



A ROADMAP TO
IMPLEMENT TARGET 3
OF THE GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY
FRAMEWORK

INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES TO SAVE THE PLANET

BRIEFING NOTE

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AMAZONIA
FOR LIFE:
PROTECT
80% BY
2025
AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

Key messages

- **The Amazonia and eight other key ecosystems¹ are approaching or have already entered tipping points**, and are now experiencing a kind of ecological metastasis and impacts will be felt globally.
- Including Indigenous and ancestral territories in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) represents a **historical milestone to achieve global targets**. So far, only protected areas and “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECM) were considered in the global conservation debate.
- **Indigenous Territories (IT) represent about 22% of the global land surface, are home to 80% of the remaining biodiversity on the planet**, and 500 million people accounting for 6.2% of the global population. Yet, Indigenous Peoples receive less than 1% of climate finance. This is mainly due to the fact that climate change and conservations policies have not recognized the role of indigenous peoples and their territories.

- In 151 years ago, protected areas² have expanded to cover approximately 17% of the globe and are maintained mainly with billions of dollars from national budgets. There is a high risk that the expansion of protected areas to **achieve 30% by 2030 could happen at the expense of indigenous territories**.
- The difference between protected areas and OECMs, and indigenous territories is fundamental. While the first two categories are created by law or decree, **indigenous territories are pre-existing to the states, and are home to indigenous peoples with their own governance structure, culture, language, and indigenous knowledge systems, and, the sum of all of these characteristics have maintained key ecosystems on the planet throughout millennia**.
- The **goal of an indigenous territory is not conservation** as we define it in a western context. Rather, conservation on Indigenous territories is the result of all the elements described above that respond to the rights recognized in international agreements such as the ILO Convention No. 169 (1989) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007).

1 Boreal Forest Shift, West Antarctic ice sheet disintegration, West African monsoon shift, Permafrost loss, Greenland ice sheet disintegration, Boreal forest shift, Atlantic meridional overturning circulation breakdown, and Indian monsoon shift; in McSweeney, R. (Ed.). 2020.

2 Borrini-Feyerabend, G., N. Dudley, T. Jaeger, B. Lassen, N. Pathak Broome, A. Phillips and T. Sandwith (2013). *Governance of Protected Areas. From understanding to action* (PDF). ISBN 978-2-8317-1608-4.

- The understanding of the vital relation between ecosystems, biodiversity, and Indigenous peoples is key for policy in climate change. **Complex ecosystems often depend on the culture, governance, and knowledge of indigenous peoples** (and vice versa).
- **Insecure land tenure affects** the ability of people, communities and organizations to make changes to land that can advance **adaptation and mitigation efforts**.
- **Stopping the trajectory towards tipping points** in key ecosystems globally requires everyone's involvement.
- **Immediate recognition of Indigenous Territories** and the allocation of resources to strengthen their territorial management is a first step.
- Climate policies need to have a rights-based approach.
- Immediate implementation of legal frameworks is necessary to recognize Indigenous Peoples' rights and role in maintaining key priority areas and planetary health.

GBF Target 3 in the Amazonia³

- The Amazonia, home to 511 indigenous nations, has reached a tipping point as degradation and deforestation combined have transformed 26% of the region and could potentially trigger a tipping point that affects ecosystems as far as the Tibetan Plateau and West Antarctic ice sheet.
- **Preserving 80% of Amazonia by 2025 is still possible.** It requires urgent measures to effectively safeguard the remaining 74% (629 million hectares) of the Amazon that are Intact Key Priority Areas (33%) and with Low Degradation (41%) and restore 6% of highly degraded lands.

- **National Protected Areas (NPAs) and Indigenous Territories (ITs) are vital to protect Amazonia.** Together they cover 47.2% of the Amazonia (ITs -27.5%- and PAs -24.6%, overlap between both 17.7%, RAISG 2020, p.16). 87.5% of deforestation happened beyond these lands⁴. To avert the tipping point, an additional 33% of the region requires a territorial management regime.
- Protecting 80% of the Amazonia is feasible and urgent as the IUCN recognized in 2021 with the votes of 32 countries and 541 non-governmental organizations in [Resolution 129](#)⁵.
- **Urgent measures are needed to effectively safeguard the remaining 74%** (629 million hectares) of the Amazonia that are Intact Key Priority Areas⁶ (33%) and with Low Degradation (41%). Additionally, **the restoration of 6%** (54 million hectares) of land with high degradation is vital to stop the current trend.
- When addressing the implementation of Target 3 in Amazonia, **it is key to understand the context and legal frameworks in each country and how titling and IT recognition across Amazonian countries varies.** This report has a description of the current legal frameworks in many of these countries.
- **The lack of Indigenous Peoples rights recognition is enabling the destruction of key priority ecosystems** and the potential of extermination of whole communities and Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI). Currently, the Peruvian Congress analyzes the possibility to eliminate 25 indigenous reserves that will lead to the extermination of 25 PIACI groups.

³ The Amazonia for Life Initiative adopts Amazonia as a more comprehensive concept that includes all the ecosystems that are part of this megasystem (biome and associated drainage basins, headwaters, Amazonian ecosystems, and administrative regions) present in 9 countries.

⁴ RAISG 2020, p. 46.

⁵ Avoid the tipping point in the Amazon protecting 80% by 2025.

⁶ We define Key Priority Areas as those areas with very high ecosystem integrity, functionality, connectivity and representativeness of biodiversity (see Methodology), including primary forests.

Conclusions

Global and national policies require innovative and immediate solutions. The Global Biodiversity Framework offers an opportunity to act immediately by including Indigenous Territories as a third path to achieve biodiversity conservation and climate targets. Indigenous peoples hold the ancient knowledge of most of Earth's key ecosystems. The Amazonia is a region that is vital for life on Earth and it has entered a dangerous tipping point with ripple effects to other vital ecosystems on the planet. We urge governments to commit to protect 80% of the Amazonia immediately, this might be the last opportunity to stop the tipping point from expanding to all the region. Target 3 is a milestone for climate, health, rights recognition efforts and we need to have a clear roadmap to implement it as soon as possible.

A first step is to recognize Indigenous territories and rights in innovative governance models that include indigenous knowledge systems. A second step is to support its management by greatly scaling up national and international resources.

As noted, there are multiple ways to substantially increase funding in support of ITs, from climate change finance, to debt swaps or debt forgiveness schemes, to funding that is freed up by redirecting damaging subsidies, as agreed in Target 18 of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the increased resources called for in Target 19.

Finally, priority areas without a territorial management regime can consolidate a new co-management model where states create biocultural connectivity corridors that connect ecosystems and indigenous cultures and territories as an immediate protection measure. Amazonian leaders have identified a set of solutions to stop the tipping point in the Amazonia in [this declaration](#).

Policy Recommendations

- COP15 and the Global Biodiversity Framework created a **new mandate on ecosystem integrity and indigenous territories**. This new framework requires immediate action from governments.
- **Amazonian governments must commit to protect 80% of the Amazonia** as soon as possible before the tipping point expands to the entire region .
- Legal frameworks in the Amazon must guarantee permanent safeguards to protect Amazonia not as a siloed country by country effort but as an integrated regional effort. A Panamazonian regional vision requires a shared strategic plan built upon the strict guidelines of Free, Prior, Informed, Consent (FPIC). To reach the 80 percent by 2025 vision, each Amazon country must develop National Amazon Biome Action Plans (NABAP) to spell out their commitments for meeting the target.
- Industrialized countries need to provide resources to assist Amazonian countries in phasing out extractives: oil, mining, logging, and agroindustry.
- There needs to be 100% legal recognition and demarcation of Indigenous territories and the allocation of permanent financial resources that allow their titling and expansion.
- An immediate moratorium on deforestation and industrial degradation of all primary forests.
- Halting key drivers of current and future deforestation and industrial development pressures by suspending new licensing and financing for mining, oil, cattle ranching, large dams, logging, and other industrial activities.
- The finance sector needs to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples and an end to deforestation throughout financed supply chains.

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