

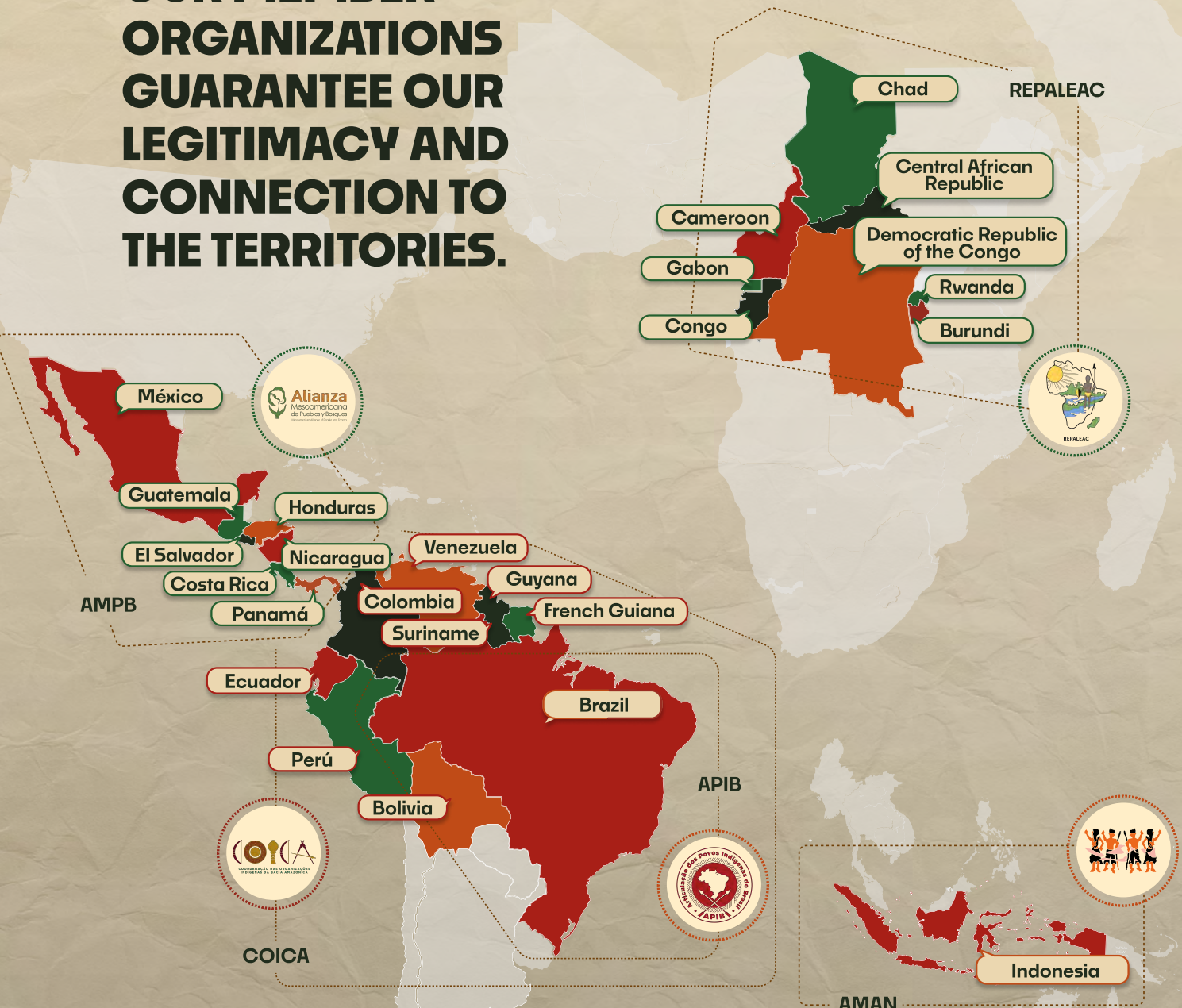
SHANDIA



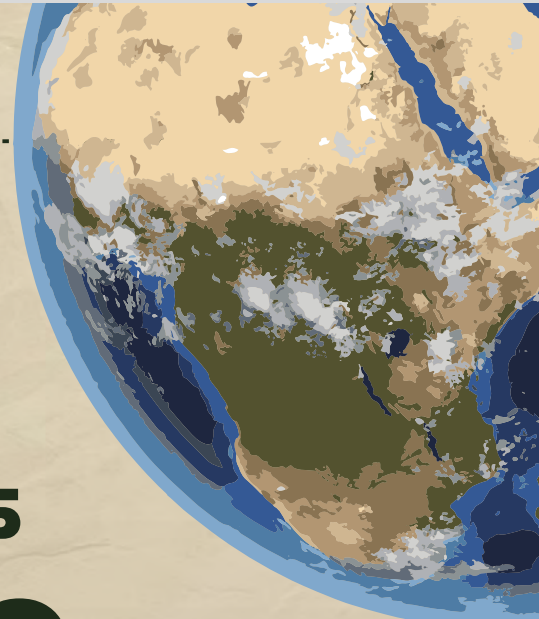
**Global
Alliance**
of Territorial
Communities



OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS GUARANTEE OUR LEGITIMACY AND CONNECTION TO THE TERRITORIES.



The Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) is a political platform of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities united to defend Mother Earth for all humanity's present and future benefit. We guarantee our legitimacy and representativeness thanks to democratic processes, ranging from the community to the plurinational level.



OUR ALLIANCE REPRESENTS

35 24 958

million people living in forest territories from

countries, and we are defenders of over

million hectares of land.

Through our **9 years** of collective work we have made strides towards our five demands.



Land Rights



Free, prior and informed consent



Direct financing



Protection of life



Traditional knowledge

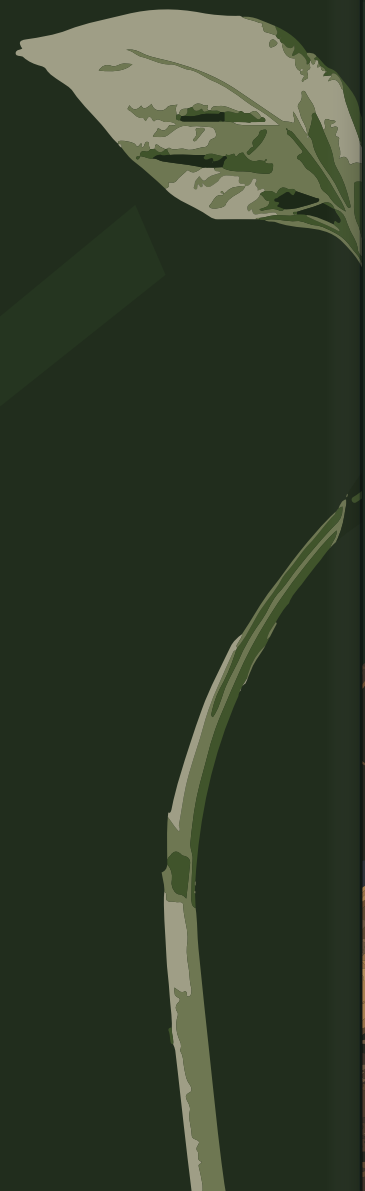
WHY MUST WE ALL COLLECTIVELY WORK FOR DIRECT FINANCING TO OUR PEOPLES AND COMMUNITIES?

The world grapples with interconnected crises: climate change, biodiversity loss, rights violations, and inequalities, threatening both the planet and humanity's well-being. Within our territories, heightened pressure on our lands and resources, resulting in environmental degradation, pollution, land grabbing, forced displacements, attacks on rights defenders, poverty, and youth migration.

Yet, our communities remain resilient, serving as vital protectors of extensive traditional territories that house a significant portion of the world's remaining forests and intact ecosystems and play a vital role in carbon sequestration and biodiversity. Hence, we are essential partners for combating the world's current crisis. Empowering our peoples and communities is not only a matter of justice and equity but also a strategic imperative.

Despite our guardianship role, very little financing targets our rights and self-determined development, and only a fraction of these funds reach our territories and organizations. Most funding is routed through multilateral agencies, governments, international NGOs and others. This indirect approach results in unknown transaction costs and underfunding of our organizations and communities, with funding often being short-term, competitive, unpredictable, and misaligned with our self-determined priorities.

Some donors and allies are committed to help overcome the hurdles we face for accessing much needed financing, but the pace of change remains frustratingly slow and does not match the urgency of the crises we are facing.



1%

of global climate finance reached our peoples and communities in the last ten years¹.

Direct allocation to organizations of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is as low as

0.19%

of the overall support to environmental protection of some donors².

We represent

6.2%

of the world's population, but account for the 18.7% extreme poor³.

36%

of the world's intact forests are within Indigenous Territories⁴.

24%

of the above-ground carbon in tropical forests is in our lands⁵.

To address these challenges, the **Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) introduced Shandia in 2022; serving as a common platform to facilitate direct funding to the territories of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.**

¹ Rainforest Foundation Norway, 2021: Falling Short.

² GATC/Shandia data collection 2023, forthcoming publication.

³ ILO, 2019: Implementing the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169: Towards an inclusive, sustainable and just future, p. 13

^{4&5} Veit, P. & Reytar, K., 2017: By the Numbers: Indigenous and Community Land Rights, World Resources Institute

OUR VISION

The vision of Shandia is that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities have access to direct funding for actions that combat climate change, conserve biodiversity and sustain our rights and self-determined development in our territories, based on identity and traditional knowledge.

OUR MISSION

Shandia is our common platform to promote and facilitate direct, predictable, effective and sustainable funding to our peoples and communities through the establishment of direct regional and national funding mechanisms, capacity-building, exchange of experiences and enhanced dialogue with donors and partners.



Photo: If Not Us Then Who

FUNCTIONS

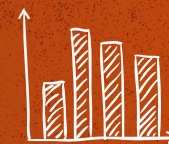
As our common platform, Shandia serves a number of functions⁶:



Support the establishment and strengthening of territorial funding mechanisms governed by our peoples and communities.



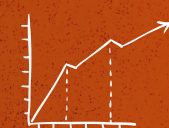
Exchange experiences and good practices for ensuring transparency, accountability, flexibility, inclusion and sustainability.



Facilitate the flow of funds to the regional and national territorial funding mechanisms, and support their capacity building processes.



Develop simple reporting, accounting, monitoring and evaluation systems and procedures that can be used and adapted by our institutions, as well as by donors, allies and partner organizations



Strengthen the institutional capacities of our peoples and communities to access and manage funding.



Monitor the status and trends of funding allocated for and received by our peoples and communities.



Facilitate a strategic and sustained dialogue with donors to increase and improve funding to our peoples and communities.



⁶For a full list of our functions please access our website or scan the QR at the back of this brochure.

Photo: If Not Us Then Who

CROSS CUTTING PRINCIPLES

In all of Shandia's actions and activities, we will adhere to the following cross-cutting principles⁷.



Inclusive and legitimate leadership, by representatives freely chosen by our peoples and communities, through the traditional mechanisms for democratic election and renewal of leadership of each territory



Transparency and accountability towards our peoples and communities, contextualized to the territorial realities.



Full and effective participation of women, young people, persons with disabilities and other sectors of our peoples and communities.



Solidarity and prioritization of those that are most in need.



Respect for and integration of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in all activities.

⁷For more detail on principles visit our website or scan the QR at the back of this brochure.

PRINCIPLES FOR DONORS, ALLIES AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Recognize us as rights-holders

Participation of representative institutions, FPIC, and effective policy implementation.

Support our own priorities and aspirations

Align with our strategies, use our institutions, and remain flexible in changing circumstances, including emergencies.

Enhance sustainability

Increased predictability, sustained core support to governance institutions and leveraging additional resources.



Strengthen our partnerships

Focusing on trust, cultural sensitivity, shared values, and collaboration with regional and national funding mechanisms.

Streamline procedures

Adapting requirements, formats, systems, and procedures, along with harmonization and mutual accountability between donors and communities.

PRIORITIES

Priorities for funding will vary from context to context and may also change over time as some aspirations get fulfilled while new challenges emerge. However, strategic activities identified as key priorities across the regions include:

A.

Recognition and Rights: Advocating for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and of Local Communities, land recognition, supporting human rights defenders, and promoting Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

B.

Capacity Building: Strengthening organizations and individuals, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, in advocacy, leadership, and climate adaptation skills.

C.

Territory Management: Community-based planning, land rehabilitation, water conservation, and coastal zone management.

D.

Economies and Energy: Sustainable local economies, renewable energy, food sovereignty, and green economy activities.

E.

Emergency Response: Disaster risk reduction, climate migration prevention, and health programs integrating traditional knowledge.

F.

Cultural Identity: Preserving traditional knowledge, cultural heritage, and languages.



OUR PROGRESS IN 2023

1 Consolidating Shandia as a platform

Through collaborative consultations, and the crafting of constituent documents, we have transformed the initial vision into a powerful force for change, ready to empower communities worldwide. Shandia has evolved from an inspiring ideal to an operational platform that is working in all the regions where the Global Alliance is present, fulfilling its functions to help establish national and regional mechanisms, to collect data and to be a hub for knowledge exchange and discussion about direct financing.



Since the official launch of Shandia in 2022, it has grown and significantly progressed in its global functions and in its support to the establishment of territorial funding mechanisms by its members.

2 Data collection

We see data collection on funding for our peoples and communities as one of the core functions of Shandia. We strive to provide information that is based on what our peoples, communities and territorial mechanisms are experiencing, being a true reflection of how funding looks when it reaches the frontlines.

Over the past year, we have compiled data on current funding streams to our member organizations, and complemented it with data from organizations and allies who are working directly with our peoples. Our first comprehensive report will be launched at COP28, with subsequent updates to be launched in the lead up to COP30.

Our goal is to continuously improve data collection and enhance monitoring with a view to:

- Informing policy dialogue enhancing accountability and coordination between actors.

- Informing and guiding strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris agreement on Climate Change and the Global Biodiversity Framework.

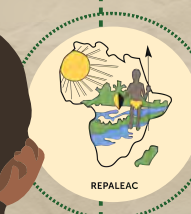
- Assessing and evaluating impacts on the ground, including results related to different funding modalities.

- Driving policy change, and guiding funding flows to where the needs and effects are most urgent and important.

3 Establishment and strengthening of funding mechanisms

Over the past twelve months, our members have made inspiring change at the regional and national levels. through the establishment and strengthening of their funding mechanisms⁸. Shandia has provided each region with specialized consultants to work in data collection, knowledge exchange and building of all the funds under the umbrella of the Shandia Platform.

In May 2023, after a two-year preparation phase, AMAN, KPA, and WALHI launched the Nusantara Fund, offering direct funding to Indonesian communities . The preparation phase involved legal registration, elaboration of guidelines and support to 30 communities that are already working on their own self-determined strategies. AMAN also facilitated a global exchange of funding mechanisms, supported by the Ford Foundation, and contributed to establishing the Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund across 14 Asian countries⁹.



The AMPB has consolidated the management and operational structures of the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund (FTM), secured 8 new projects, and expanded its reach and portfolio. In 2023, FTM opened a third call for proposals to invest in indigenous territories and local communities for an amount of USD 1 million. During the Mesoamerican Climate Week in Panamá, AMPB gathered over 200 participants to highlight their expertise in forest management, care and conservation¹⁰.

APIB has initiated a process to create a national fund for Brazil's Indigenous Peoples. Its goal is to ensure the autonomy of the movement, and advocate for Indigenous Peoples' rights, potentially working alongside other regional and local funds¹¹.

REPALEAC's 2025 strategic plan aims to enhance indigenous and local community involvement in environmental, economic, social and cultural policies in Congo Basin countries. REPALEAC co-hosted a forum (along with RRI) for indigenous women in May 2023¹², paving the way for the creation of a sub-regional funding mechanism for the Congo Basin. In October 2023, there will be a workshop to discuss the governance structure and operational features of the fund.

⁸For more detail on the progress by members visit our website www.globalalliance.me/shandia

⁹See more at the website of the Nusantara Fund nusantarafund.org

¹⁰See more at AMPB's website www.alianzamesoamericana.org

¹¹ See more at APIB's website www.apiboficial.org

¹²Read the report on RRI's website at www.rightsandresources.org



Photo: If Not Us Then Who

Picture: If Not Us Then Who

SHANDIA GOVERNANCE

Shandia, guided by the GATC Leadership Council, operates with a clear structure. A dedicated Global Shandia Coordinator is soon to be included in our Secretariat team. Their role will be to head the implementation of the Shandia strategic plan. In day-to-day operations, this Coordinator reports to the Executive Secretary and Co-chairs of the GATC.

Effective communication is key. Each GATC member will appoint a Shandia liaison within their organization or funding mechanism. In collaboration with the Shandia Coordinator, they are entrusted to craft a 3-year strategic plan and indicative budget for Shandia, to be approved by our Leadership Council.

Shandia will manage operational funds to fulfill its objectives, but will not serve as a transfer mechanism for regional and national funding mechanisms. Initially, Shandia will partner with an experienced fiscal sponsor well-versed in funding mechanisms and global fundraising strategies. This sponsor will be chosen by the GATC Leadership Council, either from its members, affiliated territorial funding mechanisms or close allies, ensuring trusted financial management.

SHANDIA FORUM

Shandia plans to catalyze global collaboration through its annual Shandia Forum, uniting representatives from GATC member organizations, regional and national territorial funding mechanisms, like-minded territorial funds led by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, as well as essential donors, allies, and experts. To optimize efficiency, the Shandia Forum will seamlessly integrate with other major events, such as the annual GATC Leadership meeting or New York Climate Week.

During the global Shandia Forum, we will collectively evaluate our progress in advancing direct territorial funding across regions and nations. Together, we will identify barriers, share successful practices, and draw wisdom from our experiences to enhance the impact of direct territorial funding. The Forum aims to streamline procedures, bolster accountability, identify funding gaps, refine priorities, and discover opportunities. It also serves as a platform for exchanging insights on impact monitoring and fostering mutual capacity-building.




In collaboration with regional and national territorial funding mechanisms, Shandia can facilitate regional or national donor forums. These forums will delve into localized lessons, measure achievements, and assess the impact of direct funding mechanisms, all while considering regional nuances, cultural sensitivities, and unique challenges.



Photo: Priscila Tapajowara



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