



# CONCEPT NOTE

## Tracking funds for the indispensable partners

Workshop, Paris, November 6-7, 2023

### BACKGROUND

The workshop aims to explore ways to enhance and institutionalise the tracking of funding targeting Indigenous Peoples and local communities<sup>1</sup>, respectively.

The invisibility of Indigenous Peoples in official data and statistics remains a main obstacle for understanding and addressing their situation. Where data or estimations exist, they speak loudly about discrimination and marginalization of Indigenous Peoples, but also indicate their crucial role for achieving sustainable development at a global scale. For example, Indigenous Peoples represent approximately 6.2 % of the world's population, but 18.7 % of the extreme poor<sup>2</sup>. At the same time, an estimated 36% of the world's remaining intact forests and at least 24% of the above-ground carbon in tropical forests<sup>3</sup> are found within Indigenous Peoples' territories.

Indigenous Peoples and local communities are indispensable partners for achieving the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement as well as the Global Biodiversity Framework. However, the corresponding funding strategies do not necessarily reflect their crucial role. While no accurate data is available, Rainforest Foundation Norway estimates that funding to tenure rights and forest management of Indigenous Peoples and local communities amounted to less than 1 percent of international climate development aid from 2011-2020<sup>4</sup>. The glaring contrast between the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with regards to climate change mitigation and their extremely limited access to funding has generated worldwide attention and, positively, action. For example, the recently established Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) will dedicate 20 percent of its resources to support Indigenous-led initiatives to protect and conserve biodiversity. This constitutes yet another strong incentive for ensuring adequate tracking of funding to Indigenous Peoples.

Available data also shows that most funds targeting Indigenous Peoples and local communities are channeled through indirect funding modalities. For example, only 7% of funds disbursed under the 1.7 billion USD Pledge to advance tenure rights and forest guardianship of Indigenous Peoples and

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<sup>1</sup> The term "local communities" is used here with reference to article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which addresses local communities "*embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity*". It is therefore relevant to track funding to these communities, without conflating the distinct categories of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

<sup>2</sup> ILO, 2019: 13: *Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169: Towards an inclusive, sustainable and just future*. Available [here](#)

<sup>3</sup> See data of the [World Resources Institute](#)

<sup>4</sup> Rainforest Foundation Norway, 2021: [Falling short](#)



local communities went directly to their organisations<sup>5</sup>. The transaction costs related to the current indirect funding modalities and the proportion of funds that reaches the territories of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are largely unknown. However, their organisations and territories remain underfunded, and funding is often unpredictable, competitive and fragmented.

Donor tracking of funding is patchy and mainly related to specific time-bound initiatives and commitments. This limits comprehensive cross-sectorial monitoring and sustainability over time. Moreover, such tracking is based on individual reporting systems, which makes the comparison and aggregation of data difficult and increases the risks of mistakes and diverse interpretations of concepts and tags. In the case of local communities, the absence of internationally agreed identification criteria constitutes another challenge.

A more systematic monitoring of funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities would be of crucial importance for:

- Informing policy dialogue between Indigenous Peoples, local communities, states, bilateral and philanthropic donors, UN agencies, development finance institutions, and civil society organisations;
- Enhancing accountability and coordination between these actors;
- Informing and guiding strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Global Biodiversity Framework;
- Assessing and evaluating impacts on the ground, including related to different funding modalities;
- Driving policy change, and guiding funding flows to where the needs and effects are most urgent and important.

### Synergies and concerted efforts

Overcoming the data gap will require collaboration and concerted efforts. Positively, several organisations are already working in this field:

- Under the Shandia platform<sup>6</sup>, the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) is collecting data on funds targeting Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including information provided directly by GATC members. Moreover, GATC will use this experience to document challenges and good practices with a view to outlining a feasible methodology for improving tracking and data collection on funding;
- The Rainforest Foundation Norway, in collaboration with Indufor, is in the process of updating the analysis of international climate development aid from 2021-23 and intends to make the project-level data, which they scrape from publicly available databases, easily accessible to the general public;
- The International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) has published on trends in philanthropic funding, including for Indigenous women, and is currently undertaking further research to compile and analyse funding for Indigenous Peoples<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> Forest Tenure Funders Group [Annual Report 2021-2022](#)

<sup>6</sup> See GATC [Shandia](#)

<sup>7</sup> See more at the website of [IFIP](#)



Moreover, there are institutions with a specific mandate to monitor the flow of funds from bilateral and philanthropic donors, UN agencies, development finance institutions, and civil society organisations, which could potentially generate more specific data on funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. These include:

The Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC), which tracks resource flows for development, including through the definition of international measurement standards. OECD statistics provide an overview of how Official Development Assistance (ODA) is spent, but also include information from some of the largest philanthropic foundations working for development<sup>8</sup>. OECD statistics include “policy markers” to track the inclusion of specific policy objectives, e.g. related to gender equality, persons with disabilities, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation<sup>9</sup>. However, there is no specific policy markers in the system to track funding targeting Indigenous Peoples or local communities. The inclusion of a policy marker on Indigenous Peoples is technically feasible but would need to be agreed and approved by the DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT).<sup>10</sup> Other approaches to extracting data from OECD statistics could include key word search or use of advanced text classification tools.

The International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) aims to increase the transparency of ODA and private finance to developing countries. Over 1,500 organisations, including donor governments, development finance institutions, UN agencies, NGOs, foundations and private sector organisations publish information about their spending and activities through IATI. The IATI policy markers are aligned with the OECD-DAC and do not include a marker for Indigenous Peoples or local communities. The IATI data portal allows for a word search, which provides useful information about projects explicitly mentioning the term “indigenous” in its narrative description<sup>11</sup>. However, the search results require substantial cleaning and analysis before yielding aggregated data that can inform policy dialogue, strategies and programming.

Moreover, the UN-system is paying attention to the data challenge. The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, at its session in April 2023, issued a specific recommendation regarding tracking of funding to the OECD-DAC:

*“To enhance accountability in financing for Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum recommends that the Development Aid Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development include a policy marker in its statistical system for the reporting of development aid to facilitate tracking of funding allocated for Indigenous Peoples across all sectors” (UNPFII, 2023, art. 93)<sup>12</sup>.*

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<sup>8</sup> The OECD statistics thus include data from both bilateral donors to the Forest Tenure Pledge (Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, UK, US) and also data from some of the large philanthropies that contribute to that Pledge (Bezos Earth Fund, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Ford Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and Oak Foundation).

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/dac/environment-development/rioconventions.htm>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/wp-stat.htm>

<sup>11</sup> See the IATI D-Portal [here](#)

<sup>12</sup> See full report [here](#)



More systematic tracking of funding is also crucial for the UN Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG), which works to implement the System-Wide Action Plan (SWAP) on Indigenous Peoples<sup>13</sup>. Among other issues, the SWAP aims to ensure that UN Country Teams have access to relevant data in the preparation of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) to provide coherent and effective support to countries to achieve the 2030 Agenda, including for Indigenous Peoples.

The proposed two-day workshop aims to bring key initiatives and institutions together, to discuss challenges, experiences and joint strategies and efforts to overcome the current data gaps.

### **OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

The overall objective of this initiative is to enhance the access of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to funding that underpin their role as indispensable partners for reaching the targets of the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

More specifically, the workshop will discuss:

- Experiences of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, NGOs, donors and international organisations in tracking and monitoring funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities,
- Ways to enhance monitoring of funding flows to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, with a view to improving transparency, coordination, dialogue and strategies.

The expected outcome is a set of actionable recommendations for:

- Enhancing dialogue, coordination and complementarity between key actors working to improve tracking of funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities,
- Systematizing and institutionalizing tracking of funding flows to Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

### **ORGANISATION OF THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop is organised by the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities<sup>14</sup> and Charapa<sup>15</sup> with the support of Indigenous Peoples Rights International, International Funders of Indigenous Peoples, Rainforest Foundation Norway, Rainforest Foundation US, Rights and Resources Initiative, Tinta, United Nations Development Programme and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The workshop is organized with financial support from the Ford Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Christensen Fund.

The workshop will bring together approximately 50 participants, including key resource persons from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, bilateral donors, philanthropies, multilateral agencies, civil society organisations as well as institutions with a mandate and role in monitoring of development, climate and biodiversity finance.

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<sup>13</sup> See the full text of the System-Wide Action Plan [here](#)

<sup>14</sup> <https://globalalliance.me>

<sup>15</sup> See: [www.charapa.dk](http://www.charapa.dk)