



STRATEGIC PLAN 2026

INTRODUCTION.....	3
REFLECTING ON 2025.....	4
2026 WORK PLAN.....	5
Our Calendar Year.....	5
2026 Priorities.....	7
GATC's Thematic Areas.....	7
2026 Outlook.....	8
Moving beyond COP30.....	8
Shandia Platform.....	8
2025 Achievements.....	8
2026 Strategy.....	9
Updates on our regional mechanisms.....	9
Indigenous Economies.....	11
GATC Communications Strategy 2026.....	12
Member organizations' updates and priorities for 2026.....	12
Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN).....	12
Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB).....	12
Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB).....	13
Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA).....	14
Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC).....	15
Our ecosystem of allies.....	16
OUR MOVEMENTS.....	17
Women's Movement.....	17
Youth Movement.....	18
GOVERNANCE AGREEMENTS.....	20
2026 BUDGET.....	21
Key approvals and decisions.....	21
Budget details.....	21
Ongoing fundraising needs.....	22



GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES

Strategic Plan 2026

THIS STRATEGY WAS BUILT IN PANAMA CITY, PANAMA IN FEBRUARY 2026

INTRODUCTION

The **Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC)** unites those who safeguard the world's richest territories and work to protect Mother Earth for the benefit of all of humanity. As the climate crisis intensifies, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs and LCs) remain on the frontlines—confronting the accelerating expansion of extractive industries, land dispossession, and persistent human rights violations. These threats, alongside a challenging funding ecosystem and a complex geopolitical context, place our rights, our ways of life, and the health of the planet at risk. Yet, in the face of these pressures, our communities continue to lead: protecting our lands, advocating for our rights, and advancing grounded, place-based responses to the climate and biodiversity crises.

As the GATC enters the second decade of our global movement, 2026 marks a moment of profound responsibility and opportunity. The role of IPs and LCs in safeguarding forests, sustaining biodiversity, and contributing to climate mitigation is increasingly recognized and supported by evidence. Our movement continues to innovate, engaging in global advocacy, harnessing technology and diverse leadership to protect our territories, and developing territorial financing mechanisms to resource our work. However, these advancements exist alongside structural challenges: ongoing violence and threats to our territories, limited participation in decision-making spaces, and insufficient access to direct, flexible financing.

To effectively respond to these opportunities, responsibilities, and challenges, the GATC has developed its **2026 Strategic Plan** as a collective roadmap to strengthen our advocacy, uplift the leadership of IPs and LCs within global climate and environmental processes, and support and scale territorial action. This strategy was built alongside our member organizations—AMAN, AMPB, APIB, COICA, and REPALEAC—and represents a collective vision formed through rigorous conversations among our members and with our allied organizations. It reflects a shared commitment to advancing self-determined solutions that protect our planet while addressing the systemic barriers our communities face.

Following COP30 as a landmark for our movement, 2026 represents a critical window to carry forward our work and translate visibility into structural change. Thanks to our advocacy, Indigenous and local community leadership is increasingly being invited into the design and implementation of major international commitments. Carrying forward the success of the First Global Congress of Indigenous



Peoples and Local Communities of the World's Forest Basins in Brazzaville last year, we are preparing for a second Global Congress, to be hosted by AMAN in 2027.

While we enter 2026 with significant momentum from COP30 and high ambitions to advance our demands, 2026 unfolds within an ongoing context of heightened uncertainty. Shifting political dynamics and evolving funding landscapes pose real risks for our member organizations and partners. These changes call for strategic adaptation, requiring us to rethink resource mobilization, strengthen alliances, and ensure the sustainability of our work.

In this evolving context, the GATC is actively assessing these dynamics and advancing diversified approaches to funding and partnership. Our priority is to maintain continuity, reinforce collective resilience, and ensure that our movement remains anchored in its long-term vision. Even amid volatility, we remain committed to advancing territorial sovereignty, climate justice, and the recognition of Indigenous and community leadership as essential to the future of the planet.

OUR STRUCTURE

The Global Alliance is a political platform of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to defend Mother Earth for all humanity's present and future benefit. Our alliance represents 35 million people living in forest territories from 24 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Our network is composed of five member organizations: the Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Archipelago (AMAN); the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB), the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), and the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC). These member organizations represent Indigenous and local communities living in forests at a regional level and bridge our global advocacy work with territorial needs and realities.

At the center of our alliance's governance is our Leadership Council, made up of two representatives of each member organization and representatives from the GATC women's and youth movements. This leadership council plays an essential role in guiding our strategy and ensuring our work is informed by their expertise and territorial legitimacy. Within the Leadership council, our rotating co-chair model designates two leaders who help steer our operations and agenda. Each co-chair serves a staggered two-year term. Currently, the co-chair positions are held by REPALEAC, represented by Joseph Itongwa Mukumo, and AMPB, represented by Levi Sucre. REPALEAC's term will conclude in September and the co-chair position will pass to another member organization.

The work of our alliance is supported by the GATC Secretariat, which handles the operations of our organization and advances our work. The Executive Secretary serves as the linchpin between the



Leadership Council and the Secretariat, representing the GATC in negotiation spaces, helping to fundraise, and ensuring alignment between our leadership and the work of our Secretariat.

REFLECTING ON 2025

In 2025, as all eyes were on the path to COP30, the GATC celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Over these 10 years, our organization and our members have evolved and strengthened and the GATC has emerged as a global player and a respected Indigenous Peoples network. This strong global positioning allowed the GATC to have significant engagement with and influence over processes and initiatives leading up to COP30. We were invited to participate in the development of three major announcements at COP30: the FTFG's COP30 Forest and Land Tenure Pledge, the FCLP's Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment, and the Tropical Forest Forever Facility. We were also invited to participate in the Bioeconomy Challenge launched by the Brazilian government. Our participation in these processes signal an important shift toward greater inclusion and recognition of our right to meaningful participation in decision-making.

Another major milestone in our trajectory to COP30 was the First Global Congress of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of the World's Forests Basins, held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo from May 26–May 30. Convened by the GATC together with REPALEAC, the Congress created a historic space for alignment across the world's forest basins and strengthened the shared positioning of IPs and LCs ahead of COP30. The event was a major success in raising the visibility of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the lead-up to COP30 and helped catalyze critical engagements and mobilizations in preparation for COP30.

After generating significant advocacy and visibility in advance of COP30, COP30 brought several major announcements and successes, including the launch of the three commitments we helped shape throughout the year. Within COP30, we held the Shandia Forum 2025, during which the GATC participated in the launch of the FTFG COP30 Pledge and the FCLP Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment. Alongside these announcements, we announced [The People's Pledge](#), a declaration that emphasizes our role in safeguarding the planet's most vital ecosystems and calls to advance direct financing that reaches our territories and is grounded in our own governance systems. The TFFF announcement—the details of which were shaped by our year-long advocacy—generated significant media around the world. We also saw progress on just transitions at COP30: a Just Transition Mechanism was established which recognized Indigenous Peoples' individual and collective rights under UNDRIP.

Beyond these commitments, COP30 was a major moment for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and civil society as a whole. The People's Summit gathered over 1,300 organizations and 70,000 participants, the March of the Peoples had more than 60,000 participants, while the Indigenous March



had over 3,000 people. We created a unified messaging around COP30 through our campaign “The Answer is Us,” which generated over 700 news stories and helped bring visibility to our movement and our partners. This campaign will play an ongoing role in amplifying our work and reinforcing our collective role in securing a safe and healthy future.

As we exit a year marked by political challenges but also by significant achievements, we now look ahead to 2026 and beyond as we continue our work to advance our collective rights and safeguard our future.

2026 WORK PLAN

This section details our 2026 work plan, outlining our main priorities, key moments, and concrete steps that will guide our work. As we move past COP30, our strategies must evolve to ensure that the major wins secured in Belém move beyond commitments to successful implementation. While some details of our strategic work will continue to evolve, this plan reflects our shared priorities and commitment to advance our five demands in an increasingly challenging global context.

Our Calendar Year

In alignment with our key objective of engaging in global advocacy and communications, our 2026 calendar will continue to focus on engaging in regional and international spaces that increase the visibility of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and our five demands. During our Annual Planning Meetings in Panama City, we identified key events and moments throughout the year where the GATC and our members will actively participate to elevate the voices and needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities on the global stage. A key goal of this participation is to ensure the momentum generated by announcements at COP30 is translated into concrete implementation and action, and to ensure the GATC is represented in events relating to all three Rio Conventions.

Our priority events for the year are outlined in the table below. Our global priority events are indicated in **bold**, with other key global events in plain text and regional priority events in *italics*.

Month	Event
February	● Annual Planning Meeting (Panama)
March	● <i>One Basin, One Vision - REPALEAC (Kinshasa)</i> ● <i>AMAN's anniversary (Indonesia)</i>
April	● UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - UNPFII (New York)



	• World Bank Group/IMF Spring Meetings (Washington, D.C.) • Skoll World Forum (Oxford, UK) • Ezcazú Agreement COP4 (Bahamas) • <i>ATL - Acampamento Terra Livre - APIB (Brasília)</i>
May	• RRI Global Summit (Brasilia, Brasil)
June	• London Climate Action Week (London) • UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform - LCIPP and SB64 (Bonn)
August	• UNCCD COP17 (Mongolia)
September	• New York Climate Week - TBC (New York)
October	• CBD COP17 (Armenia) • <i>Second Dialogue on the Impact and Scope of Direct Territorial Financing in Mesoamerica - AMPB</i>
November	• UNFCCC COP31 (Turkiye)

In 2026, we remain committed to our global advocacy goals while also supporting our member organizations in advancing their regional and national agendas. These events and others present vital opportunities to promote our agendas and build solidarity and collaboration among IPs and LCs and partners across regions. The GATC will not prioritize New York Climate Week this year but individual members may choose to participate.

Please visit our calendar for more details on our agenda: [\[Link to live Canva's calendar with priority events\]](#)

This calendar will be regularly updated throughout the year to ensure that our strategic engagement and advocacy reflect and adapt to opportunities and needs as they arise.

2026 Priorities

GATC's Thematic Areas

The GATC will continue to advocate for and realize our **five core demands** in 2026:

1. **Land Rights:** Protecting our territories as part of our identity, ensuring biodiversity and climate resilience through strong governance, decision-making, and self-determination.
2. **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC):** Ensuring our right to consent and our full and active participation before decisions are made about our lives, territories, and resources as part of our fundamental right to self-determination.



3. **Direct Financing:** Securing adequate, direct, and accessible financing to provide resources for Indigenous and local community-led solutions and support climate actions and territorial investment. Advancing the Shandia Platform to support this work.
4. **Protection of Life:** Defending our ways of life, biodiversity, and land defenders against criminalization, violence and human rights violations while protecting our rights and territories.
5. **Traditional Knowledge:** Recognizing Indigenous knowledge as core to our identities and livelihoods, and respecting this knowledge while integrating it into global environmental decision-making and policies relating to our territories.

While significant attention has been paid to our demand for direct financing, especially through the effective work of the Shandia Platform, we see our five demands as interrelated and recognize that they must be addressed together. Furthermore, we see direct financing as a mechanism for uplifting and providing resources to advance the other four demands. Along with the GATC's strategic advocacy and communications, our member organizations and women's and youth movements also work to advance these demands through their movements and at a territorial level.

In addition to our five demands, the GATC has been exploring Indigenous Economies as a new line of work for our network. Following a pilot exploration of this work last year, we plan to continue and expand this work in 2026; more information can be found later in this report.

2026 Outlook

While we look forward to ensuring the visibility of all five of our demands in 2026, we also face threats. The global climate agenda has been significantly disrupted by the current geopolitical context. Mining and oil corporations are taking advantage of this context to expand their activities, and many of our member organizations are feeling these increasing pressures and encroachments in their territories. While changes in 2025—including significant evolutions in the funding landscape—present challenges, they also create opportunities to explore new pathways and ways of operating. For example, the collapse of USAID may help encourage us to build out more support for our territorial funds and the infrastructure they need to be effective.

As you will see below, in 2026, we aim to strengthen our member organizations and movements, translate COP30 commitments into action, continue to advance the work of Shandia, and build out our work on Indigenous economies.



Moving beyond COP30

In 2026, a major priority for the GATC is ensuring the successful fulfillment of commitments made at COP30, including the Forest Tenure Funders Group's \$1.8 billion Pledge, the Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership's Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment, and the TFFF commitment to allocate 20% of funds to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We will continue to engage with these groups to shape their implementation and ensure that their work aligns with our priorities and respects our rights and self-determination. Part of this work will be to build further capacity in order to successfully monitor these Pledges and ensure their implementation.

Shandia Platform

2025 Achievements

Shandia's main goal in 2025 was to use COP30 as an opportunity to reopen pathways for direct funding. We entered 2025 in a challenging context with uncertainty around international aid and climate finance, including unsureness around if a renewed FTFG Pledge would be announced. Throughout the year, the GATC worked to influence the TFFF, the FCLP's Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment, and the FTFG Pledge. By engaging in FTFG and FCLP meetings throughout the year and emphasizing the GATC's demands and priorities, we successfully helped shape these commitments.

Additionally, the GATC was very involved in the TFFF in 2025. After agreeing to co-design the implementation framework for the 20% of TFFF funds that will go to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the GATC engaged with the TFFF throughout the year and had significant successes, ensuring that:

- The 20% for Indigenous Peoples and local communities would be direct financing for territorial investment, not for public policy
- Territorial funds can serve as national implementing agencies for the allocation of the 20%
- Fossil fuels are on an exclusion list, and the TFFF is prohibited from investing its funds in them
- The establishment of a grievance mechanism is still a possibility and is under discussion

In addition to these announcements, Shandia advanced advocacy at COP30 through the Shandia Forum and the People's Pledge. This year, we held the Shandia Forum at COP30 to ensure maximum visibility for our direct financing demand. During the Shandia Forum, the GATC announced the People's Pledge, a call to advance direct and fair territorial finance grounded in our own systems of governance and our commitment to continue protecting life and all our ecosystems. Through the People's Pledge, we committed to invest \$500M over the next five years in territorial actions, guided by our own governance systems and aligned with the principles of direct funding to ensure that the resources announced at COP30 actually reach our communities and become tangible results for life, rights, and the ecosystems we protect. The People's Pledge emphasizes that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are not beneficiaries but rather key actors in the global response to climate and biodiversity crises.



Other significant activities in 2025 included work to advance a Shandia learning community to build community and create strategic space between funds, including funds beyond the GATC's members, tracking funds through the Shandia report and working on common parameters for tracking funds, and conducting an evaluation with member organizations and territorial funds to understand the strengths and challenges of Shandia.

2026 Strategy

In 2026, Shandia will be a key platform for ensuring the implementation of the various Pledges made in 2025, including at the regional and national level. We will continue to support territorial funds, including those beyond the GATC, while building mechanisms to monitor and track direct funding to ensure transparency and make sure that funds reach communities. We will also work to implement the People's Pledge to guarantee the GATC's five demands and use this as a political strategic tool to advance all five demands.

Updates on our regional mechanisms

Each of our member organizations has established a territorial fund, which works to distribute funding to communities with the support of Shandia. These territorial funds are in different stages of development but are all advancing well; many of our member organizations' members have also established territorial funds. Below we provide updates on our regional funding mechanisms.

Fondo Territorial Mesoamericano (FTM) - AMPB: FTM raised \$2.2 million in 2025 and executed \$285,000. Most of these funds were raised in the last quarter of 2025, so 2026 will see a big increase in direct territorial investment from FTM. FTM is currently managing 22 sub-grants, including supporting one youth organization and ten women's organizations. Through FTM's executing organizations, 4.3 million hectares of forest are under community management. In 2026, FTM is working to secure funding from several key partners. FTM is also currently working on strengthening its financing for women and youth and consolidating their own internal platform for monitoring and evaluation.

Nusantara Fund - AMAN: The Nusantara Fund is a joint initiative of three national organizations in Indonesia: AMAN, KPA, and WALHI. Its main objectives are to map, protect, and restore territories and to establish training and education centers. Since 2024, the Nusantara Fund has channeled \$2.8 million to partners; 10% of disbursed resources are allocated to support groups outside of the three national organizations' members. The Nusantara Fund has also developed mechanisms to ensure stability and flexibility to respond to urgent needs: it has \$1.75 million saved in an endowment fund and 3% of the fund is allocated for emergency



responses in case of disasters. The Nusantara Fund has a goal to ensure that 30% of funds reach women and youth in the community.

REPALEAC Fund - REPALEAC: The REPALEAC Fund is nascent and still being constructed. REPALEAC has been working to develop the fund's governance and management and create a legal entity. In 2026, the REPALEAC Fund will work to ensure operationalization by building out governance and management;. REPALEAC hopes to mobilize \$1.5 million for the fund.

Fundo Jaguatá - APIB: Fundo Jaguatá has created a legal entity and is now working to institutionalize the fund. In 2026, Fundo Jaguatá aims to align with climate funding mechanisms, including new mechanisms announced by the Brazilian government and the TFFF and to support the ecosystem of Indigenous funds in Brazil. Fundo Jaguatá aims to raise funds for territorial management, supporting education, visibility, protecting defenders, and conducting mapping.

Amazonia para la Vida: The Amazonia para la Vida Fund was officially launched in Dubai in 2023. The fund's goal is to raise \$10 million to distribute to grassroots organizations within the COICA countries, financing work on bioeconomy, conservation, and governance. Key achievements of the fund include land monitoring systems, bioeconomy value chains, and a portfolio of 63 initiatives in Peru; investment in knowledge systems in Colombia; and the activation of a fiscal sponsor model in Brazil to strengthen institutional and technical capacity.

Indigenous Economies

The GATC has been exploring work on Indigenous economies, with the goal of creating alternative economic opportunities beyond extractive models. In addition to developing work in this area, we aim to position ourselves within global discussions on bioeconomy and socio-bioeconomy to advocate for our own definition of Indigenous economies. However, current work on Indigenous economies faces significant challenges: Indigenous Peoples encounter barriers to accessing fair-paying markets, and logistical constraints in remote territories complicate the operations of distributing goods. While intermediaries can be necessary to address these barriers, they can extract a substantial portion of the value. In addition, there is a lack of infrastructure to support this work, including enabling regulations and incentives; this makes it difficult for Indigenous enterprises to achieve economic viability and develop sustainable business models.

With a \$50,000 grant from the FFORA Foundation, the GATC piloted work on Indigenous economies, testing the idea of a Global Indigenous Chamber of Commerce. Projects included mapping and grouping Indigenous-led economic initiatives, fostering dialogue around how to unite and strengthen



Indigenous-led initiatives, and organizing two European tours to promote Indigenous economies: an Indigenous business tour in London and another connecting Indigenous-led initiatives to professional fairs in Europe including cocoa and organic markets.

Building on this pilot, the GATC plans to explore further work on Indigenous economies. Potential activities include facilitating learning exchanges with successful Indigenous-led co-op initiatives, diversifying product offerings, and continuing business development trips to identify new markets. To formalize and scale these efforts, the GATC will develop a concept note to establish Indigenous Economies as a dedicated line of work.

The GATC values Indigenous economies as a system rooted in the continuity of knowledge, territory and collective well-being, rather than extraction or accumulation. This work is grounded in the need for Indigenous Peoples to sustain their own economies as a means to defend their territories, safeguard biomes, and uphold rights, while recognizing diverse territorial capacities and learning from existing initiatives that are already functioning and scaling.

At the core of this work are principles that prioritize territorial needs, collective governance, and reciprocity: ensuring that value from these initiatives return to our communities and prioritizing local and regional economies to ensure communities consume what they produce instead of exporting to global markets at the expense of local well-being. The work of Indigenous economies is to ensure sustainable sources of income and support for communities while helping navigate external market requirements and highlighting the central role of women and the importance of intergenerational knowledge. We aim to active community-led, collective initiatives while recognizing the need for accountability mechanisms that prevent appropriation and ensure sustainability. This vision calls for reclaiming the concept of economy itself, reframing value beyond monetary terms and moving away from extractive and consumerist systems towards those that center well-being and sustain life and culture.

GATC Communications Strategy 2026

Our Communications Strategy 2026 builds on the momentum generated by our global campaign **The Answer Is Us**, strengthening our collective voice as Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and positioning us as political actors, territorial leaders, and providers of proven solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises.



This strategy positions our five global demands, **Land Rights, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), Protection of Life, Direct Financing, and Traditional Knowledge**, as interconnected solutions rooted in territorial governance, Indigenous Peoples science, and self-determination.

In 2026, we will deepen and expand our communications approach by fully integrating:

- The regional political priorities of our member organizations: AMAN, APIB, AMPB, COICA, and REPALEAC.
- The agendas and leadership of our Women's Movement and Youth Movement.
- Indigenous Peoples and local economies as a core pathway to climate resilience and territorial wellbeing.
- Our Shandia Platform is a leading example of Indigenous Peoples- and local communities-led direct financing, including engagement with initiatives such as the Forests and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), and others.
- Capacity strengthening for regional communications teams, territorial communicators, and spokespeople.
- Stronger alignment between our political strategy and communications efforts.

Our Central Message

The Answer is us, the answer is all of us, including you.

We, as Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, are not asking to be included in the solution, we are the solution. Our territories safeguard the world's forests, rivers, biodiversity, and cultures. Our knowledge systems offer tested and holistic responses to global crises. Our governance systems demonstrate that climate action, biodiversity conservation, and human rights are inseparable.

At the same time, this message is an invitation to everyone. Governments, funders, civil society, scientists, faith leaders, artists, and civil society all of us have a role to play. **The solutions already exist in our territories, but protecting life on earth requires collective action and shared responsibility.**



Strategic Objectives for 2026

Through coordinated storytelling, evidence-based advocacy, strategic partnerships, and strengthened territorial communications, this strategy seeks to:

- Increase global recognition of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as indispensable leaders in climate and biodiversity action.
- Strengthen our political influence in national, regional, and international decision-making spaces.
- Mobilize broader public support and solidarity.
- Accelerate direct financing to Indigenous Peoples- and community-led mechanisms.
- Amplify the leadership of women and youth.
- Ensure that our global advocacy translates into tangible benefits and protection for our territories and communities..

This strategy is more than a communications roadmap. It is a political tool to advance our collective agenda, connect territorial realities with global debates, and demonstrate that the future of the planet depends on recognizing and strengthening the rights, leadership, and solutions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

More details on our communications strategy can be found here:

 [26-Comms Strategy](#)

Member organizations' updates and priorities for 2026

In addition to our global priorities outlined above, each of our member organizations have their own priorities which reflect its territorial realities and regional contexts and opportunities. Below, we provide updates and priorities presented by our member organizations.

Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN)

This year, AMAN celebrates its 27th anniversary and will prioritize engagement in several global events, including the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, CBD COP17, and COP31. Much of AMAN's attention is focused on major convenings: AMAN's women's and youth organizations will host congresses this year; AMAN is preparing to host the next Global Congress of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-descendants in 2027, following up on the success of the Brazzaville Congress last year; and AMAN will also host the AMAN National Congress in 2027, a massive convening of Indigenous Peoples from across Indonesia which brings together hundreds of thousands of people every ten years.



Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB)

AMPB faces a challenging context in 2026: the Mesoamerican region is suffering from increased political control, worsening criminalization, and mega-projects that are moving forward without consultation. Last year, changes in foreign aid led to funding cuts that were difficult for AMPB and its members. Yet there are also some encouraging developments: AMPB's fund, Fondo Territorial Mesoamericano (FTM) is advancing well and has invested \$2.2 million in projects which impacted 60,000 people; this is a strong sign despite broader funding challenges. AMPB is working to consolidate its operations and has now achieved legal status to establish a regional headquarters in Panama. Additionally, AMPB has been engaged in an ongoing process to systematize work around local communities. While they recognize that this is a challenging topic and that approaches to local communities vary across regions, they are committed to advancing a self-determined, collective understanding of local communities that ensures that the local community agenda is visible and that they are able to engage in advocacy.

In 2026, AMPB is honored to be taking on the work of hosting the GATC secretariat. Key priorities for the year include continued engagement with the Escazú agreement, participation in post-COP30 implementation efforts such as FCLP country workshops, and working on institutional strengthening and consolidating the FTM.

Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB)

COP30 marked a major milestone for APIB in 2025, with approximately 4,000 of the 5,000 Indigenous participants coming from Brazil and 400 of the 500 official and parallel events led by APIB's internal member organizations. We saw strong Indigenous representation, and the People's Summit gathered over 70,000 people from Indigenous and local community organizations, civil society, and other social movements. Last year also brought the demarcation of 27 Indigenous lands in Brazil and the launch of the PPTI (Indigenous Lands Protection Program). APIB also created Women and Youth Departments in 2025. Following up on these successes, APIB aims to increase Indigenous representation at the state and national level and hopes to have more Indigenous Peoples as electoral candidates in 2026. APIB will host the annual *ATL - Acampamento Terra Livre* this April, which will have the slogans "*Our Future Is Not For Sale*" and "*The Answer Is Us.*" APIB will also work to continue advancing its funding mechanism, the Jaguatá Fund, this year.

Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)

COICA aims to strengthen its Panamazonian organization through governance, territorial action, and advocacy. To strengthen its governance, COICA is advancing a process to reform its constitution and update its statutes. It aims to advance a platform for living knowledge with over 40 Indigenous co-researchers across 9 countries to conduct mappings and develop internal indicators for territorial



protections. In 2026, COICA will have leadership training to increase the efficacy of its advocacy in international platforms and work on capacity building for women and youth. COICA will also undertake institutional and operational strengthening work including establishing regular audits, clarifying operational procedures, and strengthening accountability systems. COICA is also working to advance their direct financing mechanism (Amazonia para la Vida), to develop their Amazon bio-economy program (Con-Amazonia), and to scale its protection efforts for defenders, women, and youth.

Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC)

REPALEAC's work is centered around two main pillars: land rights and capacity building. They are working to expand land recognition and to strengthen their territorial funding mechanism (the REPALEAC Fund) with the support of Shandia. In 2025, REPALEAC completed the implementation of its 2017–2025 Strategic Plan, which included advancing political influence on IP rights at national levels, strengthening governance processes through capacity building, and developing baseline evaluations and roadmaps to its 7M hectares target. A key milestone was the Brazzaville Congress, which REPALEAC hosted together with the GATC. REPALEAC has now renewed their strategic plan through 2030. Despite these successes, REPALEAC and its members are also facing increasing pressure from extractive industries and international agreements which are driving land and mineral exploitation. Key priorities for the year include following up on the global forest basins agenda started in Brazzaville and building structures to strengthen our evidence bases, including mapping and territorial data collection. This spring, REPALEAC hosted the “One Basin, One Vision” event, which was held in Kinshasa from March 9–12, marking a major milestone for the year.

Our ecosystem of allies

Our ongoing collaboration with a robust ecosystem of allies remains an essential component of our work in 2026. We will continue to advance our work alongside long-term partners and new collaborators who partner with us on advocacy, capacity strengthening, strategic convening, and resource mobilization. This ecosystem plays an essential role in enabling and strengthening our work and ensuring our meaningful engagement in global spaces.

In Panama, our allies and partners reaffirmed the critical support they will provide to the GATC in 2026, aligning their efforts to ensure our resilience in response to an increasingly complex global context and ongoing threats to Indigenous rights and livelihoods. This includes vital financial resources which will support the GATC's work throughout the year, including our participation in global events, our convening of members and partners to engage in dialogue and build solidarity across regions, our operational functions, our work to advance our five demands, and our support to our member organizations and movements.



Beyond financial support, our allies play many crucial roles: supporting us with fundraising, providing technical support and facilitating technical administration of funds, providing staff time, helping play a convening role among IPs and LCs and our allies, ensuring our effective participation in negotiation spaces, accompanying us in our advocacy, providing language training, helping develop our territorial funds, and more. They also engage in work that helps advance our demands, advocating for the implementation of commitments at COP30, working to advance land tenure recognition through the FCLP, working on land titling and mapping, and moving funds through our territorial funds.

Our network of strategic communications allies continue to provide diverse communications support around events, through campaigns and media engagement, and more, helping to uplift our demands and shape narratives to emphasize the role of IPs and LCs in climate and biodiversity solutions. A highlight of this collaboration last year was our “The Answer Is Us” campaign, which was built to emphasize our collective role in addressing environmental challenges in the lead-up to COP30. This initiative will continue as a campaign that provides a consistent message while adapting to ongoing challenges and regional contexts.

This year, we are also undertaking a learning journey in collaboration with Ford Foundation and CLUA, two of our long term partners. This will be an opportunity to reflect on the GATC’s creation and evolution and the contributions of our allies as we enter our second decade, helping ensure the continued strength and sustainability of our network.

This collaborative ecosystem of allies represents an ongoing commitment to deepen coordination, co-learning, and institutional strengthening, ensuring that emerging global opportunities translate into real, accessible, and sustained impact for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and our territories. We are grateful for these strong partnerships, which will help ensure a grounded impactful journey ahead.

OUR MOVEMENTS

Women’s Movement

In [2025](#) the women’s movement strengthened its political and territorial presence, with greater leadership alignment and support for the women’s agenda across the alliance. Key priorities were consolidated around biodiversity protection and restoration, Indigenous bioeconomy, land rights, climate action and the safeguarding of traditional knowledge- firmly grounded in the five demands. Important progress was made in advancing the integration of women within climate finance discussions, including initial analytical work to better position women’s participation in financing frameworks. The movement highlighted the central role of women as frontline defenders of territories,



knowledge holders of food sovereignty and cultural practices, and as first responders to the impacts of climate change.

In 2026, the movement will deepen its strategic positioning by reclaiming flagship moments such as the Pact for Life event at COP30 as a flagship platform with potential to expand, while reinforcing a coordinated agenda across the three COPs. A central focus will be addressing the criminalization and violence faced by women, children and communities in territories, while strengthening education and awareness among women leaders. Efforts will also reinforce alliances - learning from past engagements with partners such as FIMI and FILAC- and promote collective participation in global spaces rather than isolated representation. Financial advocacy remains a critical priority, with a strong emphasis on ensuring that resources flowing through territorial funds and platforms equitably reach women and youth. Governance and operational strengthening will continue to evolve, with ongoing discussions around leadership models, representation, and the integration of technical support structures- this includes proposals for a dedicated technical coordinator at the global level, technical leaders within each organization, and a transparent, democratic process for selecting technical support roles. Targeted capacity building in areas such as language, bioeconomy, and ancestral farming systems. This includes developing training materials aligned to the five demands and advancing the mapping efforts of actors, funding opportunities and sources of technical support.

Youth Movement

2025 achievements

In 2025 , the youth movement with the GATC advanced significantly in both structure and reach. Key milestones included the reintegration of COICA into the youth agenda, adjustments in political representation and thematic leadership, and securing funding for a communications strategy. A major focus was the consolidation of regional youth movements beyond AMAN, with dedicated budget lines enabling national-level organization, including APIB's first national youth assembly. The movement also strengthened capacities through autonomous territorial training processes and a regional workshop on UN frameworks - featuring participation from COICA and AMPB - that convened more than 200 youth participants. Additional efforts included support for local authorities, the mapping of youth organizations and allies, and the expansion of relationships with global youth networks to build a stronger ecosystem.

The movement identified gaps in procedures, organizational flows, and technical capacity (project management, budgeting, diagnostics, databases, accounting), and the need to diversify its mapping of allies .Roles were clarified across regions (AMPB/REPALEAC: political support; AMAN/APIB: thematic leadership; COICA: consolidation), with the need for regional spokespersons and dedicated full-time technical support for the youth movement.



In 2026, the movement is aligned around key priority areas: land rights, direct financing, and the protection of traditional knowledge. Participation in key global spaces will be more strategic, prioritizing fewer engagements with clear outcomes and collective representation. At the same time, the movement seeks to deepen intergenerational, cultural and linguistic exchange within territories, recognizing these are essential for continuity and legitimacy. Financial advocacy focuses on embedding youth within territorial funds and improving coordination with member organizations to ensure resources effectively reach local movements. Looking ahead, the movement will focus on consolidating its territorial base through diagnostics, regional exchanges, and strengthened local structures, including assemblies, planning spaces, and community-based initiatives. Key priorities include establishing dedicated technical support within the Secretariat, refining governance and decision-making structures, and improving autonomy. Upcoming actions include advancing intergenerational knowledge processes, strengthening youth advocacy in community education spaces, and building clearer pathways between territorial work and global advocacy for youth agendas.

GOVERNANCE AGREEMENTS

In 2026, the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) took key steps to strengthen its governance model, reinforcing transparency, operational clarity and alignment with its member-led structure. Building on over a decade of collective leadership, the GATC formalized an updated governance framework that strengthens coordination and enhances the effectiveness of our global and territorial work while advancing a model that bridges territorial governance systems with the procedural requirements of partners and allies.

Strengthening the Secretariat Structure

In September 2025 in New York, our GATC leadership revised the structure of our secretariat. Rather than serving as an independent team, we transferred the secretariat to work under a member organization. This new model will commence with AMPB as the host of the secretariat for two years. This shift reinforces our commitment to a member-led model, helping strengthen the capacities of our member organizations while bringing our operational functions closer to territorial leadership. The GATC also agreed to prioritize hiring Indigenous staff at all levels of our organization, including for technical positions.

Governance Model Formalization

During our Annual Planning Meetings in Panama, the GATC formally approved its new governance model, providing a clearer framework for decision-making, coordination, and accountability across our organization. Under our revised structure, the GATC will continue to operate with the support of Rainforest Foundation US, but AMPB will serve as the host of the secretariat. As host, they will contract



and manage technical staff and budget administration in coordination with the Executive Secretary, ensuring greater alignment between political direction and operational execution. This model builds on existing structures while introducing greater clarity in roles and operational flows.

Operational Leadership and Capacity

To strengthen day-to-day coordination and implementation, the GATC approved the creation of a Chief of Staff / Operations Director role. This position will support the Executive Secretary and coordinate the Secretariat's technical team, improving internal efficiency and delivery across priorities.

In parallel, the Alliance reaffirmed its commitment to prioritizing Indigenous professionals in both technical and political roles.

Strengthening Alliance Cohesion

As part of its commitment to unity, the GATC agreed on measures that will support the reintegration of COICA into the Global Alliance's leadership structure. Beginning in September 2026, the co-chair role will transition to COICA, rather than to AMAN, following the completion of REPALEAC's term.

Advancing the Manual of Procedures

In New York, the GATC also agreed to revise its Manual of Procedures to align its operational framework with its evolving structure and ensure the document is grounded in Indigenous values and cosmovisions, through a consultative process with member organizations and leadership validation. This marks a deliberate shift in which governance is not defined by external, "westernized" procedures, but by Indigenous relational principles that act as the foundation from which administrative systems emerge and evolve. Positioned as a living document, the Manual will become a shared framework linking territorial governance systems with the requirements of partners and allies. The revision of this document is ongoing.

2026 BUDGET

The GATC leadership has unanimously approved our 2026 Budget, which aims to support our ongoing advocacy and communications and our effective operations. A detailed budget is linked in full below.

Key approvals and decisions

During the annual planning meeting, the leadership approved the creation of a Chief of Staff/Operations Director role. They also agreed to continue exploring work on Indigenous Economies, approved the women's and youth movement budgets, and allocated \$75,000 for the annual grant to each GATC member organization. These decisions are reflected in the budget.



Budget details

As in past years, our complete 2026 budget is publicly accessible, reflecting our commitment to transparency and collaborative government. The attached budget document is a living tool that will evolve throughout the year alongside emerging needs and opportunities. The budget is structured in the following categories:

- 1. Governance and operations**

Includes GATC secretariat personnel, translation, interpretation for online meetings, equipment and connectivity costs, and communications.

- 2. Organizational strengthening: GATC**

Includes the budget for our annual planning meeting and a consultancy to finalize our manual of procedures and policies.

- 3. Organizational strengthening: GATC member organizations**

Includes member organizations' liaison officers, communications support, \$75,000 for each members' own organizational strengthening activities, and regional events.

- 4. GATC women's movement**

- 5. GATC youth movement**

- 6. Emerging projects and programs**

Includes funding to support our ongoing work on Indigenous Economies.

- 7. Shandia journey**

Includes personnel and activities under our Shandia Platform.

- 8. GATC global advocacy work**

Includes funding to support our engagement at major international events to advocate for our demands and fundraising management.

In the budget, three columns are detailed for each budgeted line item, as follows:

- Budget: The total amount needed for each activity.
- Fixed: The amount of the budget covered by existing funding sources.
- Gap: The amount of support needed in order to fully implement the budget, indicates insufficient funding.

Our budget reflects US\$1.29 million in available funds, including both restricted and flexible funding. This leaves a gap of \$4.44 million to fulfill our aspirational budget and carry out our planned work for the year.

The full budget can be found here: [X BUDGET 2026 presentation.xlsx](#)



Ongoing fundraising needs

As of March 2026, the GATC budget reflects a deficit of **US\$4.44 million**. This shortfall spans all areas of our work, most notably in our support to our member organizations and movements and in our global advocacy work. As we enter a new era coming out of COP30, it is essential that we address these gaps to ensure that our communities' needs and priorities are reflected.

The GATC is actively engaging in fundraising efforts to help close this gap. This includes engaging our existing donors for renewed or increased support as well as seeking new funding opportunities aligned with the GATC's mission and our 2026 priorities.

