

# A Glimpse into the IPLC Forest Tenure Donor Pledge

September 2022

## Context

- Approximately 1.6 billion people live in and around forest areas and use forest and land resources for their livelihoods: an estimated 36% of intact forests are within Indigenous Peoples lands.
- Clarifying land and resource rights and community forest management is critical for sustainable management of forests and natural resources, safeguarding livelihoods and supporting economic development.
- Where Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC) hold secure governance rights to forests, communities provide better protection and management than even legally protected areas.
- However, support to date has been limited with only a small fraction of international climate finance (less than 1%) supporting action in this area.
- There has also not been structured engagement bringing together funders, IPLC groups and other stakeholders to support greater alignment and coordination on forest tenure rights.

## What was achieved at COP26?

- A joint-donor Pledge was announced committing \$1.7 billion to advance IPLC forest tenure rights from 2021 to 2025. This is currently supported by 22 donors, including both bilateral and philanthropic organisations.
- A [supporting donor statement](#) committed to renew efforts to advance the critical role of IPLCs as guardians of forests and nature, and promote effective participation and inclusion of IPLCs as partners in decision-making for relevant programmes and financial instruments.
- Donor funds under the Pledge will be directed to two areas:
  1. Channelling support to IPLCs, including for capacity building, sustainable livelihoods and collective governance structures
  2. Activities to secure, strengthen and protect IPLC land and resource rights (including support to forest tenure reforms, conflict resolution mechanisms, and community-level tenure rights mapping and registration)

The IPLC Forest Tenure Pledge is independent from but linked to the COP26 [Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use](#).

## Why a focus on both Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities?

It is important to include both communities who identify as 'Indigenous' (as per ILO169), as well as other local communities who do not self-identify as 'Indigenous' but who share similar characteristics and/or are also critical to the sustainable management of lands and forests globally, including high carbon forests and biodiversity hotspots.

## What will Pledge contributions support?

The purpose of this Pledge is to mobilise more direct, tangible support for IPLCs, including, but not limited to, support to secure IPLC tenure rights. This responds to a long-standing specific demand from IPLCs and civil society to increase the share of climate finance that supports IPLCs in their role protecting and stewarding forests, and therefore that progress on forest tenure rights will require systemic reforms to land policy and systems which will promote sustainable land use beyond forests alone.

The Pledge only includes support for forest-related climate action in [ODA](#) eligible tropical forest and sub-tropical countries (including all forest types facing similar threats, for example mangrove forests).

## How will the Pledge be delivered?

The \$1.7 billion Pledge is not a new single fund or pooled donor funding. Individual donors will decide how they allocate and spend their contributions to the Pledge. However, donors are encouraged to collaborate on how to increase the effectiveness of their spending and are committed to progressively improving the quality of their support.

## Is this new money?

Donor funding commitments cover the period 2021–2025; only money spent during this period can be counted for the Pledge. Some donors will already have made funding commitments for their contributions, while for some donors this is still to be allocated.

## What does 'channelling support' to IPLCs mean?

Pledge donors recognise that much of current climate finance doesn't reach IPLCs or address key concerns, such as helping to secure their land and

forest rights. 'Channelling support' includes both direct funding for IPLC groups as well as funding for programmes or financial instruments where a substantial share of funding is either transferred to IPLC groups and/or to support organisations that build the capacity of IPLC groups. The latter reflects the reality that for most donors it is not practically possible to provide small grants to individual IPLC groups. Donors therefore need to support IPLCs via regranting mechanism or other supporting organisations.

## How are donors working together to deliver the Pledge?

Pledge donors have established the 'Funders Group'. This facilitates collaboration between donors to achieve Pledge targets, but also shared ambitions to address core funding challenges and scale-up solutions.

## How will progress on the Pledge be monitored and shared publicly?

Donors recognise that it is critical to ensure that they are held to account on delivery of the Pledge commitments, and that stakeholders are kept informed. The Funders Group will report annually on Pledge progress. This will include updates collective spend, information on how funds are being spent, highlight challenges and provide recommendations for the year ahead. The first report will be published at COP27.

## How will the Pledge engage IPLCs?

The Funders Group recognises the importance of ongoing engagement with IPLCs and other external stakeholders to meaningfully achieve Pledge ambitions. The Funders Group will continue to work with IPLC stakeholders to facilitate sharing of information, feedback, and increased collaboration

## Can more donors join the Pledge?

Additional donors are encouraged to join the Pledge and participate in the Funders Group. A core aim of the Pledge is to ensure we continue to scale-up donor support and collaboration.