in safeguards. There is still much to be done.
- Most of the standards included some gender-related or women's rights and resources. However, only one standard included gender equality requirements regarding REDD+ benefit sharing mechanisms. These range from challenges to being women receive equal access to benefits, to ensuring women's participation in the construction of these mechanisms.
- However, and that standards require that grievance mechanisms are gender-responsive or accessible to women, this is an aspect that should receive more attention to bridge the gap between the potential and the impact of these standards.

**Introduction**

Safeguards standards and guidelines can play an important role in achieving social and environmental goals in response to climate change. However, they are often not designed to consider and incorporate the needs of women and local communities (IPs and LCs) who live in the forests where climate solutions are implemented. This report provides a review for application in different contexts, enables targeted proposals to improve their safeguard practices, present evidence on the inclusion and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and contribute to the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making and monitoring of safeguards.

Regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) framework for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), have largely related Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) access to land and natural resources, respect for their access to information, about climate action and participation in relevant decision making, as well as the fair

**Safeguards at a glance**  
Are the Monitoring, Reporting, Verification, and Grievance Redress Mechanisms of voluntary standards supporting community rights in REDD+?

March 2024

Tamara Lasheras, Juan Pablo Sarmiento Barletti and Anne M. Larson

**Key messages**

- While carbon accounting has comprehensive guidelines and is a funding priority in REDD+, readiness, there is no similar emphasis on the assessment of compliance with social safeguards through a monitoring, verification and reporting (MVR) system, or for grievance and redress mechanisms (GRM).
- Our analysis shows an absence of stakeholder involvement in the design and implementation of both MVR procedures for safeguards and the design of GRM, meaningful local engagement is needed, particularly of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs).
- Most of the standards recognize gender inequalities, but fail to promote gender-responsive approaches in both safeguards MVR and GRM. Such approaches would promote equity through mechanisms that consider women's perspectives as well as their unequal access to resources and benefits.
- Accessible GRM procedures are mentioned across various standards, but specific details regarding culturally appropriate content, dissemination and procedures are often lacking.
- Rigorous safeguards MVR and GRM requirements are essential for the effective implementation of REDD+ projects and programs that aim to go beyond "doing no harm". Requirements should promote transparency and accountability, and include clear thresholds, indicators and consequences for non-compliance.

**Introduction**

This first in a series of REDD+ safeguards, focusing on the rights and social inclusion concerns of the women and men of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) that dwell in the forests where climate solutions are implemented. They provide a review for application in different national contexts, present evidence for decision makers and practitioners to consider the implications and benefits of supporting the rights of IPs and LCs, and contribute to the participation of IPs and LCs representatives in discussions on and monitoring of safeguards.

**Safeguards at a glance**  
Are voluntary standards supporting community land, resource and carbon rights?

June 2023

Juan Pablo Sarmiento Barletti, Nicole Heise Vigil and Anne M. Larson

**Key messages**

- REDD+ initiatives have been created and implemented in landscapes where community, land and resource tenure and carbon rights are either unrecognized, unclear or unenforced. This barrier to equitable REDD+ must be addressed by all safeguard standards and guidelines.
- Despite mention of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in UNFCCC decisions regarding REDD+, including the Cancun Safeguards, initiatives have not placed importance on the wide scope of rights it recognizes. Progress for UNDRIP were more central - with specific requirements and indicators to monitor progress - standards could catalyze a rights-responsive transformation in climate actions.
- Revised standards failed to link rights over land and resources and rights to carbon, and tended to recognize the former but not the latter. These omissions require reconsideration.
- Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) was a common requirement of standards, especially in cases of displacement, but most failed to include specific guidelines; this means what happens in the name of FPIC is highly varied.
- The power relations inherent in land and resource tenure and carbon rights in the Global South cannot be easily transformed, but standards can go further in addressing inequalities by providing specific guidelines to "do better" through rights-responsive design and implementation.

**Introduction**

This first in a series of REDD+ safeguards, focusing on the rights and social inclusion concerns of the women and men of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPs and LCs) that dwell in the forests where climate solutions are implemented. They provide a review for application in different national contexts, present evidence for decision makers and practitioners to consider the implications and benefits of supporting the rights of IPs and LCs, and contribute to the participation of IPs and LCs representatives in discussions on and monitoring of safeguards.

THANK YOU

Safeguards at a glance series available at [cifor-icraf.org/gcs](https://cifor-icraf.org/gcs)

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