

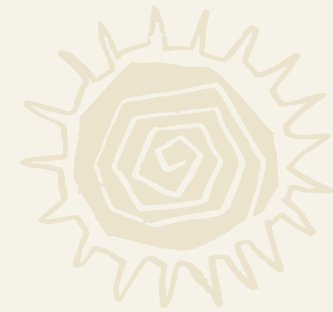


Global Alliance
of Territorial
Communities

SHANDIA PLATFORM:

**Transforming the financial landscape
for Indigenous Peoples & Local
Communities**





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

The vision of Shandia is that we, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs), have access to direct funding to develop mitigation and adaptation actions that combat climate change, conserve biodiversity, and enhance our rights and self-determined development in our territories, based on identity and traditional knowledge.



The Shandia Forum, hosted by the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities during New York Climate Week 2024, will bring together leaders from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with government, philanthropy, and private sector leaders to reshape climate and biodiversity financing, directing greater funds to IP&LCs—the most effective guardians of our world’s ecosystems and biodiversity.

During the three days of the Forum, key actors in the climate and biodiversity financing landscape will engage in panels, workshops, and discussions on the impact and benefits of financing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; the policies and pledges needed to transform global investment strategies; and improved methods for tracking financing to these communities.



To learn more about Shandia, scan the QR.



For more details on the forum, scan here.

WHAT DOES DIRECT FINANCING MEAN FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES?



For us—
Indigenous
Peoples
and Local

Communities—direct funding must be shaped by several key considerations: the design of projects, the cultural mediation of our needs, alignment with donors' objectives, and the creation of a tool for traceability and implementation with a comprehensive short, medium, and long-term vision. These funds can be managed either through an administrative structure that we establish or via a fiscal sponsor, based on our self-determined preferences. This approach ensures that our vision, values, and autonomy are upheld throughout the entire funding process.

For our communities, direct financing is more than just monetary support—it is a vital tool for securing our fundamental rights. It is not an end in itself but a means to uphold our right to live on our lands, exercise Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, preserve and adapt our traditional knowledge, and live free from violence. Moreover, it fosters a cycle where resources invested in our territories yield tangible environmental and biodiversity benefits.

While both indirect and direct funding play crucial roles in securing our communities and addressing climate and biodiversity crises, prioritizing direct funding acknowledges our deep, reciprocal relationship with our territories. We are not just guardians, but co-creators of our ecosystems. **Direct financing recognizes that we are not simply 'beneficiaries' or 'service providers'**; our lands are extensions of ourselves, and we of them. While global systems have often marginalized our traditional knowledge and the health of our territories, western scientists are now affirming what we have long known. This growing recognition strengthens our call for the resources necessary to continue protecting our ecosystems and rights.

Our 7 principles for direct financing



Photo: AMAN

1 We are key actors: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs) are neither beneficiaries nor service providers. We are leading the solutions to crises we did not cause, dating back to colonization. Therefore, we must be included in every phase of funding and decision-making concerning our territories, with full respect for our right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.

2 IP&LCs and our territories are inseparable: Direct financing must reinforce our territorial rights and sustain our traditional ways of living across all IP&LCs territories. It cannot support initiatives in one region while violating rights in another—solidarity should be a core principle. We stand together.

3 We know what is best for our territories: Direct financing must align with our strategies and use our institutions and systems to implement activities. It should be flexible enough to account for the diverse and complex political contexts of each community.

4 We have legitimate and strong community governance: Direct funding must support inclusive and legitimate leadership freely chosen by our communities through traditional democratic means. Prioritizing the participation of women, youth, and elders is essential.

5 We need stability: Direct finance must be predictable, offering long-term support for our decisions, recognizing the complex political realities we face, and respecting that protecting our territories remains our top priority.

6 We can learn together: Direct financing should focus on strengthening the capacities of our organizations in line with our governance structures. Donors must learn with us and adapt their procedures to respect our languages, decision-making processes, cultural expressions, and temporal perspectives. This also includes investing in capacity building within our organizations to meet specific needs.

7 We must have access to all the needed information to ensure our rights: Direct finance must be transparent, with accountability upheld by both donors and IP&LCs organizations. Reporting and monitoring should be culturally diverse and accessible to our communities, using shared reporting parameters.

THE FUTURE OF DIRECT FINANCING



Photo: TV Indígena

We all know that we are living through an unprecedented crisis. It's also well-known that we, the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs), are essential actors in confronting this crisis. **Our unstoppable struggle for our territories has resulted in 36% of the world's intact forests and 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity being within our lands.** In other words, there is no future without us.


On the path to achieving climate and biodiversity goals, direct financing is not the only solution, but it is a crucial one that requires collective action and a commitment to making important and structural changes in the current financial landscape.

Our organizations and IP&LC-led mechanisms are playing our part in transforming this system. We have created IP&LC-led funds that make financing more effective, timely, and respectful of community dynamics. The huge impacts our work has on the ground—despite the limited resources we have received—showcase our tremendous potential, which requires courageous investors to be fully unlocked. This is why we established the Shandia Platform: to promote the growth and creation

of funds, demand direct funding to scale up their impacts, and challenge an unfair financial structure on the global stage while improving the tracking and monitoring of funds. **Together, we have dismantled the myth that IP&LCs lack the capacity to manage climate and biodiversity resources.**

To advance the profound transformation we need, various actors in the climate and biodiversity financial landscape must also show courage in their commitments against colonizing practices.

Instead, donors should adopt a proactive and responsible stance in the face of the crisis we are experiencing, being fully transparent about the resources they mobilize. Multilateral donors must commit to financing us, especially through direct




Donors need to recognize that we know what is best for our territories and commit to addressing the current colonial structures of climate and biodiversity financing. The logic of distrust, which devalues our impact on the land and demands short-term projects and endless reporting, must end.

funding. Non-binding commitments point the way but do not reflect our true impact.

The role of intermediaries must be rethought and progressively transformed. The category of intermediaries itself needs to be better defined. There are significant differences between a large NGO and a local organization, as demonstrated by the analysis of resources reaching our territories. Nevertheless, intermediaries of all sizes must develop practices to democratize access to their decisions and resources, gradually moving toward a change in logic. In other words, the principles of direct funding should be applied even when dealing with indirect funding. With centuries of colonization shaping our lives and minds, even our relationships with allies are marked by a logic of guardianship. It takes courage and concrete action to dismantle this. **Intermediaries should only exist when necessary, and decisions about their involvement should be based on the choice of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.**

We now have a unique opportunity to leverage territorial-based solutions, as we are living in an auspicious moment. A new pledge from the Forest Tenure Funders



The future of direct financing depends on a collaborative and united commitment by donors, allies, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. This is the Shandia Forum's call to action.

Group (FTFG) is under discussion, new climate funds are being articulated or operationalized (such as the Loss and Damage Fund and the Adaptation Fund), biodiversity commitments like the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) are becoming a reality, and the Platform to Support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Climate and Forest Action from the FCLP has a work plan to move forward.

We, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, must be seen as crucial decision-makers in each of these mechanisms, and direct finance must be a principle and priority in all of them. Where direct funding is not yet possible, our voices must still be heard, and democratizing tools must be implemented to facilitate access to resources according to our priorities and urgencies. Allocated resources should be transparent and based on mutual accountability processes. Reinforcing our organizations should be a long-term commitment, including transforming the current bureaucratic structures that prevent our communities from accessing proper resources.



A FLOURISHING NETWORK OF FUNDS

NUSANTARA FUND



The Nusantara Fund was founded by Indonesia's three largest civil society organizations to provide direct funding for IP&LCs constituents of AMAN, KPA, and WALHI. It seeks global climate funding to support IP&LCs efforts in protecting and managing livelihoods and ecosystems, using a simple yet accountable management approach.

Nusantara is promoting land rights in Indonesia by funding 49 groups' mapping initiatives of customary areas/forests, community-managed areas, and priority locations for agrarian reform of 279,909 hectares. It has also financed the protection and recognition of traditional lands covering 57,376 hectares.



Nusantara's impact is huge and can be even bigger. From January to June 2024, the Nusantara Fund has supported 157 proposal initiatives from IP&LCs, spread across 32 provinces in Indonesia. The total funding distributed is US\$ 948,142, or around IDR 14.2 billion. With more resources, we could go even further, reaching our objective of funding 400 projects per year.

Nusantara is increasing the restoration and rehabilitation of forests, with 32,261 hectares benefiting from our funds with 38 documents of rehabilitation proposals.

Nusantara is stimulating IP&LCs' economies, having reached 115 groups and supporting the development of production, distribution, and consumption business models.

Nusantara is strengthening our communities, and the educational initiatives we financed have reached 9,897 people in 58 Indonesian locations.



Photo: AMAN



ALIANSI MASYARAKAT ADAT NUSANTARA

Scan the QR code to learn more about the Nusantara Fund.



To learn more about the work of AMAN scan the QR.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF ASIA SOLIDARITY FUND (IPAS)

During a regional workshop held from July 31 to August 1, 2022, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, a regional assembly for Indigenous Peoples of Asia was established. **The workshop, which included 26 Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs) from 13 Asian countries, focused on addressing the limited access Indigenous Peoples had to direct financing.** Participants agreed to create the Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund (IPAS), developing its Vision, Mission, Goal, and Objectives, and establishing guidelines for fund access, including policies on conflict of interest, anti-corruption, and gender. An ad-hoc Steering Committee was set up to finalize these guidelines and organize the regional assembly.

The regional assembly convened from March 30 to April 3, 2023, in Bali, Indonesia, with 95 Indigenous representatives from 13 countries. Since then, IPAS has held three Board meetings, planned its legal registration, established a secretariat in Indonesia, and created a 5-year strategic plan (2024-2028).

In its first year, IPAS has been re-granting in six countries across three sectors: Indigenous women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Although detailed disaggregated data is not yet available, IPAS'

work includes reaching the most remote Indigenous Peoples, simplifying grant application processes, providing capacity building in project management and reporting, offering long-term support to key local and national organizations, and revitalizing Indigenous knowledge, supporting sustainable economies, protecting biodiversity, building resilience, and combating climate change.



The IPAS Fund aims to provide direct access to external funds for Indigenous Peoples in Asia, addressing challenges such as language barriers, government restrictions, and capacity issues. It seeks to build on existing donor support while encouraging a shift from project-based to core funding, fostering solidarity, trust, and mutual accountability, and reaching grassroots groups, including women's organizations, youth, and persons with disabilities.



For more information visit: www.ipasfund.org

A FLOURISHING NETWORK OF FUNDS

JAGUATÁ FUND



Photo: Renato Santana

The Jaguatá Fund is a new financial initiative being launched by the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) at the Shandia Forum 2024. Developed through a collaborative process led by Brazil's National Forum of Indigenous Leaders and the APIB Fund Working Group, it represents a commitment to democratic and traditional governance practices.

Why Support the Jaguatá Fund:

1 Empowering Advocacy: The Fund will support indigenous advocacy efforts at all levels—from local to international—enhancing indigenous influence in public policy and defending rights against human rights violations and threats from mining and agribusiness.

2 Protecting Land Rights: It aims to strengthen indigenous land rights in Brazil, which is crucial for curbing deforestation, a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2022, Brazil emitted 2.3 billion tons of greenhouse gases, with 48% from biome destruction. Indigenous lands play a vital role in



carbon sequestration and preserving ecosystems.

3 Addressing the Climate Crisis: The Fund will invest in real solutions to the climate crisis by supporting actions to adapt, mitigate, and repair environmental damage. It will provide rapid responses to emergencies, ensuring that Indigenous Peoples—key players in environmental protection—receive support to tackle human rights abuses, social and health crises, and environmental challenges.

4 Enhancing Brazilian Indigenous Fund Ecosystem: By collaborating with regional and territorial funds, the Jaguatá Fund aims to improve access to resources for Indigenous Peoples and support the development of new territorial funds, promoting equitable support across diverse biomes.

5 Promoting Indigenous Philanthropy: The Fund will ensure that financial resources are managed by Indigenous Peoples, directly addressing their needs and interests. It will also monitor funding trends to ensure transparency and effective use of resources.



Scan the QR code for more information on the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB).

A FLOURISHING NETWORK OF FUNDS

THE MESOAMERICAN TERRITORIAL FUND (FTM)



Since 2021, the FTM has invested USD 1,884,400, with 80% going to direct territorial funding. This has supported 32 projects by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs) and eight women-led organizations across six Mesoamerican countries. These initiatives strengthen governance, rights, climate adaptation and mitigation, sustainable enterprises, and preserve ancestral knowledge. Key cross-cutting themes include gender, youth, and social inclusion.

Direct Funding and Transparent Processes: FTM operates as an effective, culturally adapted direct investment vehicle for Mesoamerica's IP&LCs. It has a governance system, Board of Directors, and ad-hoc Committee for proposal selection. A grievance mechanism ensures good governance, transparency, and accountability.

Strategic Partnerships and Global Advocacy: FTM promotes community-led funding models in global forums, emphasizing diverse voices in transforming coopera-

tion through funded territorial experiences.

Effective Investment and Communication in the Territorial Agenda: FTM supports capacity building through AMPB's Community Communication Academy. In 2024, 30 Mesoamerican youth linked to FTM funding are participating, amplifying territorial voices internationally by sharing their stories.

Comprehensive Vision in FTM Investment: We support territorial partners to strengthen technical and financial management capacities for project formulation and implementation, ensuring investment sustainability beyond individual project lifespans.



Empowering Thousands in Mesoamerica: Since 2021, the FTM has directly benefited 40,765 people, indirectly impacted 264,970 individuals, and contributed to the restoration of 2,336,927 hectares of forest.



Photo: FTM



Scan the QR code to learn more about the FTM.



To learn more about the work of the AMPB scan the QR.



CENTRAL AFRICAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CONGO BASIN FUND



The Central African Indigenous Peoples and Congo Basin Fund, known as **Fonds REPALEAC**, aims to achieve a vision where Central Africa and the Congo Basin sustainably value and conserve nature and forests with the participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Our governance and fund management will be straightforward, flexible, direct, accessible, and adapted to the context of grassroots communities, following four key priorities:

1 Securing land, territories, and natural resources for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

2 Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' participation in forest and land governance in Central Africa.

3 Improving the economic and social resilience of Indigenous Peoples affected by environmental degradation and zoonotic diseases.



REPALEAC is the leading network of Indigenous Peoples in Central Africa, spanning 8 countries within the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) region. Its 2018-2025 action plan targets mapping and securing over 7,000,000 hectares of forest.

4 Supporting program management, coordination, and emergency responses.

Success will be evaluated based on: the recognition of forest and land tenure rights by Central African and Congo Basin countries; the development of inclusive national policies; progress in recognized and mapped land areas with property titles; implementation of sustainable land management plans; and revenue growth from conservation and the sustainable use of resources. The program, starting in 2025, aims to impact around 3 million Indigenous Peoples and seeks to raise over 200 million USD.



INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL WOMEN ARE SEEDS OF CHANGE

Indigenous Peoples and Local Community (IP&LCs) women are critical guardians of our territories, particularly in tropical rainforests, where their stewardship leads to higher biodiversity, increased carbon storage, and greater resilience to climate change. **Whether as environmental protectors, politicians, or mothers, IP&LCs women are committed to their communities and the Earth, often drawing on ancestral knowledge to lead efforts in environmental protection.** However, they face significant barriers to accessing decision-making platforms and encounter complex challenges, such as securing land rights, limited access to education and healthcare, and high levels of discrimination and violence.

When it comes to accessing funding, these challenges are exacerbated by the intersectionality of their circumstances. Indigenous women face not only gender



Less than 1% of climate finance is directed to Indigenous Peoples, with only 0.2% allocated specifically to women's environmental initiatives.



Photo: Andressa Zumpano

barriers but also issues related to their ethnicity. This lack of financial support highlights deep-rooted inequalities and missed opportunities in empowering women from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to protect the planet.

The Women's Movement of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) is advancing key strategies. These include strengthening the Shandia Platform through the active participation and leadership of indigenous and local community women, developing investment strategies, and establishing gender-inclusive principles. Efforts also focus on training programs and reducing multidimensional barriers. The goal is to ensure the active participation of IP&LC women in securing a sustainable future for both their territories and Mother Earth.

Discover more from our Movements by scanning the QR code.



TOWARDS THE FUTURE WITH INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL YOUTH

The Youth Movement of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) recognizes the critical importance of direct funding to empower younger generations of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. As custodians of the future, youth play a vital role in preserving traditional knowledge, advocating for rights, and leading climate action and biodiversity conservation in their ancestral territories. Direct financial support is essential for equipping them with the resources needed to develop their capacities and effectively implement their initiatives.

However, young people often face significant barriers in accessing the resources necessary for their development. Direct funding to Indigenous youth-led organizations and initiatives is extremely limited, with only a small fraction of global climate and environmental aid reaching this crucial demographic. **The Youth Movement advocates urgently increasing direct funding, emphasizing the need for community-governed mechanisms focused on capacity building, knowledge exchange, and supporting youth-led projects.**



By empowering the next generations through direct funding, GATC aims to ensure the continuity of the struggle for rights, sustainability, and the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities worldwide. Investing in youth not only addresses issues of justice and equity but is also a strategic imperative for the future of environmental stewardship and cultural preservation.



Photo: Renato Santana

TRACKING FOR SUCCESS

It is essential for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to understand how resources are allocated to uphold our rights. Access to this information reveals the disparity between our crucial role in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss and the actual investments made by global decision-makers in our territories. **This transparency is vital for strengthening our advocacy, securing more funds for IP&LC-led mechanisms, and advancing efforts to sustain our planet. We must know where we stand so we can move forward together.**

However, tracking funding is a challenging task. Currently, monitoring funds for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is inadequate, relying on estimates, ad hoc methods, and complex, time-consuming surveys. This approach risks misinterpretation and miscalculation when aggregating diverse data.

In response, the Shandia Platform is working with various stakeholders to improve reporting and transparency for funds allocated to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. We are developing the Paris Roadmap for Tracking Funds, designed to address persistent data gaps regarding resources for our communities. This roadmap outlines a series of coordinated actions for donors, multilateral



The lack of standardized reporting criteria complicates decision-making and strategy development. Without uniform reporting standards, IP&LC organizations, donors, and partners cannot effectively showcase their work and its impact on preserving our territories.

agencies, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities.

To advance this effort, the Shandia Platform and Charapa have held two technical workshops—one in Paris (2023) and one in New York (2024)—to review fund tracking

progress and develop a unified reporting and monitoring framework for Indigenous Peoples. **We have also established a shared definition of direct funding, which is crucial for shaping our political strategies, securing more funds for IP&LC-led mechanisms, and improving our partnerships.**

At the Shandia Forum 2024, our primary goal is to further these accountability procedures by bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders. We aim to review progress, share experiences, and address challenges related to implementing the Paris Roadmap for Tracking Funds for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Key Objectives:

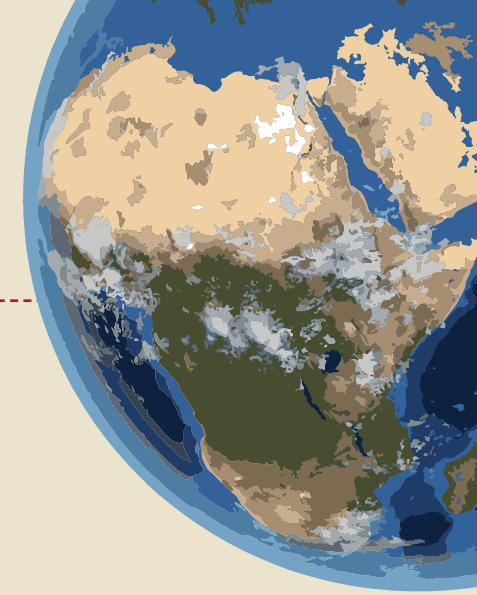
- Share progress made by various stakeholders in adopting a common reporting framework for resources allocated to IP&LCs.
- Identify and address major challenges encountered.
- Highlight IP&LC initiatives aimed at improving fund monitoring.

Next Steps:

- Address specific government challenges in achieving transparency on funding for IP&LCs.
- Clarify the role of intermediaries in the funding process, considering the different political contexts and realities in our territories, and establish clearer relationships with our partners.



Photo: AMAN



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

million people living in forest territories from

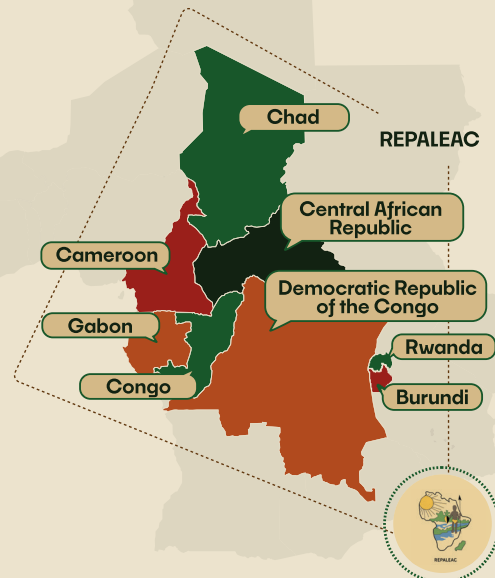
24

countries and we are defenders of over

958

million hectares of land.

OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS GUARANTEE OUR LEGITIMACY AND CONNECTION TO THE TERRITORIES



Through our **10 years** of collective work we have made strides towards our five demands:



Land rights



Free, Prior, Informed Consent



Direct Financing



Protection of life



Traditional knowledge



www.globalalliance.me