

A woman in traditional indigenous attire, featuring a large headdress of red and orange feathers, face paint with red and white stripes, and a beaded necklace. She is looking upwards with an open mouth, as if speaking or singing. The background shows other people in traditional clothing, suggesting a cultural event or ceremony.

A ROADMAP TO IMPLEMENT
TARGET 3 OF THE GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK:

**INDIGENOUS AND
TRADITIONAL
TERRITORIES
TO SAVE THE PLANET**



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

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A roadmap to implement Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework: Indigenous and traditional territories to save the planet

Statement

We, Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon basin, through our ancestral knowledge and traditions, have protected the Amazon for millennia. Yet, intense extractivism has already transformed 26% of our home and we are at the verge of crossing a tipping point which needs to be understood as the potential dieback of the entire ecosystem due to deforestation. We are not alone. 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. Models have already shown an identified teleconnection propagation path between the Amazonia and ecosystems as far as the Tibetan Plateau and the West Antarc-

tic ice sheet². Tipping elements can be linked and can also have the potential predictability of cascading tipping dynamics³.

Civil society, indigenous peoples organizations and major scientific communities have joined our call to protect 80% of the remaining ecosystems by 2025 in the Initiative “Amazonia for Life: protect 80% by 2025”. The inclusion of Indigenous Territories in Target 3 of the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework represents a milestone to recognize the role of Indigenous Peoples, and their knowledge and governance systems in maintaining balance in key priority areas, including human health, territorial and planetary health, and climate

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 Liu, T., Chen, D., Yang, L. et al. [Teleconnections among tipping elements in the Earth system. Nat. Clim. Chang. 13, 67–74 \(2023\). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01558-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01558-4)

3 idem



Photo: © Cícero Pedrosa Neto/Amazon Watch. PA Ressaca

change. As we center our focus on health in this 22nd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), it is important to understand that by protecting Indigenous territories, over 15 million of respiratory and cardiovascular cases could be avoided every year in Brazil alone, with ~\$2 billion USD being saved only in health costs⁴. Achieving biodiversity conservation and climate targets is impossible without addressing the role of more than 5,000 Indigenous Peoples on territories, ecosystems, states, the planet's economy, and global health.

Today, at this session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, we unite in calling for the solidarity with all the Indigenous Peoples across the globe to per-

manently protect 80 percent of the Amazonia by 2025 as an urgent measure to avert an imminent tipping point in the region, and to achieve the transformative change to avert other tipping points around the world.

We need to unite in one voice to engage governments and multilateral organizations in this endeavor. There is no space to continue business as usual, we need banks and countries that are financing mining, logging, oil, agribusiness, and other extractives, to immediately stop financing any activities that could lead to tipping points in Amazonia. Life on the planet has entered the anthropocene⁵ and on this path, many indigenous leaders, communities, indigenous territories, and environmental defendants are losing their lives and livelihoods.

4 Prist, P.R., Sangermano, F., Bailey, A. et al. [Protecting Brazilian Amazon Indigenous territories reduces atmospheric particulates and avoids associated health impacts and costs. *Commun Earth Environ* 4, 34 \(2023\). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-023-00704-w>](https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-023-00704-w)

5 The Anthropocene Epoch is an unofficial unit of geologic time, used to describe the most recent period in Earth's history when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet's climate and ecosystems ([National Geographic Society 2022](#)).

Introduction

Indigenous Territories (IT) represent about 22% of the global land surface (UN 2021), are home to 80% of the remaining biodiversity on the planet (IPCC 2022, TS.B.1.6, p.47), and 500 million people (World Bank) accounting for 6.2% of the global population. Yet, Indigenous Peoples receive less than 1% of climate finance (Rainforest Foundation Norway-RFN- 2021).

Since the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, 151 years ago, protected areas⁶ have expanded to cover approximately 17% of the globe (UN Protected Planet Report 2021)⁷ and are maintained mainly with billions of dollars from national budgets. Until the approval of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) in December 2022, only protected areas and “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECM) were considered in the global conservation debate. There is a high risk that the expansion of protected areas to achieve 30% by 2030 could happen at the expense of our territories. Furthermore, the creation and maintenance of protected areas is relying mainly on the budgets of the countries and economies of the Global South. The annual investment needed for an expanded (30%) PA system is \$103 – \$178 billion . This figure

INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES REPRESENT ABOUT 22% OF THE GLOBAL LAND SURFACE, ARE HOME TO 80% OF THE REMAINING BIODIVERSITY ON THE PLANET.

includes \$68 billion for existing protected area systems, of which only \$24.3 is currently spent. (Underfunded systems lose revenue, assets, carbon and biodiversity)⁸. Most of the investment needs are in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). These often have a competitive asset advantage in terms of natural areas, but may need international support to capitalize on that opportunity. Without additional funding, growing the PA sector could entrench global economic inequalities.⁹

Indigenous Territories provide an immediate solution to mitigate climate change but need a clear path to implement Target 3 with a differentiated strategy and a rights-based approach. IT’s main goal is not conservation in the western sense of science-based biodiversity conservation, and yet, many ITs present comparable or higher conservation performance than protected areas due to holistic

6 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). IUCN. ISBN 978-2-8317-1608-4.

7 The total number of protected area records in the February 2023 release of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is 285,529 comprising 273,263 polygons and 12,266 points and covering 244 countries and territories. UNEP-WCMC and IUCN (2023), Protected Planet: The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM) [Online], April 2023, Cambridge, UK: UNEP-WCMC and IUCN. Available at: www.protectedplanet.net.

8 Waldron, A., Adams, V., Allan, J., Arnell, A., Asner, G., Atkinson, S., ... & Zhang, Y. (2020). Protecting 30% of the planet for nature: costs, benefits and economic implications.

9 idem.

indigenous approaches to protecting their homes. ITs are part of our rights and conservation takes place because of our knowledge systems, governance, culture, and our relationship with these key ecosystems.

This white paper presents key data and analysis to establish the importance of the historical milestone that represents the inclusion of indigenous and ancestral territories as a mechanism to achieve global targets in the Global Biodiversity Framework and provides a set of policy recommendations for immediate implementation. Furthermore, this document analyzes the urgent call of Amazonian indigenous leaders to incorporate indigenous territories as an immediate measure to help prevent tipping point in Amazonia and in eight other ecosystems around the world as well as climate change.

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues Twenty-Second Session is the space for indigenous peoples around the world to present a resolution to governments of the next steps to include indigenous territories as an immediate climate and biodiversity solution. This year and onwards without further delay, the international community must implement the legal frameworks and a financial architecture that will guarantee the rights of Indigenous Peoples which include their territories, governance, knowledge systems, consultation, consent, among other rights. The goal is to fully recognize the role of Indigenous Peoples in maintaining key priority areas, human health, planetary and territorial health and their multiple efforts to combat climate change with a rights-based approach.



**THE GOAL IS TO FULLY
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BASED APPROACH.**

COP15:

Target 3 implementation

The Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) has long recognized the crucial connection between Indigenous Peoples and biodiversity conservation since its adoption in 1992. However, there has been an ongoing debate about how to recognize our contributions to nature conservation, leading to a number of decisions in the CBD on this critically important topic (see Annex 1). This discussion accelerated and evolved in recent years due to several key factors:

- A growing body of research indicating that Indigenous Territories, lands and waters often exceed the conservation outcomes of PA's and other state-centric conservation approaches and that the planet's remaining biodiversity and areas of high ecosystem integrity overlap significantly with territories and areas collectively governed and managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) (see Annex 2);
- The often slow pace of recognition of Indigenous territories and rights, combined with continuing and often increasing threats to Indigenous lands from encroachment;
- The need to characterize Indigenous contributions to conservation in the drafting of the CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at the CBD's COP 15 in Montreal in December of 2022.

This debate culminated at COP 15 with several provisions on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), including crucially, important text in Target 3:

“Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, **recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable**, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities including over their traditional territories.”

However, as the impetus for explicitly including “recognizing indigenous and traditional territories” in Target 3 was misunderstood by many, and even became a source of contention in Montreal, we have drafted this note to provide background and context on this new text.

THERE HAS BEEN AN ONGOING DEBATE ABOUT **HOW TO RECOGNIZE OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATURE CONSERVATION**

Negotiations Background

While the goal of Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework was to establish an overarching global conservation goal, which was set at protecting 30% of lands and seas by 2030 (“30x30”), the objective of Target 3 was to establish the mechanisms for achieving the 30x30 target. Often referred to as the “Protected Areas Target”, Target 3 was long understood to include both protected areas, i.e. areas that are specifically managed and demarcated for the primary purpose of protecting biodiversity (though protected areas may also have other primary objectives, so long as these do not detract from biodiversity objectives) as well as “other effective area-based conservation measures” or OECMs. OECMs differ from protected areas in that the primary management objective for a particular area is not biodiversity (e.g. it could be watershed protection and freshwater purification), but the management approach nonetheless results in effective biodiversity conservation.

THE KEY POINT WAS THAT IPLCS DID NOT WANT TO BE REQUIRED TO FIT UNDER THOSE CATEGORIES IN ORDER FOR THEIR SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO BE OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED.

Many delegates in Montreal argued that Target 3 did not require any additional wording on IPLCs as rights-based approaches would be recognized elsewhere in the text (in particular in the Annexes and in Goal C of the GBF), and Indigenous conservation was in any case already recognized in the OECM category. However, this did not address IPLC concerns as their objective was to be recognized as Indigenous territories to evidence the role of indigenous peoples in conservation of key biodiversity areas, rather than being subsumed into an enumeration of conservation/protected area categories. Of course, in some cases IPLCs may choose to manage their land as an Indigenous protected area or an OECM – but the key point was that IPLCs did not want to be required to fit under those categories in order for their significant contributions to global conservation efforts to be officially recognized.

The [statement published by the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity](#) on December 1st and on the 10th. in Montreal clarified the IPs position at the negotiations:

“The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) underscores the importance of ensuring a rights-based approach in the implementation of Target 3 of the global biodiversity framework, specifically including “protecting and respecting” our rights. We reiterate that Target 3 will not be fully realized if our contributions to conservation are not included as the most effective measure for the protection of Mother Nature. Over-

whelming evidence demonstrates that our territories, lands and waters exceed the conservation outcomes of protected areas and other state-centric conservation approaches. Thus, **the IIFB urges parties to include “Indigenous Peoples territories and customary lands and waters” as a third pathway to recognition beyond protected areas and OECMs.** We urge parties to consider this position in their negotiations of Target 3.”

Indeed, 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 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention of the International Labour Organization – ILO Convention No. 169 (1989) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007).

The final text of Target 3 recognizes these important differences. While not perfect, this text is nonetheless critically important, and probably the best that could be achieved in Montreal during highly charged last minute negotiations. The GBF is now clear that it is up to IPs to determine how they go about providing environmental stewardship. IPs will necessarily play a fundamentally important role in achieving Target 3 and all the objectives of the GBF and associated decisions; recognizing that IPs should be able to do so on their own terms is an important accomplishment and a key outcome of COP 15.

An Indigenous man navigates his boat through the Ecuadorian Amazon. Photo: ©Amazon Watch

THE IIFB URGES
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Next Steps: Inserting Indigenous Territories in global targets



Un hombre Waorani, Ecuador 2013. Photo: Amazon Watch /@Caroline Bennet

The Global Biodiversity Framework is the first time that the CBD has recognized the role of Indigenous territories in conservation explicitly. However, any policy that directly or indirectly integrates the territories of indigenous peoples must take into account current international and national frameworks and related jurisprudence, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹⁰ and [ILO Convention 169](#).

Indigenous Territories are tied to the cultural survival of peoples¹¹ and the right to cultural identity¹²; they are a recognized right¹³ and “the failure to adopt state measures to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples and communities over land and natural resources in accordance with their traditional patterns of use and occupation violates the American Convention on Human Rights”¹⁴.

¹⁰ The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination (articles 3 and 4), their collective right to own and control their lands and resources (articles 25-27), their right to free, prior and informed consent in relation to legislation, measures and projects that may have an impact on their rights (articles 10, 11, 19, 28, 29 and 32) and their right to participate in decision-making processes (articles 5, 18 and 27). The Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention of the International Labour Organization - ILO Convention No. 169 (1989) - also makes explicit reference to the land rights of indigenous peoples, and there is jurisprudence developed by human rights treaty bodies, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights that focuses on the land rights of indigenous peoples ([UN 2021](#)).

¹¹ As recognized by the IACHR-OAS 2009.

¹² IACHR, Democracy and Human Rights in Venezuela. Doc. OEA/Ser.L/V/II, Doc. 54, December 30, 2009, paragraph 1050. Cited in IACHR-OAS, 2009, p.48.

¹³ Article 26 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired. 2. Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired. 3. States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned. ONU 2007.

¹⁴ Normas y jurisprudencia del Sistema Interamericano de Derechos Humanos, Derechos de los pueblos indígenas y tribales sobre sus tierras ancestrales y recursos naturales : normas y jurisprudencia del sistema interamericano de derechos humanos, CIDH-OEA 2009.

The role of indigenous peoples and their territories are largely invisible in climate change and conservation policies, but above all, and systematically, in the national budgets. However, indigenous peoples around the world live in poverty and are constantly threatened, despite the ILO Convention 169 (1989, art. 15) that establishes that “The peoples concerned should participate whenever possible in the benefits that such activities bring, and receive fair compensation for any damage they may suffer as a result of these activities”.

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). The determining factor in the preservation of many of the largest ecosystems on the planet is the presence of indigenous peoples that result in the fact that 80% of the remaining biodiversity is located in indigenous territo-

ries. Therefore, including any indigenous territory as part of climate action, biodiversity targets or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) will depend on their free, prior and informed consent to be part of such strategies. In this regard, we underscore the role of the States as custodians of the implementation and defense of this body of inalienable rights. “States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned (Article 26, U.N. Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples).”

For those countries that have a high area of IT, this new framework is an opportunity to attract more resources to protect biodiversity and protect or restore ecosystem integrity. Therefore, the higher the diversity and ecological integrity, the more attractive for investment a country and indigenous organi-



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zations might be. However, each area should integrate an inalienable vision of the rights of nature and those of indigenous peoples, their cultures, knowledge, and ancient governance structures.

Currently, Indigenous Peoples receive less than 1% of climate finance ([Rainforest Foundation Norway-RFN- 2021](#)). Most climate funding goes to large international organizations or to multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, regional development banks, or the U.N. (RFN 2021). When analyzing climate finances, loans represent a majority share of the climate finances and are swelling the debt of developing countries, especially in Latin America ([Guzmán 2019](#)).

For conservation to become a realistic economic alternative to extractivism in ITs, ending the current trend of destruction and degradation, it requires national and international resources to fund the fully recognition and respect indigenous rights including the demar-

cation of IT. Once this step is accomplished, governments must include indigenous peoples and their organizations in their fiscal projections. Conservation can become the path to overcome poverty, end the violence generated by extractivism, and most importantly to preserve the knowledge and cultures that keep these ecosystems standing.

The complex process of implementation of IT and OECMs as new conservation categories will require the adjustment of current national frameworks. Some protected areas and OECMs already overlap indigenous territories. In countries like Brazil and Colombia, ITs have the same status of no-go zones as protected areas. Approximately 100 million hectares of IT have not yet been recognized in the Amazonia. These different aspects of the innovation brought by the GBF will require three immediate actions by governments. First, the urgency to recognize indigenous territories. Second, to remind governments that they are accountable to comply with Convention 169 -Free Prior Informed Consent- for any figure of conservation or extractivism implemented within the boundaries of IT and finally, to create an inclusive governance model where indigenous peoples become an active partner of national conservation systems and its benefits.

A first step is to recognize ITs. Indigenous peoples have the right to the delimitation and demarcation of their territory by the State¹⁵. According to COICA data, nearly 100 million hectares of IT are in dispute, in the process of identification, or declared and require immediate recognition and titling. The territories

15 CIDH-OEA 2009.



Photo: Sheyden/Aváaz

of the Indigenous Peoples in a situation of Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact¹⁶ (PI-ACI for its acronym in Spanish) are a priority since these groups, by definition, are not going to initiate bureaucratic processes to guarantee their territories. The lack of recognition of these IT can lead to the extermination of several PIACI¹⁷ as it is occurring already

in Peru. The Peruvian Congress is threatening to destroy the existing legal framework to allow logging, mining, agroindustry, and oil in the PIACI territories, a legislative proposal that will lead to genocide¹⁸. IPCC¹⁹ (2019) highlights the role of the ITs and the need to assign those areas without designation.

16 Peoples in isolation are peoples or segments of indigenous peoples who do not maintain regular contact with the majority population, and who also tend to avoid any type of contact with people outside their group. They can also be groups belonging to various peoples already contacted who, after an intermittent relationship with the surrounding societies, decide to return to a situation of isolation as a survival strategy and voluntarily break all relations they may have with said societies. For the most part, isolated peoples live in tropical forests and/or inaccessible off-road areas, places that very often have great natural resources. For these peoples, isolation has not been a voluntary option but rather a survival strategy. A distinction must be made between the two groups; the level of vulnerability of the groups that have never been contacted is greater than that of those who, although they have developed social relations with the majority society, have decided to return to their situation of isolation. Likewise, and for this reason, the need for protection is greater in the case of the uncontacted. Land is Life 2020.

17 Indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact are human rights holders in a unique situation

of vulnerability, and one of the few unable to advocate for their own rights. This reality makes ensuring respect for their rights take on special importance. Faced with the impossibility of defending their own rights, the States, international organizations, members of civil society, and other actors in the defense of human rights are the ones who must ensure that their human rights are respected in the same way as those of all the inhabitants of the Americas, taking into account the particularities of their situation. Cited in CIDH-OEA 2013.

18 The Guardian, Dec 23rd., 2022. [Peru lawmakers propose a bill to strip Indigenous people of protections.](#)

19 IPCC. 2019. "Climate Change and Land: An IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems." [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.-O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.)]

PRESERVING 80% OF THE AMAZON BY 2025 IS STILL POSSIBLE, BUT REQUIRES URGENT MEASURES TO SAFEGUARD THE REMAINING 74% OF THE AMAZON THAT ARE INTACT KEY PRIORITY AREAS (33%) AND WITH LOW DEGRADATION (41%).

“Insecure land tenure affects the ability of people, communities and organizations to make changes to land that can advance adaptation and mitigation (medium confidence). Limited recognition of customary access to land and ownership of land can result in increased vulnerability and decreased adaptive capacity. Land policies (including recognition of customary tenure, community mapping, redistribution, decentralization, co-management, regulation of rental markets) can provide both security and flexibility response to climate change²⁰.”

The planet needs flexible and urgent responses. The Durban Agreement (2003) almost twenty years ago denounced the lack of recognition, support and protection of indigenous peoples and local communities. It exhorted IUCN members to involve local

and indigenous communities in the creation, proclamation and management of protected areas and further urged States to share benefits with indigenous peoples and local communities. Little or almost nothing has been achieved with this international instrument.

One of the most important contributions of the IPBES Report (2022) is the approach of a collaborative governance model and the joint design of territorial management plans and policies based on indigenous and local knowledge as a mechanism to achieve the design and implementation of sustainable alternatives. The report proposes the collaborative design of community-based conservation and sustainable use areas, as well as protected areas.

Stopping the trajectory towards the tipping point in key ecosystems globally requires everyone’s involvement. Our proposal has two strategic objectives. The first is the immediate recognition of the identified Indigenous Territories and the allocation of resources to strengthen their territorial management. The second is based on the recognition that more than half of the Amazon has to enter into a territorial management regime in order to preserve the entire region and avoid catastrophic global impacts. The implementation of a co-management model such as the one proposed in the Durban Agreement and the IPBES requires on the one hand, indigenous knowledge systems to strengthen corridors of biocultural connectivity, it involves the states as guarantees of the territorial rights of indigenous peoples and their legal recognition, which in turn, must be crystallized in the national budgets of the Amazonian states and; finally, industrialized countries must also help secure the resources for demarcation and conservation.

20 IPCC 2019, C.1.2, p.27.

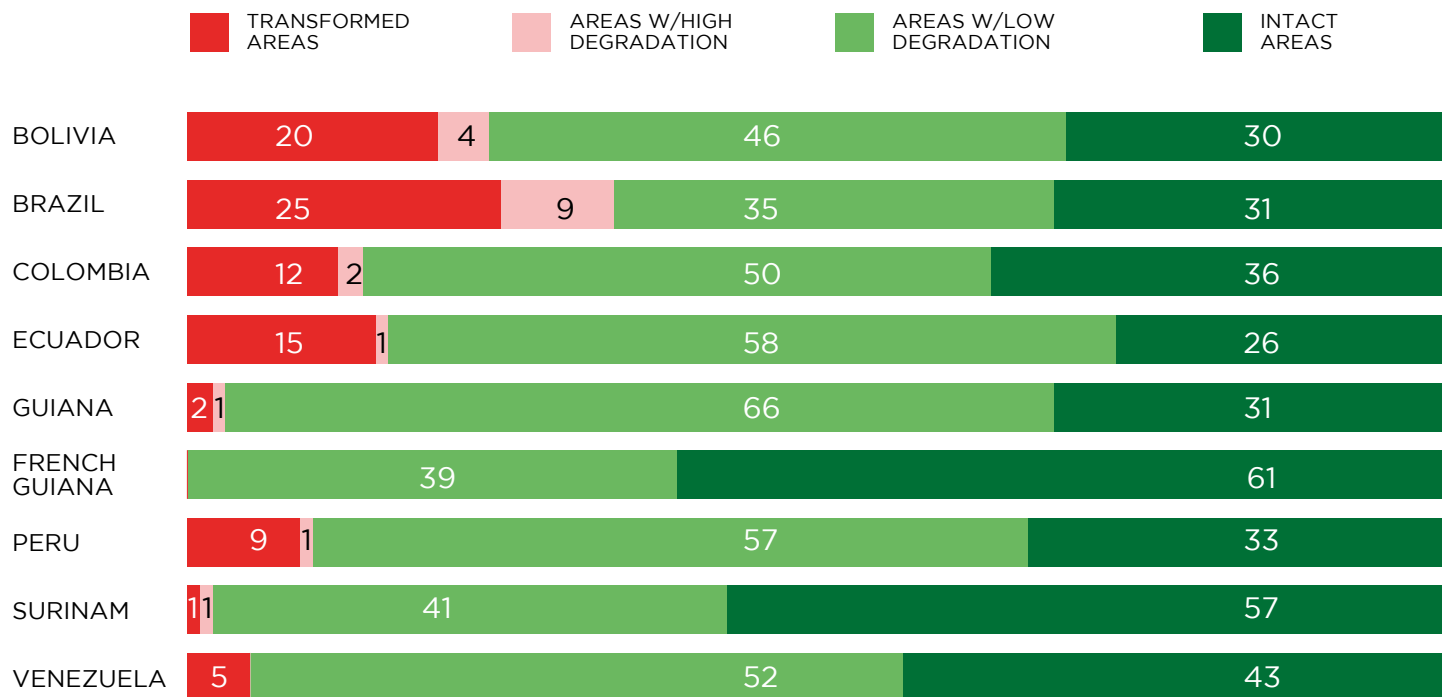
Target 3 in the Amazonia²¹

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 lands²². To avert the tipping point, an additional 33% of the region requires a territorial management regime. Protecting 80% of the Amazon is feasible and urgent as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognized in 2021 with the

votes of 32 countries and 541 non-governmental organizations in [Resolution 129](#)²³.

Preserving 80% of the Amazon by 2025 is still possible, but requires urgent measures to safeguard the remaining 74% (629 million hectares) of the Amazon that are Intact Key Priority Areas²⁴ (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. Graphic 1 presents a regional overview by country.

GRAPHIC 1: CURRENT STATE OF THE AMAZON BY COUNTRY (IN PERCENTAGE)



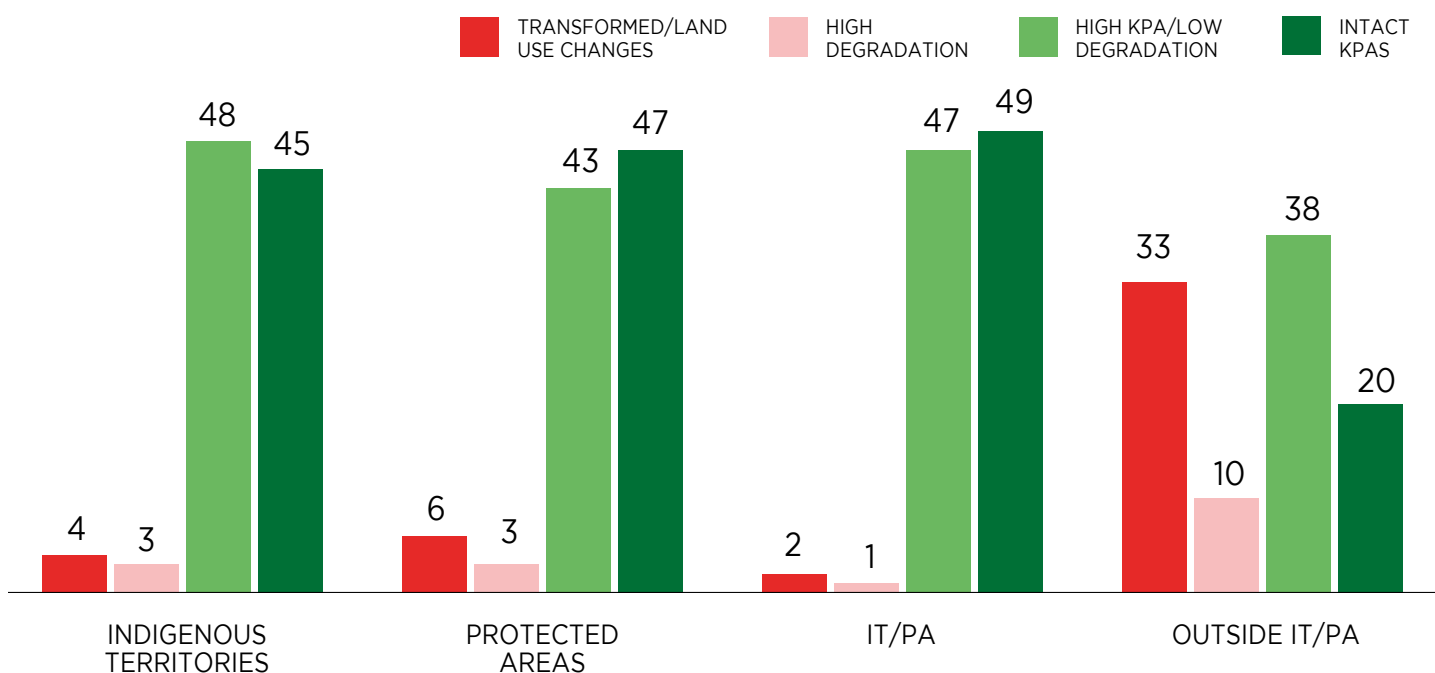
Source: RAISG ; Elaborated by authors

21 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.

22 RAISG 2020, p. 46.

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

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

GRAPH 2: CURRENT STATE OF THE AMAZONIA BY TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT REGIMES (IN PERCENTAGES)

Source: [Amazonia against the Clock 2022](#)

Graphic 2 shows that Indigenous Territories in the Amazonia hold comparable or higher levels of intactness (ecosystem integrity) than those of protected areas.

There are around **100 million hectares of IT in dispute, or in the process of identification, or declared, that require immediate recognition** and titling to stop the degradation rates already present within the IT.

Indigenous Territories in the Amazonia

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. We have included a brief description of the state of IT recognition in the Amazonian countries to portray this diverse reality.

In an attempt to occupy the most remote territories, and in this case the Amazon, conceived as an empty space demographically speaking and as “loose or uncultivated” lands without an economic or social function; the government policy of the countries of the region has been aimed at populating the region for production. The legal frameworks of the countries of the region evidence this trend²⁵

25 Some examples include Ecuador, where the enabling frameworks for the colonization of the Amazon rainforest were mainly the 1964 Baldías Law (an agrarian reform) and the 1978 Colonization Law. The former defines *baldías* as those that “remain or have remained uneducated for more than ten consecutive years”, that is to say, that they do not fulfill an economic and social function. In Venezuela, the Land and Agrarian Development Law (LTDA, 2001) had as its main objective “to redistribute the land that remains idle or vacant and those that have low intensity of use and increase their productivity.” In Bolivia, the Ministry of Colonization and Agriculture was created, whose mission was to make possible the colonization of colonizable land. The Colonies and Waste Lands Law of 1886 and the Rubber Law of 1895 were the basis of the colonizing policy (i Mombiola 2011) for the Bolivian Amazon region. Cited in [Amazonia against the Clock 2022](#), p. 31.

Brazil

Brazil is one of the most megadiverse countries in the world. The Brazilian Amazon is home to about 40% of the world's tropical forest and represents 62% of the geographical area we have defined as Amazonia. However, it concentrates 82% of the combined transformation and high degradation, thus becoming the Amazon country with the highest deforestation rates. 34% of the Brazilian Amazon has been transformed: 25% totally and 9% presents high degradation levels. Savannization is already a reality in the south-east of the region, mainly in Brazil and its border with Bolivia. The importance of Brazil in achieving the 80% is crucial. 59% of intact ecosystems in the entire region and 52% of ecosystems with low degradation are in Brazil. These are priority areas without which the functionality of this entire Amazon Basin cannot be guaranteed.



THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON IS HOME TO ABOUT 40% OF THE WORLD'S TROPICAL FOREST AND REPRESENTS 62% OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA WE HAVE DEFINED AS AMAZONIA.



In Brazil, indigenous territories titling is the responsibility of the Executive Branch, that is, of the Federal Government. Brazilian legislation grants the status of protected areas to the territories of indigenous peoples, without any distinction between the two categories. Currently, around 50% of the Brazilian Amazon is under some type of territorial management instrument for conservation, often overlapping with indigenous territories.

In 2012, Brazil created by presidential Decree No. 7.747 the National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Lands - PNGATI. This Policy aims at “guaranteeing and promoting the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable use of indigenous land and territorial natural resources, insuring the integrity of the indigenous land property, the improvement of the quality of life and the whole conditions of physical and cultural reproduction for present and future generations of indigenous populations, respecting their socio-cultural autonomy ([FAOLEX Database](#)).” During the

presidential term of Bolsonaro, no ITs were recognized.

Due to its legal framework and the arrival of the new government, Brazil today has the capacity to accelerate the implementation of Goal 3 of the GBF by prioritizing land titling for Indigenous Peoples and, consequently, reaching the 80% goal immediately.

Attempts by the agribusiness lobby to remove the control over land titling from the Executive branch in the past few years have been increasing. In parallel with such legislation attempts, the Brazilian Supreme Court is set to decide on a legal case that could restrict rights to territories of the Indigenous Peoples who were in theory not occupying their territories before the date of the proclamation of the 1988 Constitution. Known as “Marco Temporal” (Temporal Landmark), it could severely impact hundreds of Indigenous Peoples territories who have either been demarcated and titles been issued, and for those who are still in the process of recognition.

Daño ambiental en Xingu & Kayapo, Brasil.

Photo: @Midia India



ATTEMPTS BY THE AGRIBUSINESS LOBBY TO REMOVE THE CONTROL OVER LAND TITLING FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN THE PAST FEW YEARS **HAVE BEEN INCREASING.**

Colombia

The Political Constitution of 1991 has declared a series of rights for Indigenous peoples of Colombia, including territorial rights, right to autonomy and identity rights. Five ethnic groups are recognized: indigenous, raizales, afro descending, palenqueros and Romani peoples. In Colombia, Indigenous peoples, traditional afro descending populations, Raizal and Palenquero communities are recognized as ethnically, historically and culturally differentiated groups, with human and territorial rights of a collective nature.

There are 115 different denominations of Indigenous peoples in Colombia with an approximate population of 2 million inhabitants. About 58% of them live in 717 collectively owned “resguardos”, a type of “reserve” where Indigenous peoples have collective ownership over the land. However, the *resguardos* do not entirely fulfill the rights of Indigenous Peoples as per the Constitution, including rights to self-determination and self-governance over their territories.

In order to achieve 80x25 (or higher targets as advocated by the Colombian Indigenous organizations-OPIAC), and effectively protect these territories, Colombia should advance in both creating *resguardos* and ensuring they include the right to self-determination and self government, as mandated by the Presidential decree 1953/2014. As of 2023, only 1 Indigenous territory has reached the status of self-administered territory, with elections and clear authority over the environment, the territory’s financing, and other government functions.

Ecuador

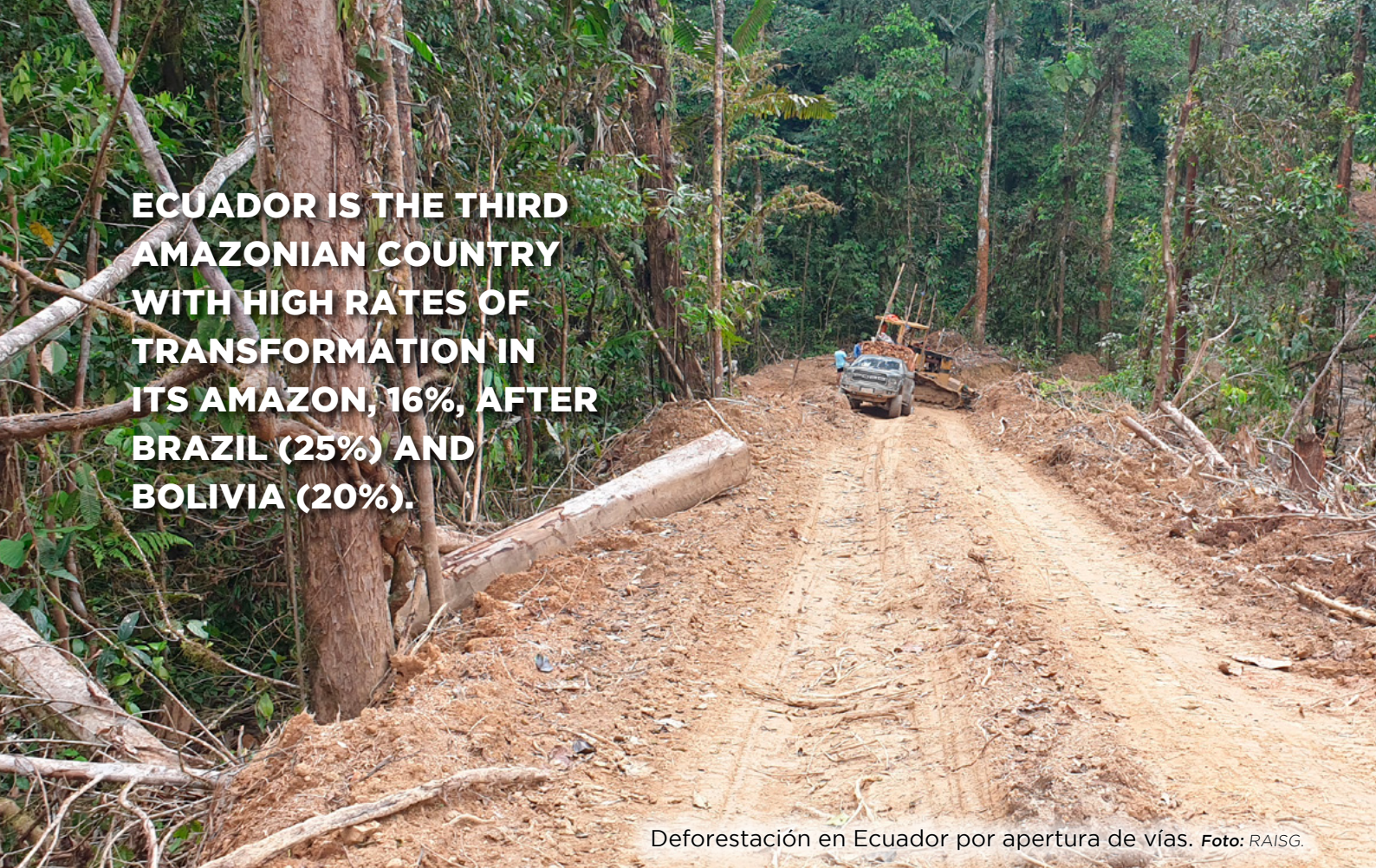
Ecuador is one of the most megadiverse countries in the world. “Keeping the north-western Amazon, home to the greatest biodiversity in the basin and the Amazon region...largely intact as a biological refuge, is a major global conservation priority²⁶.” 84% of the Ecuadorian Amazon are intact key priority areas (26%) and with low degradation (58%) that require urgent measures for their conservation and restoration. The presence of ecosystems in these conditions allows the country to preserve more than 80% by 2025 with immediate measures. 79% of the Ecuadorian Amazon are Protected Areas (AP) and Indigenous Territories (IT). 22% of the Ecuadorian rainforest currently are in Protected Areas (AP), **while 61% are in Indigenous Territories (IT) (EcoCiencia, 2020).**

79% OF THE ECUADORIAN AMAZON ARE PROTECTED AREAS AND INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES. 22% OF THE ECUADORIAN RAINFOREST CURRENTLY ARE IN PROTECTED AREAS, WHILE 61% ARE IN INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES. (ECOCIENCIA, 2020).



²⁶ [Bass et al., 2010.](#)

ECUADOR IS THE THIRD AMAZONIAN COUNTRY WITH HIGH RATES OF TRANSFORMATION IN ITS AMAZON, 16%, AFTER BRAZIL (25%) AND BOLIVIA (20%).



Deforestación en Ecuador por apertura de vías. Foto: RAISG.

The Ecuadorian Constitution of 2008 recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination, cultural identity, and the collective ownership of their territories. However, these constitutional protections have not always translated into effective policy or practice, particularly in the Amazon region. Ecuador is the third Amazonian country with high rates of transformation in its Amazon, 16%, after Brazil (25%) and Bolivia (20%). 90% of the Protected Areas (AP) and 78% of the Indigenous Territories (IT) in the Ecuadorian Amazon suffer some kind of pressure.

More than half (52%) of the Ecuadorian Amazon is an oil block²⁷. Ecuador is a country that represents less than 2% of the Amazon and yet, it concentrates 18% of the hydroelectric plants in the region (RAISG 2020). Areas dedicated to mining just in the Napo province in-

creased from 2.6 hectares (6.4 acres) in 1996 to 556.8 hectares (1,375.9 acres) in 2020²⁸.

There are 12 indigenous nationalities in the Ecuadorian Amazon, comprising approximately 500,000 people. These communities have a deep connection to their traditional lands and territories, which provide the basis for their social, cultural, and economic life. However, the Amazon region is also a site of ongoing conflict over resource extraction, including oil drilling, mining, and large-scale agriculture. These activities have significant impacts on indigenous communities, including the displacement of communities, environmental contamination, and the loss of cultural and spiritual sites.

Efforts to secure legal recognition and protection for indigenous community territories

27 [Amazonia against the Clock](#), p. 25.

28 [MAAP 187, 2023](#).

have been ongoing for decades, with some notable successes. In 2011, the Ecuadorian government approved a new law on the Rights of Nature, recognizing the rights of ecosystems and natural communities to exist, flourish, and regenerate. This law was seen as a significant victory for indigenous and environmental organizations, although its implementation has been slow and uneven.

One of the main gaps in recognizing and legalizing indigenous territories in the Amazon region is the lack of clear legal frameworks and procedures. This has led to ongoing conflicts and legal disputes over land and resource rights, which are often resolved in favor of extractive industries and other powerful actors. In recent years, however, there have been some positive developments, including the adoption of a new indigenous peoples' rights law in 2020, which aims to provide greater protection and recognition for indigenous communities in Ecuador.

The lack of a legal mechanism to implement the Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) and the continuous expansion of mining and oil in Ecuador are part of the indigenous movement requests that have led to major national strikes. The indigenous led demonstrations in June 2022, left at least eight people dead and forced price cuts to gasoline and diesel and prompted the government to implement a moratorium on blocks in the Amazonian provinces of Pastaza and Morona Santiago as well as in environmentally-sensitive areas and those around their territories, and to suspend the awarding of new mining titles and environmental licenses.

Peru

The legal recognition of indigenous territories in Perú is a pending obligation of the Peruvian government that still has not been fulfilled to this day. Despite international law that establishes the obligation of governments to recognize and protect the totality of Indigenous Peoples integral traditional territories, the Peruvian government has systematically refused to do so and only recognizes and titles small individual communities, which has the overall effect of fragmenting the traditional indigenous territories.

Even so, the Peruvian government still has not approved the land titles of hundreds of native communities throughout the Peruvian Amazon, which currently lack any sort of legal recognition and protection of their lands. Despite the aforementioned problems with the national land titling legislation, AIDSEP and the other representative indigenous fed-

THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT STILL HAS NOT APPROVED THE LAND TITLES OF HUNDREDS OF NATIVE COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE PERUVIAN AMAZON.




erations of the Peruvian Amazon continue to pressure the Peruvian government to title all of the remaining native communities, so they can at least have some sort of legal protection and recognition of their lands. However, the land titling processes are extremely bureaucratic and can take up to thirty years or more, and meanwhile the government quickly awards logging concessions and other resource extraction rights overlapping with the same indigenous territories, further complicating the land titling process. Some indigenous peoples' response to this State-driven fragmentation of their territories has been the proposal to recognize and title "integral territories" for each indigenous pueblo, as opposed to titling every individual community. Some indigenous pueblos or nations have already self-demarcated their integral territories and have declared "indigenous autonomous governments" even with their own governing bodies and constitutions, in order to protect and manage the true extent of their integral and traditional territories, in accordance with international law.

Meanwhile, the Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact ("PIACI", as they are known in Spanish) of the Peruvian Amazon (of which the Peruvian government has formally recognized the existence of 25 such groups, with many others still in the process of being "formally" recognized by the State), face the complete lack of protection of most of their traditional territories, as well as the recently presented bill number 3518-2022/CR which seeks to strip protections from the Isolated Indigenous Peoples' territories that have already been recognized and formally protected, thus placing these extremely vulnerable peoples at grave risk of genocide.

Currently there are seven Indigenous and Territorial Reserves that have been created since 1990, in compliance with national and international law, specifically to protect the fundamental human rights and traditional territories of the Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact. These seven created reserves span over 4,508,891 hectares, or approximately 45,088 square kilometers. There



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GOVERNMENTS"**



THIS GENOCIDAL BILL CURRENTLY BEING DEBATED IN PERÚ'S CONGRESS, WOULD STRIP OR PREVENT PROTECTIONS OF APPROXIMATELY **9,067,327 HECTARES OF THE PERUVIAN AMAZON** (ABOUT 13.5% OF THE ENTIRE PERUVIAN AMAZON)

Tierra indígena, Vale do Javari. Photo: @Bruno Kelly/Amazon Watch.

are also six other formally proposed Indigenous Reserves that are in the process of being created, some of which have been going through this bureaucratic creation process already for over twenty years, and still have yet to be formally created to this day. The six proposed Indigenous Reserves currently in the process of being created cover approximately another 4,558,436 hectares.

The aforementioned bill number 3518, presented in the Peruvian Congress in November of 2022 and currently being debated in the Decentralization Commission of Peruvian Congress, proposes to give the regional governments (all of which present severe conflicts of interest, being these same regional governments the State entities in charge of awarding and promoting resource extraction concessions, such as logging concessions, in these same exact areas) the ability to create “and extinguish or revoke” not only the seven existing Indigenous and Territorial Reserves, but also the formal recognitions of the very existence of the 25 Iso-

lated Indigenous Peoples that have already been formally recognized by Supreme Decree. In other words, if approved, this nefarious bill (notoriously labelled by the Indigenous Federations as the “PIACI Genocide bill”) would give the regional governments the power to not only extinguish their reserves, but also to literally revoke the legal recognitions of the very existence of these Isolated Indigenous Peoples, effectively “disappearing” entire communities of human beings, thus leading to their genocide or extinction. The bill also proposes to immediately “paralyze” all of the reserve creation processes that are currently underway, thus preventing the creation of any new reserves for the Isolated Indigenous Peoples of Perú. In conclusion, this genocidal bill currently being debated in Perú’s Congress, would strip or prevent protections of approximately 9,067,327 hectares of the Peruvian Amazon (about 13.5% of the entire Peruvian Amazon), and not to mention would cause the utter extinction of at least 25 different PIACI groups.

Venezuela

The Venezuelan Amazon (Amazonas, Bolívar and Delta Amacuro states) covers 51% of the country's land area. Indigenous territories cover 69.5% of the Venezuelan Amazon and overlap with various protection and territorial planning figures such as national parks, natural monuments, biosphere reserves, state governments and municipalities, among others, generating a complex hybrid governance which often undermines indigenous rights.

The Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (CRBV, 1999), the Organic Law of Indigenous Peoples and Communities (LOPCI, 2006) and the Law of Habitat Demarcation and Guarantee of Indigenous Peoples and Communities (2001), constitute the main legal framework that recognizes access to land, demarcation and titling of indigenous territories as fundamental rights.

However, only 3.6% of Amazonian indigenous territories have been officially recognized by the Venezuelan State (demarcated). 51.6% of the remaining indigenous territories have been self-demarcated, which means that the indigenous peoples and communities have carried out their own process of demarcating the limits of their territory, based on their uses, customs and cosmovision, with the aim of being validated later by the State. Self-demarcation is developed given the delay with the processes of demarcation of habitats and lands of the indigenous peoples and communities of Venezuela by the State, and due to the urgency and need of the indigenous peoples and communities to have ownership of their habitats and lands, in the face of threats, pressures and violence that affect their ancestral and traditional territories.

INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES COVER 69.5% OF THE VENEZUELAN AMAZON AND OVERLAP WITH VARIOUS PROTECTION AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING FIGURES SUCH AS NATIONAL PARKS, NATURAL MONUMENTS, BIOSPHERE RESERVES, STATE GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPALITIES.



Through the demarcation of indigenous territories that have already been self-demarcated, as well as the support of territories that have not yet completed their self-demarcation, the Venezuelan State, in alliance with indigenous peoples and communities, academic institution and civil society, has the historic opportunity to efficiently meet the goal of protecting 80% of the Venezuelan Amazon, guaranteeing indigenous territorial rights established in its legislation, and combating the dual climate and biodiversity crisis.

Bolivia

Bolivia does not recognize itself as an Amazon country despite the fact that 65% of its territory is Amazonia. Since the time of colonization, mining concentrated the population in the Andean region. In the last two decades, Bolivia has been reconfiguring its demography based on a new vision of development and resource extraction now focused on the lowlands, where the Bolivian Amazon has always been a sparsely inhabited scenario. According to the last census carried out in 2012, the region's population reached 3.9 million inhabitants (40% of the total population). The Amazon was always classified as the land of savages and aborigines where no one wanted to live because it was an unknown and marginal area.

Extraction in the Amazon encourages the generation of policies that encourage the expansion of the agricultural frontier. The result is that the jungle has been deforested by large areas destined for the production of cattle, cotton, sorghum, sugar cane, soy-

beans and other products, generating radical transformations in the Amazonian landscape. The standing Amazonian forest is and has been cataloged by various governments as “lazy land” or “vacant land” under the argument that they do not fulfill an economic or social function; encouraging the replacement of the forest layer by extensive agricultural fields under the motto of food security and development.

24% of the Bolivian Amazon presents transformations due to deforestation and high degradation. It is the second Amazonian country with the highest pressure after Brazil. The intact and low degradation areas are mostly located in the Indigenous Territories (IT) and in the Protected Areas (AP). 50% of the Bolivian Amazon is an Indigenous Territory (26%) or a protected area (33%) (9% overlap between IT and PA) and combined, they span over 29 million hectares of Key Priority Areas (APC). The areas without any type of protection or territorial management regime cover 23 million hectares that require immediate management.



BOLIVIA DOES
NOT RECOGNIZE
ITSELF AS AN
AMAZON COUNTRY
**DESPITE THE FACT
THAT 65% OF ITS
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AMAZONIA.**

The process of recognition of the Indigenous Territories in Bolivia is a result of the First Great Indigenous March for Territory and Dignity that took place in 1990. Despite the national policies for the recognition of the ITs, from 1990 to 2012, only 18,741,800 hectares have been titled, still excluding a vast territory that has not been attended to date. In recent years, ITs have experienced problems of encroachment (read invasion) and fires, two interconnected phenomena that increasingly impact their territories, placing them highly vulnerable due to the high impact on their livelihoods.

As long as Bolivia does not implement policies to protect its Amazonia, a silent enemy is gaining more impact: Climate change. In the past thirty years the temperature increased up to 0.6 degrees and precipitation was reduced by 17%. The scenarios projected by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicate that by 2050 the climatic conditions will be complex to support agricultural production because the temperature will increase up to +3.5°C in the Bolivian Amazon.

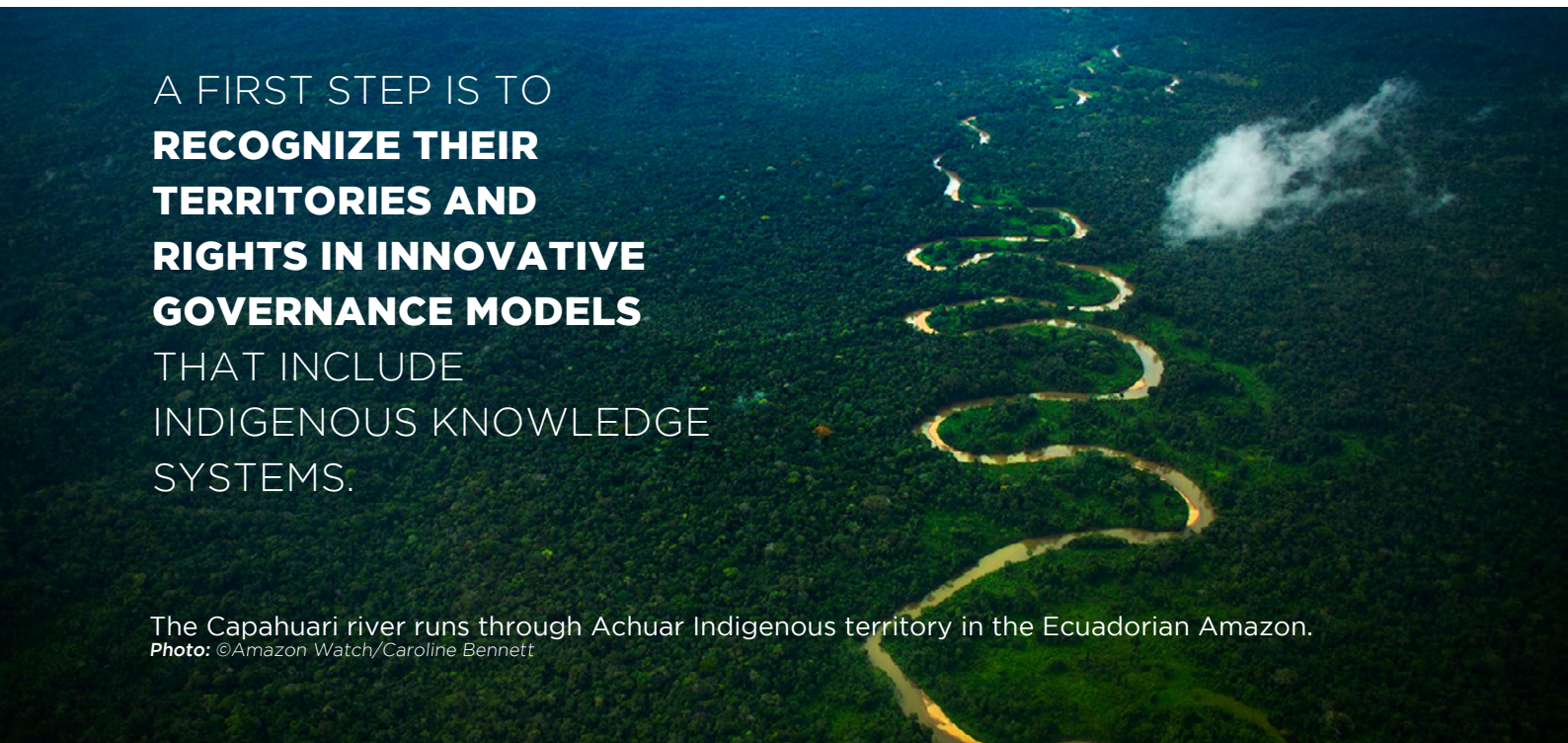
Conclusion

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

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The Capahuari river runs through Achuar Indigenous territory in the Ecuadorian Amazon.
 Photo: ©Amazon Watch/Caroline Bennett



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](#).

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 percent 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 commits to ensure respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and an end to deforestation throughout financed supply chains.

AMAZONIAN
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80% OF THE AMAZONIA
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**
BEFORE THE TIPPING
POINT EXPANDS TO
THE ENTIRE REGION.

Annex 1:

Relevant CBD COP decisions



INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES
CURRENTLY CARE
FOR **80% OF THE**
EARTH'S KNOWN
BIODIVERSITY
WITHIN THEIR
TERRITORIES

Photo: Sheyden/Avaaz

The word “territories” has strong precedent in previous COP decisions. Dating back to COP4 in 1998, CBD Parties have adopted a wide range of decisions that refer to “territories” of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and to the contributions they make to nature conservation. In addition, the Article 8(j) glossary defines “traditional territories” as “lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous peoples and local communities,” which is in turn commonly used in the Tkarihwaí:ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities (Decision X/42).²⁹ Eight

decisions have been converted into guidelines and principles on this issue:

- COP 7 (2004) Decision VII-16 Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments
- COP 10 (2010) Decision X-42 Tkarihwaíé Code of Ethical Conduct, to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities
- COP 12 (2014) Decision XII-12 Action Plan on the Sustainable Use of Customary Biological Diversity
- COP 13 (2016) Decision XIII-18 Mo’Otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines
- COP 14 (2018) Decision XIV-12 Rutzolijiri-saxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

²⁹ Glossary of relevant terms and key concepts within the context of Article 8J and related provisions. CBD Secretariat, 2019. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/guidelines/cbd-8j-GlossaryArticle-en.pdf>

- COP 14 (2018) Decision XIV-13 Glossary of relevant key terms and concepts within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions
- COP 14 (2018) Decision XIV-16 Methodological guidance on contributions by indigenous peoples and local communities
- COP 12 (2014) Decision XII-7 Mainstreaming gender considerations

There are also numerous COP Decisions since 2004 that provide for governance diversity and equity and for recognition of territories conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (Decision XIII/2, para 7), territories and areas governed, managed and conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (Decision XIV/5, para 3(a)), Indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (Article 8j glossary).

UPHOLDING INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES AS A PATHWAY FOR CONSERVING BIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY

The overarching decision 1/ CP.26³⁰ at the UNFCCC COP26 emphasized “the important role of Indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ culture and knowledge in effective action on climate change and urges Parties to actively involve Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in design-

ing and implementing climate action.” The latest assessment from the IPCC Working Group II, released February 28, 2022, includes findings that highlight the tremendous value of IPLCs knowledge including the impact in adapting ecosystems to climate change. The report also stresses the need to recognize IPLCs’ rights, which are “integral to successful forest adaptation in many areas.”³¹ With this in mind, we urge Parties to seize this unique opportunity to elevate the issue of IPLCs throughout the global biodiversity framework, and to thoroughly reflect their rights in the framework’s goals and targets.

Adopting language for Indigenous and traditional territories in Target 3 of the GBF supports a viable pathway for a rights-based approach to conserving biodiversity. Guidance will need to be developed in this context, and could build on the experiences, knowledge systems, and protocols of IPLCs, as well as existing multilateral and international guidance and frameworks. Explicitly recognizing Indigenous and traditional territories and rights in Target 3 is vital to ensure rights violations do not continue in the name of neither conservation nor resource extraction. This pathway provides necessary options for IPLCs to decide for themselves how their territories will be recognized and reported.

30 10 UNFCCC (2021). Draft COP decision proposed by the President: 1/CP.26. Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Overarching_decision_1-CP-26_0.pdf

31 11 Pörtner, H.-O, Roberts, D. C., et al. (2022). Climate Change 2022. Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Summary for Policymakers of Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 27th February 2022. Available https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf.

Annex 2:

Scientific evidence confirming the critical role of IPLCs in protecting biodiversity

IPBES: Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.³²

- Indigenous Peoples currently care for 80% of the Earth’s known biodiversity within their territories, and 37% of all land designated as particularly important for biodiversity and carbon storage.³³ The areas managed

(under various types of tenure and access regimes) by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) are facing growing resource extraction, commodification, and infrastructure, with various consequences for livelihoods and health. Some climate change mitigation programmes have had negative impacts on IPLCs.

- The negative impacts of all these pressures include continued loss of traditional livelihoods resulting from ongoing deforestation, loss of wetlands, mining, the spread of unsustainable agriculture, forestry and fishing practices and impacts on health and well-being from pollution and water insecurity.
- These impacts also challenge traditional management, the transmission of Indigenous and local knowledge, the potential for sharing of benefits arising from the use of, and the ability of Indigenous peoples and local communities to conserve and sustainably manage, wild and domesticated biodiversity that are also relevant to broader society.”

³² IPBES (2019) S. Díaz, J. Settele et al. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3553579>

³³ Dinerstein, E. et al. (2020). A “Global Safety Net” to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize Earth’s climate. Available at: www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abb2824



Photo: Sheyden/Avaaz

A spatial overview of the global importance of Indigenous and traditional lands for conservation.³⁴

- Understanding the scale, location and nature conservation values of the lands over which Indigenous Peoples exercise tradi-

³⁴ Garnett, Stephen et al (2018). Available at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-018-0100-6>

tional rights is central to implementation of several global conservation and climate agreements. Using publicly available geospatial resources, we show that Indigenous Peoples manage or have tenure rights over at least ~38 million km² in 87 countries or politically distinct areas on all inhabited continents. This represents over a quarter of the world's land surface, and intersects about 40% of all terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact landscapes (for example, boreal and tropical primary forests, savannas and marshes). Our results add to growing evidence that recognizing Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, benefit sharing and institutions is essential to meeting local and global conservation goals.

FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.³⁵

- Rights over land, territory and related natural resources are of fundamental importance to Indigenous Peoples since these resources constitute the basis of economic livelihoods and the source of spiritual, cultural and social identities. When built through participatory methods, title processes, tenure security, agrarian reform and similar efforts can contribute greatly to a more secure and legally-defined property environment. For Indigenous peoples, obtaining clear and inalienable rights over land and natural resources would support their aspirations for greater sovereignty, afford a greater sense of well-being and improve their ability to meet their livelihood needs.

- The 2001 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) recognizes the contributions made by indigenous peoples and local farming communities to the conservation and development of the plant genetic resources that constitute the basis of food and agricultural production throughout the world. The International Treaty mandates national governments to promote the rights of farmers, including protection of their traditional knowledge, equitable sharing of benefits and participation in the relevant decision-making processes.

Biodiversity highest on Indigenous-managed lands.³⁶

- The researchers analyzed land and species data from Australia, Brazil and Canada and found that the total numbers of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles were the highest on lands managed or co-managed by Indigenous communities. Indigenous-managed lands represent an important repository of biodiversity in three of the largest countries on Earth, and Indigenous peoples currently manage or have tenure to roughly one-quarter of the planet's land area. In light of this, collaborating with Indigenous governments, communities and organizations can help to conserve biodiversity as well as support Indigenous rights to land, sustainable resource use and well-being.

35 FAO (2010). Available at: <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/es/c/74048e43-3da7-5962-87c3-4ddd866d77/>

36 University of British Columbia. "Biodiversity highest on Indigenous-managed lands." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 31 July 2019. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190731102157.htm>.



MARCAÇÃO
JÁ



AMAZONIA
FOR LIFE:
PROTECT
80% BY
2025

AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT