Global Alliance of Territorial Communities

RAINFOREST FOUNDATION US

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities–Led Financing Mechanisms:

Mapping of Existing Funds in Tropical Forest Countries

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1. Introduction

The Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF) is a proposed global finance mechanism designed to reward tropical forest countries for conserving their forest. The idea was put forward by Brazil, among other countries, and is envisioned to leverage both public and private capital to generate a long-term, predictable, performance-based fund.[1]

Within the TFFF architecture, a Dedicated Financial Allocation component is proposed, an instrument that earmarks a portion of payments received by tropical forest countries for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs and LCs), so that those who steward the forests can benefit directly. Current agreements suggest setting a minimum share of forest payments (at least 20%) to be passed down to IPs and LCs, either directly or via country-based funding mechanisms.

IPs and LCs play a crucial role in conserving forest ecosystems, protecting biodiversity, and maintaining carbon stocks. Their traditional stewardship, territorial rights, and local governance systems are often on the front lines of preventing deforestation, forest degradation, and biodiversity loss. Recognizing and supporting their rights and capacities is not only a matter of justice but is also vital for effective and sustainable global forest governance. However, some key statistics have recently underscored the very large gaps in funding they receive:

- ➔ During the 2010s, only about 1% of all climate finance was directed to Indigenous Peoples.[2]
- ➔ Of all the funding allocated over 2013-2023 to support Indigenous Peoples' tenure rights and forest management, only 17% included an Indigenous Peoples' organization (or local community organizations) directly.[3]
- ➔ In that period, funding with Indigenous Peoples' organization involvement amounted to only about 0.13% of all climate change aid.[4]

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[1] Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, Brazil, et al. *Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF): Full Concept Note 2.0*. February 24, 2025. Global Forest Coalition. https://globalforestcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-02-24-TFFF-Full-Concept-Note-2.0-Final.pdf

[2] Rainforest Foundation Norway. "Indigenous Peoples Receive Little Climate Funding." *Rainforest Foundation Norway*, accessed September 21, 2025. https://www.regnskog.no/en/news/falling-short

[3] Rainforest Foundation Norway. "Indigenous Peoples Receive Little Climate Funding." *Rainforest Foundation Norway*, accessed September 21, 2025. https://www.regnskog.no/en/news/falling-short

[4] Darcie, Sarah. "The Right to Self-Determined Funding for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities." Climate Champions. December 5, 2023. https://www.climatechampions.net/news/the-right-to-self-determined-funding-for-indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities/

Between 2020 and 2023, funding for IPs and LCs has scaled up. Annual funding averaged $517 million, which is about one-third more than the average for the four years prior.[5] This period also saw an increase in funds led by IPs and LCs.

These mechanisms have not been systematically documented or analyzed. As a result, it remains unclear how many exist, what forms they take, and therefore which initiatives can be scaled up or replicated. This analysis aims to inform the design of the TFFF's Dedicated Financial Allocation component and to help ensure that IPs and LCs are recognized as full partners and rights-holders in forest finance.

To achieve this, we:

- Map existing IPs and LCs-led financing mechanisms in tropical forest countries, focusing on 26 countries;
- Analyze their financial setups, legal status, governance, and decision-making processes; and
- Examine regional patterns and trends, highlighting similarities and differences across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

This report is organized as follows: Section 2 outlines the mapping methodology. Section 3 presents general trends from the mapping. Section 4 examines the mechanisms' financial setups, while Section 5 focuses on their legal setups. Section 6 explores governance structures and decision-making processes. Finally, Section 7 summarizes key conclusions.

Box 1. Key concepts used in this mapping

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs and LCs). While there is no single universal definition of IPs and LCs, this term often refers to peoples and communities with customary or traditional governance over territories, recognized or asserted rights to land and forests, and collective authority to determine how resources and finance are used within them.[6] In line with international instruments such as the ILO Convention No. 169, the UN system, and the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standard 7, Indigenous Peoples are generally characterized by self-identification, historical continuity with pre-colonial societies, distinct cultural and political systems, and strong ties to territories and natural resources. Local communities refer to groups with long-standing, place-based connections and traditional environmental knowledge, which in some countries are legally or administratively

[5] Rights and Resources Initiative**.** *The State of Funding for Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Tenure and Forest Guardianship: A Summary Brief.* Washington, DC: Rights and Resources Initiative, 2023. https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2023-State-of-Funding_Brief-EN.pdf

[6] Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. *Shandia: Direct Financing for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities*. Accessed September 21, 2025.

recognized. IPs and LCs may be formally organized (through federations, cooperatives, or associations) or through informal or customary structures.

Financing mechanisms. We use the term financial mechanism to refer to any structured fund that mobilizes and channels resources to support IPs and LCs. These mechanisms may operate through different financial setups and take diverse legal forms. What unites them is a dedicated pool of resources, a governance structure with decision-making authority over allocation, and defined procedures for disbursing support to rightsholder groups and their organizations.

Territorial funds. Territorial funds refer to financial mechanisms managed and led directly by IPs and LCs or networks, with no or minimal external intermediation. They channel and govern resources within their territories to support collective priorities such as territorial governance, rights protection, ecosystem stewardship, and self-determined development. Rooted in the principle of direct access and alignment with communities' own governance systems, values, and decision-making, these funds strengthen long-term territorial autonomy and accountability.

Intermediary organizations. Intermediary organizations bridge external funders (e.g., bilateral and multilateral donors, philanthropic foundations) and IPs and LCs. They channel resources, provide technical support, ensure compliance, and oversee monitoring. Yet their proximity to IPs and LCs varies greatly. Some, such as IPs and LCs federations and networks, are led and governed by IPs and LCs and are therefore more accountable to rights-holders. At the same time, civil society NGOs and philanthropic foundations often play intermediary roles with varying degrees of closeness to IPs and LCs. Multistakeholder funds and agencies add another layer, blending donor and government oversight with partial community representation. Differentiating these forms is essential, since the degree of IPs and LCs' ownership and decision-making power determines how direct a funding pathway truly is.

2. Methodology

The research to build this mapping involved four steps: defining selection criteria, compiling a list of relevant financial mechanisms, describing them in detail using a selection of key variables, and validating the list and descriptions with key partners.

Step 1. Selection criteria

We identified IPs and LCs-led financial mechanisms across 26 priority countries. We focused on the 24 countries represented by the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, which encompass much of the world's tropical forest area. We concentrated on this subset rather than the full list of 75 TFFF

priority countries to make the study more feasible. From the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities list, we excluded four countries—Venezuela, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Chad—due to ongoing political instability, limited democratic space, and minimal recent funding flows. French Guiana was also excluded as it is not a sovereign country. To strengthen regional balance and representation, we added seven tropical forest countries not on the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities list: Malaysia, Ghana, India, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The final list of countries, organized by region, is presented in the following table.

Region	Countries included
Africa (6)	Cameroon; Central African Republic; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Gabon; Republic of the Congo; Ghana
Asia and the Pacific (7)	India; Indonesia; Malaysia; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Thailand; Viet Nam
Latin America (13)	Costa Rica; Guatemala; Honduras; Panama; Belize; Mexico; Brazil; Colombia; Ecuador; Peru; Plurinational State of Bolivia; Guyana; Suriname

Defining what constitutes a financial mechanism can be challenging, as this term is often used to describe a wide range of arrangements. For this mapping, we emphasize the entire pipeline through which resources flow from donors to IPs and LCs. In this sense, a financial mechanism refers to funds mobilized, managed, and disbursed from donors to IPs and LCs actors. The pipeline includes the donor or funding source, any intermediaries or hosting entities, and the governance arrangements that determine how resources ultimately reach IPs and LCs. Therefore, a single NGO or program that merely channels grants on behalf of a donor would not, in itself, constitute a distinct financial mechanism.

Neither defining a clear line around what constitutes an IPs or LCs-led fund is straightforward. Many mechanisms fall into grey areas where decision-making power is shared with state agencies or donor institutions. This mapping focuses on mechanisms led or co-led by IPs and LCs, meaning that IPs and LCs exercise meaningful influence over the mechanisms' design, financial resources, decision-making, and/or governance. To operationalize this, a mechanism qualifies as IPs and LCs-led in this mapping when:

- IPs and LCs define the purposes and uses of finance, in whole or in part, and/or
- IPs and LCs play a central role in governance (through their chosen representatives), including in the design of rules, decision-making structures, or oversight bodies.[7]

[7] See also: Rights and Resources Initiative & Rainforest Foundation Norway. Funding with Purpose: A Study to Inform Donor Support for Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Rights, Climate, and Conservation. September 2022. https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/FundingWithPurpose_v7_compressed.pdf

We only included mechanisms for which evidence of IPs and LCs leadership was available. This necessarily means that some relevant mechanisms may have been excluded due to a lack of publicly accessible information.

Since most rightsholder organizations receive relatively small grants, small-scale funds are included in the mapping when they demonstrate sustained operation.

To maintain analytical focus, the mapping applied the following exclusions:

- *One-time programs*. One-time grants or short-lived programs without continuity.
- *Funds unrelated to forest communities*. Resource-sharing or compensation mechanisms (e.g., mining-related funds in forested countries) are excluded.
- *Payments for ecosystem services and benefit-sharing mechanisms*. We excluded funds solely based on payments for ecosystem services and benefit-sharing to keep the analysis focused and the sample size manageable. Nonetheless, these can be relevant for informing the design of IP- and LC-led financial mechanisms, particularly when their governance structures grant IPs and LCs meaningful authority over resource allocation.
- *Wildlife management, protected areas, and community-generated mechanisms.* We excluded funds that are self-generated or tied only to managing protected areas or wildlife. This includes money from park fees, tourism revenue, community cooperatives, savings groups, and local enterprises (such as handicraft or forest product sales). We did this to keep the sample size manageable and to focus specifically on resources provided by outside sources.
- *Proposals and non-operational funds*. Announced or proposed initiatives that had not become operational by September 2025 are excluded.

Step 2. Gathering mechanisms

To gather data on relevant IPs and LCs' financial mechanisms, we conducted Boolean searches across the 26 countries covered in the study to build an initial list of mechanisms. Search strings combined terms such as *"Indigenous Peoples fund," "territorial fund," "community forest finance," "Indigenous climate fund," "fonds communautaire,"* and *"fondo territorial,"* along with equivalents in local languages.

We used ChatGPT-5 as an assistant to help automate and expand this process. The model was prompted to generate and refine search queries in multiple languages, identify relevant hits from online sources, and produce short descriptive summaries of each mechanism it surfaced. These descriptions provided enough information to assess whether a case fit our inclusion criteria or should be excluded. This step was essential in broadening coverage beyond well-documented funds, while maintaining a consistent screening process for inclusion in the final mapping.

To cross-check our data, we used the Path to Scale dashboard. The dashboard compiles publicly available information—primarily from the International Aid Transparency Initiative database—to

visualize funding flows relevant to IPs and LCs. It provides a consolidated, comparable view of bilateral and multilateral commitments. However, the P2S dashboard is limited by the scope of IATI reporting. It underrepresents financial contributions from private philanthropic foundations, which tend to be among the main funders of territorial and IPs and LCs-led funds.[8]

Step 3. Detailed description

We described each fund in detail using a set of variables that covered financial setup, legal status, and governance. The complete list of variables is presented in the appendix.

Key challenges during this process included limited public information for many cases, particularly regarding legal status, governance, and fund disbursement. Additionally, classification was difficult due to the wide variation in terminology across countries and between customary and statutory institutions. This also means that some relevant mechanisms may not have been included simply because adequate publicly available evidence of IPs and LCs leadership could not be verified.

As a result, the analysis should be interpreted as a best-available snapshot rather than a comprehensive account of existing mechanisms.

Step 4. Validation

To ensure accuracy, we shared the list of mechanisms with trusted counterparts in Latin America, Asia, and Africa, including IPs and LCs networks and allied organizations. These reviewers corrected misclassifications and provided additional details. This peer validation helped reduce bias from relying solely on public documentation.

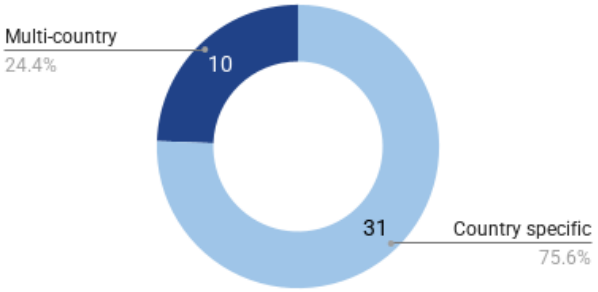
3. General trends

3.1 Geographical distribution

This mapping identified 42 mechanisms. The vast majority (77%) are country-specific rather than multi-country in scope.

[8] Rights and Resources Initiative and Rainforest Foundation Norway (2024). State of Funding for Tenure Rights and Forest Guardianship: Donor Funding for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-Descendant Peoples in Tropical Forested Countries (2011–2023). Washington, DC: Rights and Resources Initiative; Forest Tenure Funders Group. *Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge: Annual Report 2023–2024.* 2024. PDF. Accessed September 26, 2025. https://forestclimateleaders.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FTTG-Annual-Report-2023-2024-EN.pdf

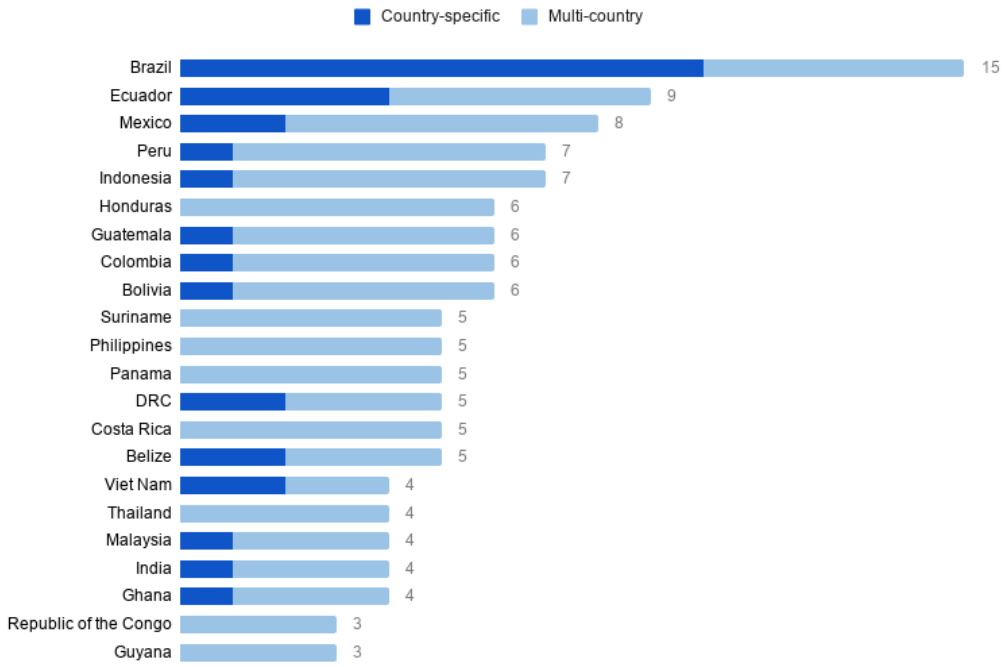
Figure 1. Number of multi-country and country-specific mechanisms



However, as Figure 2 illustrates, the majority of mechanisms present in each country tend to be multi-country funds rather than funds created solely at the country level. In 8 of the 26 countries analyzed, we could not identify country-specific mechanisms; instead, we found only multi-country mechanisms. This reflects that IPs and LCs' financing ecosystems today are still strongly driven by regional and global architectures rather than domestically designed funds. At the same time, Brazil stands out as a clear exception: it has developed a much larger concentration of country-specific funds, indicating comparatively higher levels of national institutionalization of IPs and LCs' financial mechanisms within domestic territorial politics and organizations.

Figure 2 also shows that while Brazil is the single country with the most identified mechanisms (15), many other tropical forest countries exhibit significant activity, especially Ecuador (9), followed by Peru (9) and Mexico (8).

Figure 2. Number of mechanisms per country



As Figure 3 shows, Latin America and the Caribbean dominate both multi-country and country-specific mechanisms. Of the 10 multi-country mechanisms mapped, 8 have presence in Latin America and the Caribbean, 7 in Asia-Pacific, and 3 in Asia. The regional difference is more pronounced for country-specific mechanisms: 23 are present in Latin America and the Caribbean, 6 in Asia-Pacific, and 3 in Africa.

Figure 3. Number of multi-country and country-specific mechanisms by regional presence

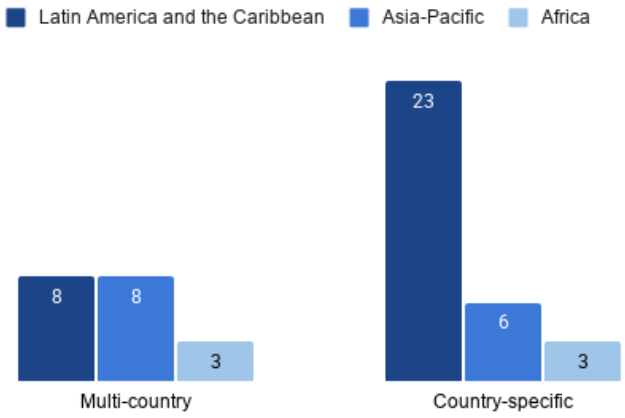


Table 1 provides a summary of the multi-country mechanisms included in this mapping.

Table 1. Multi-country mechanisms

Mechanism	Description	Tropical forest countries covered[9]
Global scope		
AYNI Indigenous Women's Fund	Created and directed by and for Indigenous Women (FIMI), which mobilizes and co-invests financial and other resources to strengthen Indigenous Women's organizations. Its objective is to achieve compliance with their human rights, promote economic autonomy, and support leadership in protecting land, territory, and addressing climate change.	Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Vietnam, and others.[10]

[9] Country counts reflect only tropical forest countries listed in official mechanism sources; some mechanisms operate in additional countries not shown here. Moreover, this includes countries listed as part of the mechanism or eligible, but does not necessarily mean they have active funds.
[10] International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI). "The AYNI Indigenous Women's Fund." Accessed October 15, 2025. https://fimi-iiwf.org/en/our-programs/the-ayni-indigenous-womens-fund-program/

Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM)	A global initiative under the World Bank Climate Investment Funds (CIF), primarily financed through its Forest Investment Program (FIP), that provides direct grants and technical support to IPs and LCs. Its goal is to strengthen the capacity and effective participation of IPs and LCs in activities that reduce deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and promote sustainable forest management.	Brazil, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Mozambique, Peru, and the Republic of the Congo.[11]
Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF)	An innovative funding instrument, established by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, that provides small grants (typically US$20,000 to US$70,000) directly to IPs and their organizations. The facility supports self-driven development initiatives that build on IP's culture, identity, knowledge, livelihood activities, and rights. Projects focus on securing rights to land, territories, and resources; biodiversity conservation; climate change adaptation; and food security. The facility is co-managed at the regional level by IPs organizations.	Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Vietnam.[12]
Keepers of the Earth Fund	An Indigenous-led small grants fund that supports Indigenous values-based community development and advocacy projects globally. It directly funds grassroots Indigenous communities and organizations for self-determined projects that align with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Focus areas include land defense, Indigenous governance, cultural preservation, and food sovereignty.	Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Honduras, India (Northern India), Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, United States, Venezuela.[13]
Pawanka Fund	Indigenous-led global fund making flexible grants to strengthen traditional knowledge, leadership, and territorial defense.	Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Venezuela, Vietnam, Vanuatu, Taiwan.

[11] The Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. "Country Projects." Accessed October 15, 2025. https://www.dgmglobal.org/countries.
[12] International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). "Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility." Accessed October 15, 2025. https://www.ifad.org/en/initiatives/indigenous-peoples-assistance-facility.
[13] Cultural Survival. "Keepers of the Earth Fund (KOEF)." Cultural Survival. Accessed October 15, 2025. https://www.culturalsurvival.org/koef.

Regional scope		
Amazonía Para la Vida / 80x25	A global initiative led by COICA to secure permanent legal protection for at least 80% of the Amazon Basin to prevent the biome's tipping point. It includes all sovereign nations and one overseas territory with Amazonian land.	Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela (+ French Guiana).[14]
FILAC (Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe)	An international public law organization created in 1992 to support the self-development processes and promotion of the rights of IPs and organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its objective is to recognize the integrity of their territories, their fundamental rights, and their sociocultural heritage, operating with equal representation between States and IP.	Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela (+ French Guiana).[15]
Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund (IPAS)	The first IPs-led funding mechanism in Asia, established to provide direct access to funds to support self-determined needs and priorities, including the protection of Indigenous territories, forest guardianship, and biodiversity conservation across tropical Asia.	Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand[16]
Mesoamerican Territorial Fund	Regional, IPs and LCs-designed and IPs and LCs-managed financing mechanism created by the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests to channel direct, low-transaction-cost support to Indigenous and local community territorial initiatives (livelihoods, rights consolidation, conservation, and policy engagement).	Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama.[17]
Samdhana Institute – Small Grants	A program that provides flexible and direct financial support, including small grants (up to USD 30,000) and urgent action grants, to IPs and LCs and grassroots organizations for social and environmental justice, focusing on land rights and sustainable natural resource management.	Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam[18]

[14] COICA and Stand.earth. "Declaration." Amazonia 80x2025-2030. Accessed October 15, 2025. https://amazonia80x2025-2030.earth/declaration/.

[15] Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y El Caribe (FILAC). Estados miembros. Accessed October 15, 2025. https://www.filac.org/estados-miembros/

[16] Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund (IPAS). "About." Accessed October 15, 2025. https://ipasfund.org/about/.

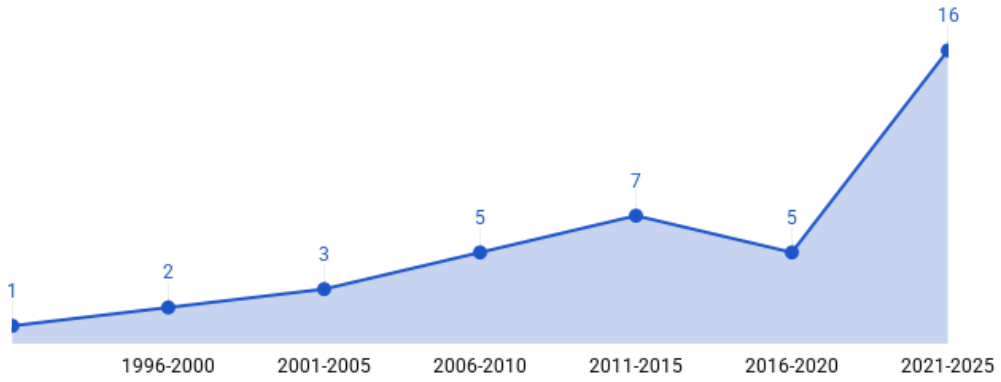
[17] Mesoamerican Territorial Fund (FTM). Who we are. Accessed October 15, 2025. https://fondomesoamericano.org/en/home-en/.

[18] Samdhana Institute. "Funding the Un-fundables." Accessed October 15, 2025. https://www.samdhana.org/sites/default/files/publication/Funding%20the%20%20Un-fundables.pd.

3.2 Temporal distribution

Figure 2 shows the number of mechanisms implemented over time. It shows an acceleration in the establishment of IPs and LCs-led financing mechanisms over the last decade. After a relatively low emergence before 2010, the creation of new mechanisms increased markedly in the 2011–2015 period. Recent years show the sharpest rise in activity, with 16 new mechanisms established between 2021 and 2025.

Figure 4. Number of mechanisms per year of establishment



Box 1. Announced or proposed mechanisms

This mapping identified several publicly proposed mechanisms that are still in formation. These mechanisms are important because they signal where new direct-access finance for IPs and LCs may emerge soon.

REPALEAC regional mechanism (Central Africa). Announced in May 2023 at the Brazzaville forum as a new Indigenous-led funding mechanism to support ILC women and advance "30×30," with continued visibility via REPALEAC partnerships at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP16 (2024). Priority now is converting the announcement into a capitalized, IPs and LCs-governed window.[19]

[19] African Business, "New Funding Mechanism Initiated for Indigenous and Local Community Women in Central Africa to Achieve 30×30 Goals," May 15, 2023, https://african.business/2023/05/apo-newsfeed/new-funding-mechanism-initiated-for-indigenous-and-local-community-women-in-central-africa-to-achieve-30x30-goals; FSC Indigenous Foundation, "Partnership with REPALEAC for Indigenous Peoples' Rights, Economies, and Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa," Oct 23, 2024, https://www.fscindigenousfoundation.org/partnership-with-repaleac-for-indigenous-peoples-rights-economies-and-forest-ecosystems-in-central-africa/

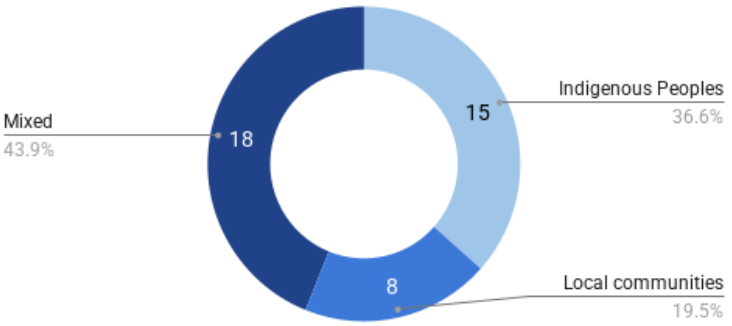
ONAMIAP – Indigenous Women's Climate Fund (Peru). Peru's environment ministry announced at COP28 (Oct–Dec 2023) an intent to create a climate fund for Indigenous women; ONAMIAP publicly clarified that an Indigenous-governed women's fund is needed (Dec 11, 2023) and continues to advocate for design aligned with direct access and self-governance.[20]

Fondo de Cabeceras Sagradas / Sacred Headwaters Fund (Peru). Outlined in the Bioregional Plan 2030 for the Amazon Sacred Headwaters (Ecuador–Peru), the fund is proposed as a long-term financing vehicle jointly administered with Indigenous Peoples organizations to protect source waters and biocultural territories; it remains in design and advocacy.[21]

3.3 Communities attended

Across the 39 mechanisms mapped, the majority are designed to reach IPs and/or LCs, with varying degrees of overlap between these constituencies. As shown in Figure 3, 16 mechanisms (41%) are led or primarily serve IPs, while an equal share—16 mechanisms (41%)—operate under mixed governance, serving both IPs and LCs. A smaller group of 7 mechanisms (17.9%) is focused exclusively on LCs, such as Afro-descendant, peasant, or traditional forest-dependent groups.

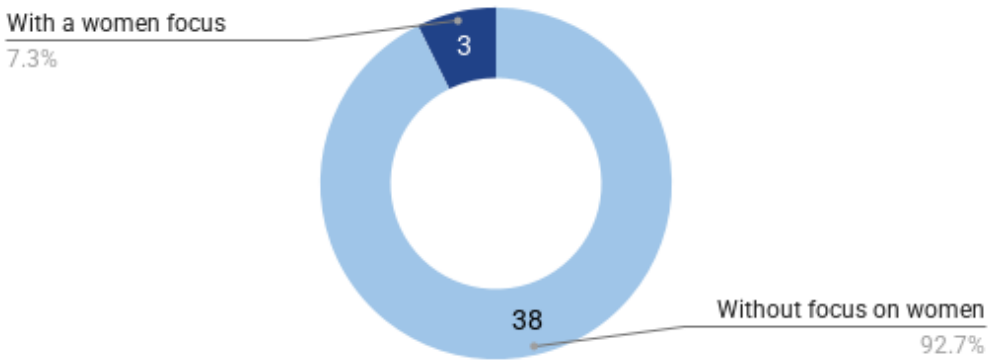
Figure 5. Number of mechanisms led by and focused on IPs vs LCs



[20] MINAM, "En la COP 28, Perú impulsará… Fondo climático para mujeres indígenas," Oct 19, 2023, https://www.gob.pe/institucion/minam/noticias/853039-en-la-cop-28-peru-impulsara-la-creacion-de-un-fondo-de-perdidas-y-danos-y-un-fondo-climatico-para-mujeres-indigenas ; ONAMIAP, "COP28: MINAM lanza fondo climático para mujeres indígenas sin aprobación…," Dec 11, 2023,https://www.onamiap.org/post/cop28-minam-lanza-fondo-clim%C3%A1tico-para-mujeres-ind%C3%ADgenas-sin-aprobaci%C3%B3n-de-nuestras-organizaciones

[21] Ecojurisprudence Monitor, "Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative Bioregional Plan 2030," https://ecojurisprudence.org/initiatives/amazon-sacred-headwaters-initiative-bioregional-plan-2030/ ; Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance, "Home," https://sacredheadwaters.org/

Only three mechanisms (7.7%) in the mapping include a dedicated women-centered focus. The three are: AYNI Indigenous Women's Fund, a global Indigenous women's fund that channels flexible resources to community organizations; FILAC's "Fondo Saq' Be'" (Mesoamerican Indigenous Women's revitalization fund), designed to strengthen Indigenous women's leadership and territorial initiatives across Mesoamerica; and the Fondo Indígena Mujer Amazónica (FIMA), which supports Amazonian Indigenous women's economic, cultural, and environmental projects. The limited share of gender-focused mechanisms underscores a persistent gap in territorial finance, given women's central roles in forest governance and livelihoods.

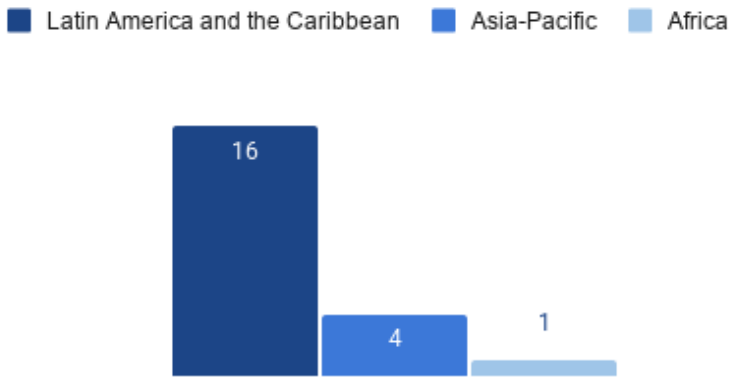


3.4 Territorial funds

Of the 42 IPs and LCs-led mechanisms mapped, 21 correspond to territorial funds. Figure 3 shows their regional distribution. Territorial funds are overwhelmingly concentrated in Latin America and the Caribbean, which accounts for 16 of the 21 identified mechanisms.

Several of these territorial funds are country-specific and are established by Indigenous Peoples or community federations at national or subnational levels. Examples include the Fundo Dema, Fundo Babaçu, Fundo Podáali, Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro, and Fundo Puxirum in Brazil; the Fondo Ambiental Regional de la Chinantla Oaxaca in Mexico; and the Fundo Indígena Rutî in Roraima. Others operate across multiple countries or regions, such as the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund, the Pawanka Fund, and the Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund, which provide flexible, transboundary support through Indigenous Peoples networks.

Figure 6. Territorial funds by region



Recent years have seen a sharp acceleration in the creation of new territorial funds. Of the 21 mechanisms identified, nine were established since 2020. Table 2 lists all identified territorial funds and their years of establishment, illustrating both the historical depth of some mechanisms (e.g., Fundo Dema, 2003) and the recent wave of innovation (e.g., Nusantara Fund, Fundo Jaguatá, and WaoYasuní Financial Platform, all created between 2023 and 2024).

Table 2. List of territorial funds and years of establishment

Fundo Dema (Brazil)	2003
Fundo Quilombola Mizizi Dudu (Brazil)	2008
Fondo Ambiental Regional de la Chinantla Oaxaca (Mexico)	2010
Fundo Babaçu (Brazil)	2012
Fundo Timbira (Brazil)	2013
TONIBUNG Renewable Energy Fund (Malaysia)	2013
Fundo Autônomo de Mulheres Rurais da Amazônia "Luzia Dorothy do Espírito Santo" (Brazil)	2014
Pawanka Fund (mult-country)	2014
Fundo Podáali (Brazil)	2020
Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro FIRM (Brazil)	2021
Mesoamerican Territorial Fund (multi-country)	2021
Fondo INDII (Colombia)	2022
Fundo Indígena RUTÎ (Brazil)	2022
Fundo Puxirum (Brazil)	2022
Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund (multi-country)	2023
Nusantara Fund (Indonesia)	2023
Fundo Jaguatá (Brazil)	2024
Indigenous Business Incubator (Ecuador)	2024
WaoYasuní Financial Platform (Ecuador)	2024

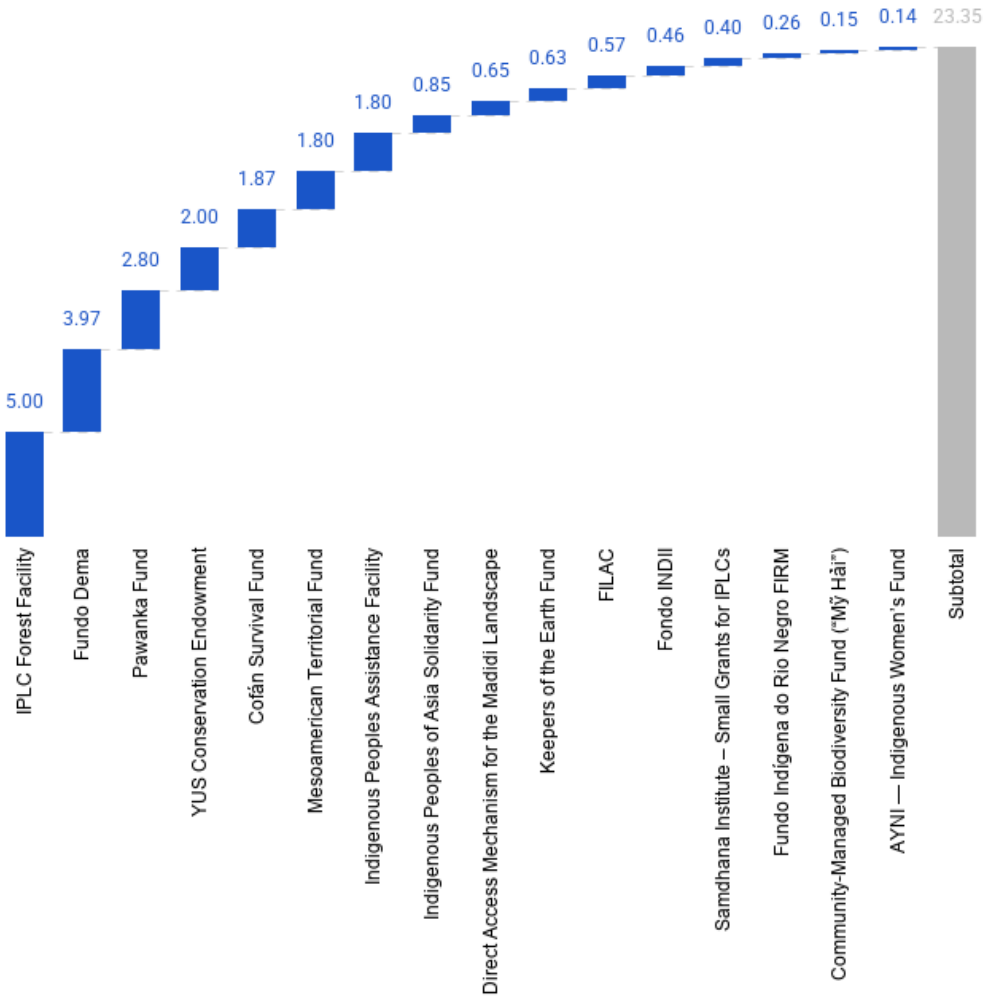
3.5 Funding scale

Information on the financial scale of IPs and LCs–led mechanisms remains limited. Only a small subset of the mechanisms mapped have publicly available data on total capitalization, disbursements, or annual funding volumes. Most mechanisms either do not disclose their capitalization or report it in non-comparable ways.

The chart below provides an indicative snapshot based on the latest years available, showing total amounts in million U.S. dollars. Figures are drawn primarily from the Path to Scale Funding Dashboard, complemented by information disclosed in fund websites, annual reports, and related donor communications.

Despite these limitations, the data illustrate the diversity of scales among existing mechanisms—from small territorial or thematic funds managing below one million USD to multi-country and blended facilities operating in the range of several million. Larger mechanisms include the IPs and LCs Forest Facility (DRC), Fundo Dema (Brazil), and Pawanka Fund (multi-country).

Figure 7. Funding scale of selected IPs and LCs-led mechanisms (latest available data, million USD)[22]



[22] Funding amounts were compiled from two main sources.
(1) Path to Scale Funding Dashboard (2024 edition) — provides multi-year funding data for five mechanisms covering the 2021–2024 period:

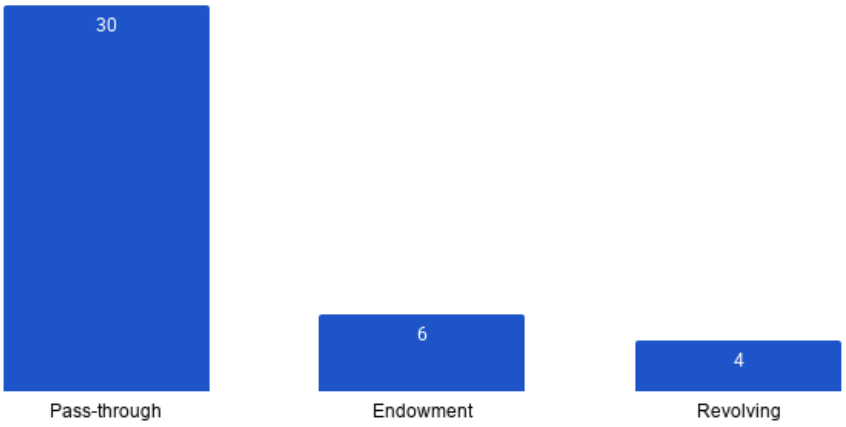
- Keepers of the Earth Fund (KOEF) – total of USD 0.625 million (2021–2023).
- Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) – USD 0.57 million (2021–2024).
- Samdhana Institute – Small Grants for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs and LCs) – USD 0.40 million (2021–2024).
- Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro (FIRM) – USD 0.261 million (2021–2024).
- AYNI Indigenous Women's Fund (International Indigenous Women's Forum – FIMI) – USD 0.139 million (2021–2023)

(2) Other public sources — financial information for the remaining mechanisms was collected from official fund websites, partner publications, and donor communications.

4. Financial setups

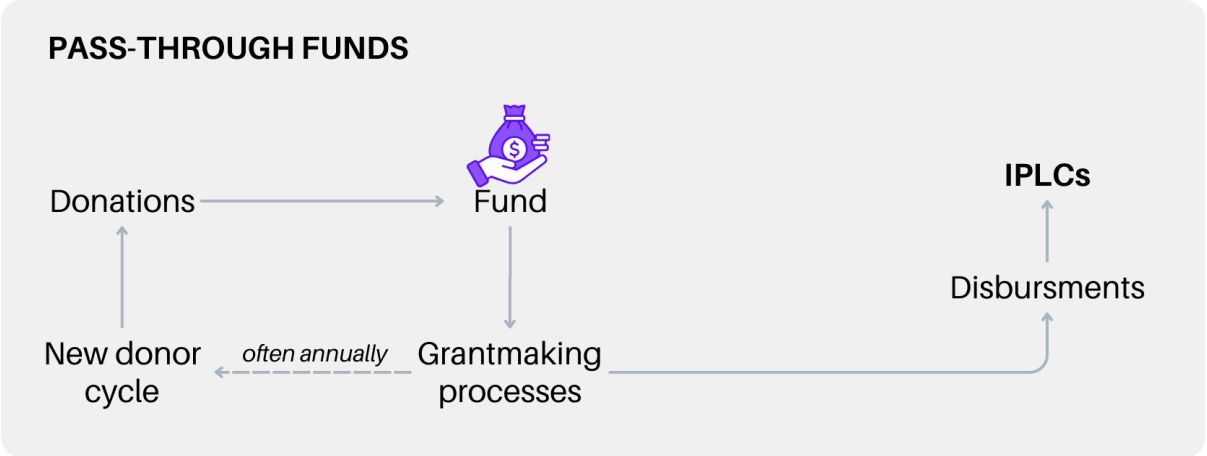
The gathered financial mechanisms commonly contain four main types of financial setups. While funds often combine elements of multiple models, these categories capture the dominant financial logics at play.

Figure 8. Number of funds per primary type of financial setup



4.1 Pass-through funds

This is the most common financial setup in the mapping. In this setup, donations or donor contributions are received by a fund and directly re-granted to IPs and LCs, usually through a grantmaking process. No capital is retained or recycled, making sustainability dependent on fresh donor inflows.



Some examples include:

Multi-country mechanisms	Country-specific mechanisms
• **AYNI Indigenous Women's Fund**. Re-grants to Indigenous women's organizations for rights, leadership, economic initiatives, and territorial wellbeing; multi-cycle small and medium grants. • **Dedicated Grant Mechanism**. Hosted pass-through windows under the World Bank Climate Investment Funds/Forest Investment Program. Country-level Indigenous Peoples steering committees re-grant to community groups for land and forest governance, livelihoods, and safeguards. • **Pawanka Fund**. Flexible re-granting to IPs and LCs organizations for territorial defense, traditional knowledge, leadership, and livelihoods; grants awarded through Indigenous Peoples networks and calls. • **Keepers of the Earth Fund**. Small to mid-size re-grants to Indigenous Peoples organizations for community-defined projects in various countries (language, governance, land stewardship, media).	• **Fundo Babaçu (Brazil)**. Re-granting facility supporting quebradeiras de coco babaçu organizations and allied community groups for territorial livelihoods and forest use. • **Fonds Communautaire pour les Forêts (DRC)**. Community-level grant facility channeling resources for local forest governance and livelihoods (pass-through disbursements to community structures). • **Nusantara Fund (Indonesia)**. National re-granting channel supporting Indonesian Indigenous Peoples organizations and territories; funds are pooled and re-granted via Indigenous Peoples partners.

4.2 Endowment funds

These funds preserve a principal (corpus), invest it, and use a spending rule (investment returns) to finance grantmaking or operating disbursements. The value proposition is long-term predictability: territories can count on a recurring flow from returns, with the principal protected.

In practice, many endowment vehicles also run recurring re-granting cycles—and some accept new pass-through injections—so the delivery looks like a grant program while investment returns sustain the baseline. In these arrangements, an initial (seed) endowment contribution is combined with fresh donor inflows that are re-granted in periodic calls; returns and new contributions may thus finance grants.

We identified three mechanisms explicitly labeled as endowments:

- **Fundo Dema (Brazil)**. Created in 2003 as a fiduciary fund that supports small, territory-driven projects through public calls. Its internal rules state that disbursements are limited to earnings so as not to compromise the fund's continuity (i.e., the corpus is preserved), with grants awarded via editais or "chamadas públicas."[23] Over time, Dema has also hosted specific "windows" seeded by new inflows—e.g., the Fundo Barcarena e Abaetetuba, a dedicated window within Dema used to support community projects in the two municipalities most affected by the 2015 Haidar shipwreck—illustrating how pass-through top-ups can complement an endowment-style core.[24]
- **Fundo Timbira (Brazil)**. An Indigenous Peoples fundo patrimonial (endowment) conceived by Apinajé, Krahô, Krikati, and Gavião peoples to provide long-term support for territorial governance, culture, food security, and protection, with its origins linked to a long-term compensation struggle over the impacts of the Estreito Hydropower project. Its characterization as a fundo patrimonial indicates corpus preservation with spending from returns.[25]
- **YUS Conservation Endowment (Papua New Guinea)**. A non-sinking, perpetual endowment established (with WPZ and CI's Global Conservation Fund) to provide recurring funding for management and protection of the YUS Conservation Area. The endowment is reported at US$2 million with a 4% annual payout policy, disbursed to TKCP-PNG according to annual plans—i.e., investment returns cover a baseline of core costs in perpetuity.[26]

Moreover, two mechanisms use blended mechanisms with an endowment component:

- **Nusantara Fund (Indonesia)**. Launched in 2023 by AMAN, KPA, and WALHI as a direct-access mechanism for IPs and LCs, Nusantara operates re-granting cycles while building a dedicated endowment to secure long-term, rule-based disbursements. Public statements by the Fund and supporters indicate a plan to establish an endowment of at least US $100 million over the next decade, in parallel with continued pass-through donor contributions for near-term grant windows.[27]

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[23] Fundo Dema. "Regulamento Interno do Fundo Dema." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://www.fundodema.org.br/regulamento-interno-fundo-dema/

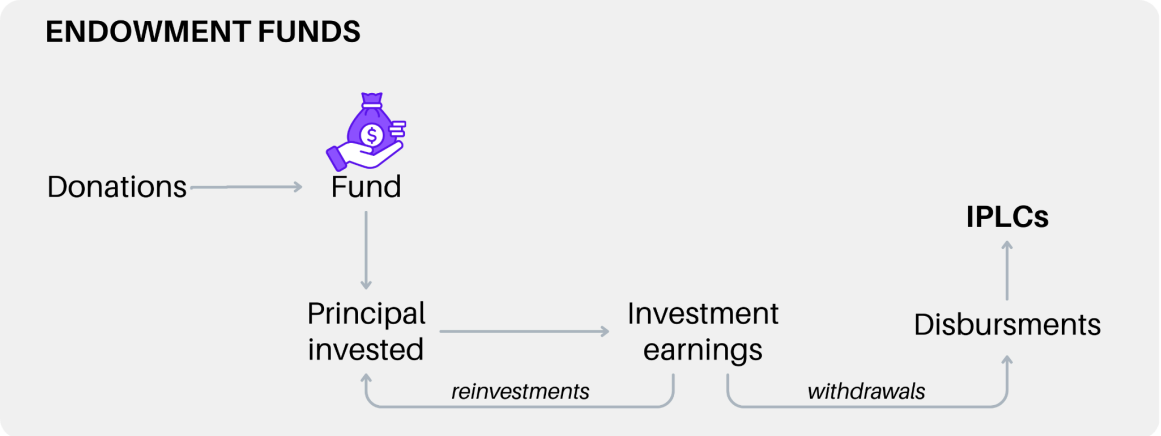
[24] Fundo Dema. "Fundo Barcarena e Abaetetuba." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://www.fundodema.org.br/quem-somos/fundo-dema-barcarena-e-abaetetuba/

[25] Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu (MIQCB). Caderno – Rede de Fundos. São Luís: MIQCB, 2023. https://miqcb.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Caderno-Rede-de-Fundos-18-x-25-cm-corrida.pdf

[26] Woodland Park Zoo. "Supporters — TKCP." *Woodland Park Zoo*, accessed October 9, 2025. https://www.zoo.org/tkcp/supporters.

[27] Nusantara Fund. "Nusantara Fund." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://nusantarafund.org/en/; Nusantara Fund. "On the ground: Understanding Indigenous and territorial funds." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://nusantarafund.org/en/publication/coverage/on-the-ground-understanding-of-indigenous-and-territorial-funds/

- **Cofán Survival Fund (Ecuador)**. CSF is a U.S.–based supporting nonprofit that channels resources to FSC for territorial protection, rangers, education, and health. FSC's institutional strengthening included a seeded long-term endowment and cash reserve (via MacArthur's Creative & Effective Institutions award), creating a blended model: recurring re-granting/program delivery financed by annual fundraising, alongside an endowment-style reserve intended to provide predictable baseline support over time.[28]
- **WaoYasuní Financial Platform (Ecuador)**. Announced in 2024 (CBD COP16, Cali), WaoYasuní is framed as a direct-access platform governed by Waorani institutions to finance territorial priorities "without intermediaries." Its operating design specifies a fideicomiso mercantil (trust) administered by a licensed trustee in Ecuador, with a permanent financial reserve to stabilize flows in low-revenue periods—i.e., a trust-based structure that combines ongoing fundraising and micro-donations with a protected reserve, functionally akin to a blended endowment component.[29]



4.3 Revolving funds

Revolving funds disburse resources as loans or performance-based payments, which are later returned to the fund and reused for new financing cycles. This model depends on reliable repayment or revenue streams and is more administratively complex, but it can extend the life of an initial capital injection.

Mechanisms using this setup in the mapping:

[28] John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. "Fundación para la Sobrevivencia del Pueblo Cofan (FSC) — MacArthur Award for Creative & Effective Institutions (2012)." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://www.macfound.org/grantee/fundacion-para-la-sobrevivencia-del-pueblo-cofan-36539/

[29] Nacionalidad Waorani del Ecuador (NAWE). "WaoYasuní — Plataforma Financiera." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://nawe.org.ec/waoyasuni/

- **TONIBUNG (Malaysia)**. Through the Tonibung Renewable Energy Fund, Indigenous Peoples villages obtain interest-free loans to install community micro-hydro systems. Repayments flow back to the fund to finance systems in other villages. In parallel, village tariff and usage-fee systems cover operational, maintenance, and repair costs through community management committees, reinforcing the revenue base needed for long-term sustainability.[30]
- **Panchayati Forest Fund (India)**. Under community forestry programs, revolving funds are transferred into Van Panchayat-managed accounts to on-lend for livelihood activities, with repayments revolving to support additional loans, embedding micro-finance logic within forest-governance bodies.[31]
- **Community-Managed Biodiversity Fund "Mỹ Hải" (Viet Nam)**. Designed by Fauna & Flora International in collaboration with the Núi Chúa MPA authorities and local communes, the fund provides affordable loans to biodiversity-friendly enterprises. Interest generated is earmarked to sustain MPA patrol costs—a revolving facility linking livelihoods to protected-area finance.[32]
- **Village Development Funds Central Annamites (Viet Nam)**. Community-managed village development funds provide small loans for alternative livelihoods and agroforestry, with documented borrow-repay-revolve cycles (e.g., US$200–400 loans repaid and recycled), and are being scaled across 30 villages. Program materials specify that village development funds mobilize multiple sources and are embedded in CarBi II's conservation-livelihood strategy in the Central Annamites.[33]

[30] AirAsia Foundation. "Tonibung Renewable Energy Fund." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://www.airasiafoundation.com/social-enterprise/tonibung/

[31] Pande, S. "Van Panchayats of Uttarakhand as Role Model for Community Forest Management." XV World Forestry Congress, 2–6 May 2022. Accessed November 9, 2025. https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/37eb6187-d54a-4700-a943-73b87bb68d13

[32] Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA). "Building a Community-Managed Biodiversity Fund (Viet Nam)." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://oceanriskalliance.org/project/community-managed-biodiversity-fund-vietnam/

[33] WWF–Viet Nam. "Village Development Facilities: Empowering Community-Led Biodiversity Conservation in the Central Annamites." October 30, 2024. Accessed November 9, 2025. https://vietnam.panda.org/en/?388559%2FVillage-Development-Fund-Empowering-community-led-biodiversity-conservation-in-the-Central-Annamites=

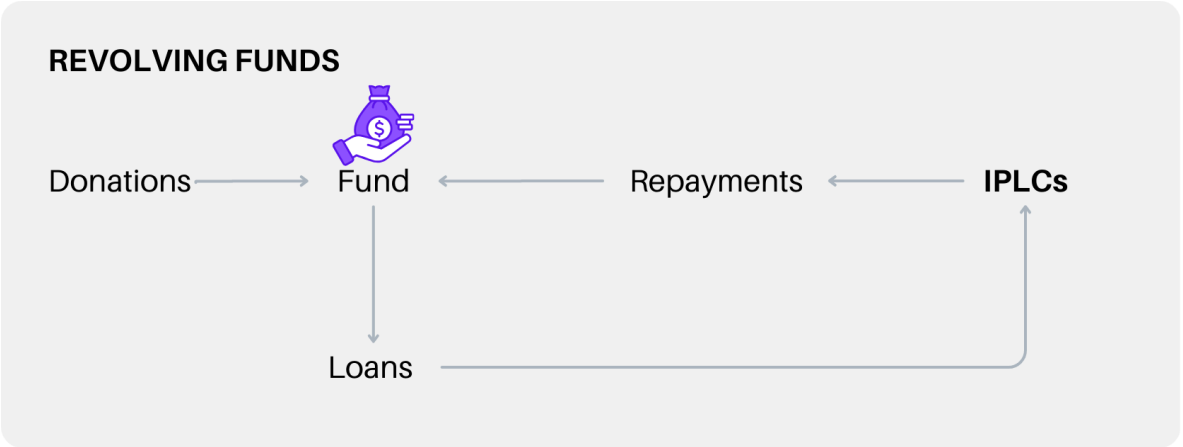


Table 3. Comparison of key financial setups in IPs and LCs-led financial mechanisms

	Endowment Fund	Revolving Fund	Pass-through Fund
Time horizon	The fund is designed to last indefinitely, since only the investment returns are spent.	The fund may last indefinitely if repayments or revenues continue to cycle back into it.	The fund is short-term and tied to each round of donor commitments.
Flow of money	Money is invested, and only the returns are used for grants or programs.	Funds are disbursed as loans or grants, and repayments are expected to flow back in.	Donor funds are disbursed directly to communities and do not return to the fund.
Sustainability strategy	Sustainability comes from investment returns that generate predictable income over time.	The mechanism is sustained by recycling of funds through repayments or other revenue flows.	The model depends entirely on renewed donor fundraising for each cycle.
Scale of support	The model is well-suited for long-term programs and territorial governance.	The model can finance ongoing projects, though the volume of repayments or revenues often limits the scale.	The model usually supports small- to medium-sized projects on a cycle-by-cycle basis.
Flexibility of use	Communities often enjoy high flexibility in setting priorities through assemblies or boards.	Flexibility is moderate, since repayment rules and loan conditions may restrict spending.	Flexibility can be lower because donor priorities typically shape each cycle.

5. Legal setups

This section outlines the legal frameworks and instruments used to establish and govern funds within the countries where IPs and LCs reside. It focuses on the legal status of these funds at the national level to clarify how they operate under domestic laws. These nodes receive, manage, disburse, or use funds locally, and their legal form shapes their accountability, liability, and operational possibilities.

Because legal information was missing or incomplete for many mechanisms, this section's goal is not to present statistically meaningful proportions, but rather to illustrate the diversity of legal arrangements across mechanisms where information was available. The emphasis is on showing the range of existing organizational models rather than counting how many fall into each category.

5.1 Non-incorporated funds

These mechanisms function operationally as "funds" (i.e., receiving, allocating, or managing resources) without possessing independent legal personality. They rely on the legal registration of a host or partner (NGO, foundation, government unit, multilateral trustee) and are governed through agreements, steering committees, or internal policies rather than their own incorporation.[34]

Key concepts:

- **Host entities (or fund host):** A legal entity (NGO, federation, or even a government agency) that holds the "fund" (i.e., bank accounts, compliance oversight, HR, fiduciary/administrative infrastructure) while the communities or a fund governance body make decisions about allocations, priorities, oversight, etc. In some cases, a host entity is already well-established and well-trusted within the community (e.g., an Indigenous Peoples federation or umbrella NGO) and serves as the permanent home for the fund. The term "host" is more frequently used in philanthropic/fund parlance than legal nonprofit tax structures.

[34] By incorporation we mean that the mechanism exists as a separate legal person (e.g., a trust/fiduciary or endowment vehicle; or a nonprofit foundation/association/company-limited-by-guarantee) with its own registration, governance, bank accounts, contracts, and liabilities. Mechanisms not incorporated operate under another entity's legal identity (e.g., a hosted program, facility, sub-fund/window, project account, or fiscally sponsored initiative) even if they have distinct branding, rules, or steering committees.

➔ **Fiscal sponsors:** A nonprofit (or other legal entity) that "sponsors" an emerging group or project without legal status or capacity. The fiscal sponsor receives funds, holds them, administers them, and disburses them for the project under agreed terms. A host entity is a kind of *sponsor in many respects*, mainly when it provides administrative, fiduciary, and compliance support. Fiscal sponsorship is most common in the United States, Canada, Australia, and other common-law systems with similar charitable tax regimes.

➔ **Implementing agencies/partners:** The body (or bodies) that carry out the project or programmatic interventions — e.g., contracting, procurement, monitoring, disbursing subgrants, technical support, field operations. The implementing agency executes programs; it doesn't necessarily house or legally hold the funds. In many donor / humanitarian or development programs, the donor or central trust fund (or host) contracts one or more implementing partners to carry out activities. The central fund/host does not carry out field tasks on its own. This separation helps maintain checks and balances. But sometimes the host or sponsoring entity *is also* an implementer (especially when capacity is high). For example, an NGO hosting a fund might also disburse and monitor grants.

A. Programmatic funds

Ongoing programmatic funds that run under a host's legal entity. Most mechanisms in the mapping correspond to funds housed within existing NGOs, federations, or associations, rather than being independently registered entities. In such cases, the "fund" functions as a financial program or internal account managed by a legally registered organization. This arrangement allows funds to contract and receive grants without new incorporation. This is the dominant legal structure in the mapped mechanisms.

Examples include:

Multi-country mechanisms	Country-specific mechanisms
• **Pawanka Fund.** A donor-advised fund (DAF) housed at RSF Social	• **Direct access mechanisms for the Madidi Landscape (Bolivia).** Hosted by the Foundation

Finance; behaves as a dedicated program/window under the sponsor's incorporation (i.e., programmatic, hosted). • **Samdhana Institute – Small Grants (SE Asia)**. Explicitly, a program inside Samdhana that provides direct small grants, not a separate legal entity.	for the Development of the National System of Protected Areas (FUNDESNAP), this mechanism channels resources for Indigenous Peoples territorial management through an Indigenous-led decision-making board, coordinated by the Central Indigenous Peoples of La Paz (CPILAP), with technical support from the Wildlife Conservation Society. • **Fundo Dema (Brazil)**. FASE, an established NGO, manages the fund. While it operates like a community fund, it is not a separate legal person; the NGO provides fiduciary management and contracting capacity. • **Fundo Quilombola Mizizi Dudu (Brazil)**. It operates as a sub-fund under the Fundo Dema architecture and relies on the same NGO host. • **Fundo Indígena Rutî (Brazil).** Hosted by the Conselho Indígena de Roraima (CIR); a CIR-embedded Indigenous Peoples fund with its own governance committee and public calls, but no separate legal incorporation. CIR provides fiduciary management, contracting capacity, and institutional CNPJ. • **Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro (Brazil)**. Hosted within FOIRN, an Indigenous Peoples federation, the fund's legal standing derives from FOIRN's association status. • **Fundo Puxirum (Brazil)**. It is managed through the Conselho Nacional das Populações Extrativistas (CNS), an embedded fund within a national NGO umbrella.

Some programmatic funds are ring-fenced[35] sub-funds or "windows" within their host organization—maintaining dedicated ledgers, separate governance committees, and reporting rules (e.g., Fundo Dema and its Mizizi Dudu Quilombola window). Others operate as embedded programs within the host NGO or federation's broader accounts, without distinct financial separation (e.g., Fundo Indígena Rutî/CIR, Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro/FOIRN, Puxirum/CNS).

[35] To ring-fence funds means to separate and protect them from being mixed with other money within the host organization's accounts.

Donor-Advised Funds

A Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) is a named, ring-fenced account housed inside a sponsoring public charity (such as a community foundation or specialist sponsor). The sponsor legally owns and manages the assets, issues tax receipts when contributions are made, handles investments and compliance (including cross-border due diligence), and ultimately approves and disburses all grants. Donors or an advisory committee can recommend grants, but the sponsor retains final legal authority. Because a DAF operates entirely under the sponsor's incorporation, it is best treated in this mapping as a programmatic hosted fund, not as an independently incorporated entity.

DAFs are useful for IPs and LCs' finance because they provide a fast, compliant way to move resources internationally without creating a new legal vehicle. They preserve a fund's identity and governance ethos through a named account and an advisory body, while the sponsor supplies the legal backbone—banking, contracting, audits, and regulatory checks. In practical terms, a DAF behaves like a dedicated "window" within the sponsor's books: it has its own purpose, rules, reporting, and decision process, yet remains non-incorporated.

For example, the **Pawanka Fund** (housed at RSF Social Finance). Pawanka operates as a donor-advised fund within RSF, a U.S. public charity. An Indigenous-led advisory council recommends grants, while RSF performs due diligence and authorizes disbursements in accordance with charity law. Pawanka is, therefore, not a separate legal entity in recipient countries; it is a programmatic, hosted fund with donor-advised features, using RSF's incorporation to channel grants to IPs and LCs organizations globally.

B. Project-based funds

A time-bound donor project inside a host. The "fund" is effectively a project account under a specific grant or contract, with deliverables and an end date. Governance is mainly the project's (donor + host) rather than a standing fund's. Donor-financed projects that operate as "funds" but legally exist as project accounts within a larger organization. Examples include:

Multi-country mechanisms	Country-specific mechanisms
• **Dedicated Grant Mechanism.** Each country's DGM operates as a World Bank/CIF project implemented by a	• **Direct Access Mechanism for the Madidi Landscape (Bolivia)**. Hosted by FUNDESNAP with a donor grant.

National Executing Agency under an Indigenous/LC National Steering Committee; legally and financially, it's a time-bound project inside a host, not an independent fund. • **Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility.** A recurring International Fund for Agricultural Development instrument that runs in rounds via regional Indigenous Peoples partners; functionally a time-bound, hosted grant facility under International Fund for Agricultural Development rather than a standalone fund. • **Amazonia para la Vida / Amazonía 80×25 (regional)** — Financing windows appear as programmatic/project lines under multilateral or partner organizations (e.g., IDB-linked programming); not an incorporated fund—more a campaign/program vehicle with project governance.	Indigenous-majority steering, but the vehicle itself is a program window inside the host with project deliverables and an end date. • **Aguacaliente Management Team (AMT) — Community Co-management Grants (Belize).** A co-management "grants mechanism" embedded in the protected-area co-management program; it's a project account/line under the AMT host arrangement with donor deliverables. • **Community Baboon Sanctuary – CBSWCG Small Grants (Belize).** Small-grants issued from within the CBSWCG NGO's project budgets; hosted, time-bound, and governed through project procedures rather than a separate, standing fund. • **CONFENIAE – Indigenous Peoples Business Incubator (Ecuador).** A 2024 incubator launched as a donor-financed program inside CONFENIAE; unless it spins out into a permanent financial vehicle, it fits the "project account inside a host" pattern. • **Village Development Funds (VDFs), Central Annamites (Viet Nam, WWF/CarBi II).** VDFs are created and capitalized within the CarBi II project and governed through the project's rules/timeline; they function as revolving project windows rather than permanent, legally distinct funds.

C. Unincorporated community or statutory local mechanisms

Locally managed pools or committees recognized by by-laws or statute, but not incorporated as separate legal entities for fundholding. Examples include:

- **Community Resource Management Area committees (Ghana)**. Statutory community-based resource governance bodies that can receive/use funds via agreements, but are not standalone incorporated fund entities.
- **Panchayati Forest Fund (India)**. Statutory village forest councils are created under state rules; they hold community forest rights and manage village forest accounts. They can receive program funds, but they are not separate, incorporated fund entities.
- **Village Development Funds Central Annamites (Viet Nam).** Community committees manage village development fund accounts established by conservation programs. They handle and recycle funds locally but are recognized as program bodies, not incorporated funds.

5.2 Incorporated funds

Incorporated funds are mechanisms with legal personality in the recipient country, separate from any host NGO or program. Because they are registered as a distinct entity, they can enter contracts, hold and invest assets, open bank accounts, hire staff, and bear liabilities in their own name. This contrasts with non-incorporated arrangements, where the "fund" operates as a program or account under another organization's registration.

Examples:

- **Fundo Timbira (Brazil)**. The Organização Gestora do Fundo Patrimonial Timbira is a registered legal entity in Brazil. Timbira is expressly characterized as a fundo patrimonial (endowment) for long-term, rule-based disbursement.
- **YUS Conservation Endowment (Papua New Guinea)**. Perpetual endowment (trust-style) dedicated to recurring management of the YUS Conservation Area; operates with a fixed annual payout policy administered via the conservation trust arrangement.
- **Nusantara Fund (Indonesia)**. Operated by a registered Indonesian foundation (Yayasan Solidaritas Dana Nusantara) that functions as an independent legal entity, enabling direct access to national and international climate finance for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

A special case is the **Cofán Survival Fund (Ecuador).** This corresponds to an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit incorporated in the United States to support the Fundación Sobrevivencia Cofán in Ecuador. CSF raises charitable donations from North America and other regions to finance Fundación Sobrevivencia Cofán's conservation, education, and ranger programs.

6. Governance structures and decision-making

The mechanisms gathered in this mapping display diverse forms and degrees of IPs and LCs leadership. While some mechanisms are fully Indigenous-led (from strategy to disbursement) others combine Indigenous Peoples and governmental representation or rely on host organizations to manage fiduciary and administrative functions.

This section focuses on the practical architecture of governance, including the governing bodies and representation, administration, grantmaking processes, and multi-level coordination and alignment.

6.1 Governing bodies

Across the mechanisms reviewed, governance usually follows a two-tier model:

1. Decision-making bodies, such as a Board, Council, or Committee, are where IPs and LCs' authority sits. These bodies set overall strategy, policies, and funding priorities, and often approve grants above certain thresholds. They are typically Indigenous-majority or Indigenous-led, with seats distributed across territories or peoples, and sometimes include gender or youth quotas. Donors, government, and NGOs may participate as observers or non-voting members to coordinate without dominating decision-making.

2. Technical and advisory bodies, including Grants or Programs Committees and Technical Review Panels, assess project proposals against agreed-upon criteria and make recommendations. They apply clear conflict-of-interest and recusal rules, but do not make final approvals; those remain the responsibility of the main governing body.

This two-tier model appears clearly in:

Multi-country mechanisms	Country-specific mechanisms
• **Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility**. The Indigenous-majority IPAF Board sets funding priorities and makes final grant decisions by consensus. Before that, proposals are screened and scored by Indigenous Peoples experts and regional partners acting as a technical review	• **Fundo Dema (Brazil)**. A "Comitê Gestor" sets priorities and approves grants via public calls. The host FASE provides the technical/administrative secretariat (fiduciary, due diligence, reporting).[43] • **Fundo Podáali (Brazil)**. An Indigenous Peoples Conselho Deliberativo is

[43] FASE. Regulamento Interno do Fundo Dema. Belém: FASE Pará, 2013. https://www.fundodema.org.br/regulamento-interno-fundo-dema/

panel, which advises the Board but does not approve funding.[36] • **Dedicated Grant Mechanism**. In each country, an Indigenous Peoples and local community National Steering Committee decides funding priorities and approves grants. A National Executing Agency, selected by that committee, plays the technical role: it screens proposals, supports the review, and implements what the NSC approves.[37] The DGM is overseen by an Indigenous-majority global steering committee.[38] • **FILAC**. It has an internally layered governing tier, with a General Assembly that sets the mandate and oversight and elects representatives.[39] At the same time, a Board/Council provides approvals and day-to-day steering.[40] However, FILAC's governance is parity between states and Indigenous Peoples representatives (6 + 6 on its Council), not IPs and LCs in the	composed of 11 leaders (9 from the Amazon states, COIAB, and UMIAB).[44] It is the sovereign approving body.[45] The Diretoria Executiva and Equipe Técnica handle screening, accompaniment, and reporting. • **Nusantara Fund (Indonesia)**. The leaders/delegates of AMAN, WALHI, and KPA form the Komite Persetujuan (Approval Committee). It acts as the decision-making body, while a Unit Manajemen (Management Unit) undertakes the technical roles (screening and monitoring) as set out in the fund's governance materials.[46]

[36] International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) ASSESSMENT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FOURTH IPAF CYCLE. Rome: IFAD, 2019. https://lcipp.unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2020-12/201902_ipaf_assessment.pdf

[37] Climate Investment Funds (CIF). Framework Operational Guidelines. Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (DGM). Washington, DC: CIF, August 20, 2024. https://www.cif.org/sites/cif_enc/files/meeting-documents/npc_dgm-operationalguidelines_082020 24.pdf

[38] The Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (DGM), "Background," accessed October 7, 2025, https://www.dgmglobal.org/background

[39] Fondo para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indígenas de América Latina y el Caribe (FILAC). Estatuto del FILAC. La Paz: FILAC, 2019. https://www.filac.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Estatuto-FILAC- 2019.pdf

[40] FILAC. Reglamento Interno del Consejo Directivo. La Paz: FILAC, 2019. https://www.filac.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Reglamento-Consejo-Directivo.pdf

[44] Podáali – Fundo Indígena da Amazônia Brasileira. "Governança do Fundo Podáali." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://fundopodaali.org.br/sobre/governanca/

[45] Podáali – Fundo Indígena da Amazônia Brasileira. Regimento Interno do Podáali. Manaus, 2022. Accessed November 9, 2025. https://fundopodaali.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Regimento-Interno-do-Podaali.pdf

[46] WALHI. Panduan Teknis Pendanaan Langsung Nusantara Fund. Jakarta: WALHI, 2023. https://www.walhi.or.id/uploads/buku/Panduan%20Teknis-PRINT.pdf;

majority.[41] Technical review panels conduct advisory assessments, and the Secretariat manages administration and implementation.[42]	

Thematic councils and constituency voices. Some mechanisms also create thematic or constituency councils—for example, Indigenous women's or youth councils, or territorial forums—that help shape priorities and ensure broad representation. Stakeholder advisory spaces may also exist, providing input and coordination while keeping final decision-making firmly in IPs and LCs' hands.

Women's councils, youth councils, and territorial fora often provide standing channels for agenda-setting and oversight. Stakeholder advisory groups (including donors and the government) also convene, typically without approval rights. For example, in the GDM, territorial delegates, co-opted/stakeholder categories, and observer roles are specified.

International vs national governance bodies. Indigenous Peoples-led and participatory governance structures vary significantly across scales. International mechanisms such as the Pawanka Fund and AYNI Indigenous Women's Fund are fully Indigenous Peoples-governed, with decision-making councils composed of Indigenous leaders from multiple regions. Likewise, basin-wide and regional initiatives, including Amazonia para la Vida, are coordinated by Indigenous Peoples regional organizations that oversee resource allocation and strategic priorities. FILAC represents a hybrid model, co-governed by Indigenous Peoples representatives and member states, providing a precedent for parity-based governance in intergovernmental finance.

By contrast, in other multi-country or NGO-hosted mechanisms, the degree of IPs and LCs leadership depends more on national-level implementation arrangements than global governance design. For instance, NGO-administered small-grants facilities, such as the Samdhana Institute's funds in Southeast Asia, often partner with local Indigenous Peoples organizations and sometimes delegate subnational decision-making to them.

[41] FILAC. "Gobernanza del FILAC." Accessed November 9, 2025. https://www.filac.org/gobernanza-del-filac/

[42] FILAC. Informe de Gestión 2023. La Paz: FILAC, 2024. https://www.filac.org/publicaciones/informe-de-gestion-2023/

Other relevant mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples representation in governance bodies

Several mechanisms that channel climate or forest finance to tropical forest countries were not included in this mapping because they are not led by IPs or LCs. However, they remain important examples of shared governance—that is, mechanisms in which Indigenous Peoples and Local community representatives hold formal seats or advisory roles in decision-making structures.

For example, the **Tenure Facility** features a mixed global governance structure, with a board composed of Indigenous Peoples and local community leaders, civil society representatives, and members of international development and financial institutions. Although not Indigenous-led, its structure reflects an early effort to institutionalize Indigenous Peoples participation in global land and resource finance.

Similarly, the **UNDP–GEF Small Grants Programme** (SGP) operates through national steering committees whose composition varies by country but often includes Indigenous Peoples and local community representatives. Through these committees, IPs and LCs influence the design and approval of community-level projects funded under the SGP, providing a platform for participatory decision-making within a UN-administered mechanism.

In Peru, Norway's **International Climate and Forest Initiative** (NICFI)–supported governance arrangement for the Amazon Cooperation Framework also embeds Indigenous Peoples participation. Its Junta de Administración includes nine members: the Ministry of Environment (chair), the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Culture, two representatives from the Amazon Regional Mancomunidad, two Indigenous representatives, and one donor. Profonanpe serves as Secretariat without voting rights. This composition illustrates a hybrid governance model in which state and Indigenous actors share decision-making power within a public–donor framework.

6.2 Selection of members of governance bodies

Three families of practice recur:

1. **Assembly-based selection/ratification.** Community or general assemblies choose or validate representatives, sometimes with customary authorities involved (e.g., council of elders). Examples:
    - **Fundo Podáali (Brazil)**. Members of the Conselho Deliberativo are elected/confirmed in formal Assembleias convened by the fund; recent assemblies revised statutes and elected councilors (11 seats: nine Amazon states + COIAB + UMIAB).
    - **Fundo Puxirum (Brazil)**. The fund issues convocações de assembleia and applies rules in its Manual/Plano Operacional that set selection and rotation procedures for governance members and committee delegates (assembly validation + written rules).
2. **Elections by member organizations.** Seats are filled via elections among recognized Indigenous Peoples organizations, often on a territorial basis.
    - **Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF).** Board seats are reserved for regional Indigenous Peoples representatives (Africa, Asia-Pacific, LAC), elected/selected through the partner Indigenous Peoples organizations; the Board makes final grant decisions after technical review.
    - **Nusantara Fund (Indonesia)**. A Council/Approval Committee composed of leaders/delegates from AMAN, WALHI, and KPA serves as the decision body; a Management Unit performs the technical role (screening/monitoring), per governance materials.
    - **DGM – Saweto Peru (National window)**. The project is governed by a National Steering Committee comprising the national Indigenous Peoples organizations AIDESEP and CONAP; the National Executing Agency (WWF-Peru) provides technical administration, with the NSC retaining approval authority.
3. **Nominations/appointments for specific categories.** Designated seats (e.g., government, host entity, donors, thematic experts) filled via nomination/appointment with explicit limits.
    - **FILAC**. The Council is parity-based (6 government + 6 Indigenous Peoples reps); members are appointed/elected per statute by their respective constituencies (states; Indigenous bodies). The General Assembly sets rules; Secretariat implements.
    - **Kaliña & Lokono Community Development Fund (Guyana)**. Composition and procedures for appointing/validating community representatives were court-mandated by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in its 2015 judgment.

Tenure and rotation.

Terms of office within these mechanisms are generally fixed and staggered to ensure both continuity and renewal in leadership. Many mechanisms use rotation or constituency rules—for example, alternating representation among territories, organizations, or regions—to prevent capture by any single actor or network and to maintain balanced participation over time.

In Brazil, the **Fundo Podáali** provides a clear example: members of the Conselho Deliberativo (Deliberative Council) serve fixed terms defined in the fund's Regimento Interno, and state-based seats (nine Amazonian states plus one seat each for the Coordination of the Indigenous Peoples Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon and the Union of Indigenous Women of the Brazilian Amazon) are filled and renewed through assemblies convened by the fund.[47]

Similarly, the **Fundo Puxirum** anchors representation in regional/river-basin constituencies and sets out written procedures for the selection and renewal of representatives in its Manual Operacional and Plano Operacional. Public convocations for assemblies and cycles of public calls (editais) ensure that new delegates participate over time and that decisions reflect territory-level priorities.[48]

Gender and youth representation.

Many financing mechanisms now explicitly embed gender representation in their governance rules. Some stipulate minimum percentages of women in decision-making bodies; others create dedicated women's or youth councils that nominate or advise on the composition of boards and committees.

At the global level, the **AYNI Indigenous Women's Fund** is one of the few financing mechanisms that is entirely Indigenous-women-led. Its governance model features an Indigenous Women's Advisory Council, composed of regional leaders from Africa, Asia, the Arctic, Latin America, and the Pacific. The Council supports the selection of board members, provides guidance on strategic priorities, and ensures parity and intersectional representation across regions.[49]

In Brazil, the **Fundo Babaçu** demonstrates strong gender leadership within a national territorial context. The fund is governed by the Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu

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[47] Podáali – Fundo Indígena da Amazônia Brasileira. Regimento Interno do Fundo Podáali. Manaus, 2022.https://fundopodaali.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Regimento-Interno-do-Podaali.pdf; Podáali – Fundo Indígena da Amazônia Brasileira. "Governança do Fundo Podáali." Accessed November 11, 2025. https://fundopodaali.org.br/sobre/governanca/; Podáali – Fundo Indígena da Amazônia Brasileira. "Alteração do estatuto e eleição de conselheiros marcam Assembleias do Podáali." May 28, 2024. https://fundopodaali.org.br/assembleias-do-podaali/

[48] Fundo Puxirum. Manual Operacional do Fundo Puxirum. September 2025. https://fundopuxirum.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Manual-Operacional-FUNDO-PUXIRUM-completo.pdf.

[49] International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI). AYNI Indigenous Women's Fund – Governance and Strategy Document. New York, 2023. https://fimi-iiwf.org/ayni-fund/; FIMI. "AYNI Indigenous Women's Fund – About Us." Accessed November 11, 2025. https://fimi-iiwf.org/en/ayni/

(MIQCB), a women's social movement composed exclusively of quebradeiras de coco (babaçu nut breakers). Its decision-making council and technical team are entirely female, elected during the MIQCB's general assemblies, where delegates from Maranhão, Pará, Tocantins, and Piauí nominate and validate their representatives.[50] These structures institutionalize women's leadership in resource management and align decision-making with feminist and territorial values grounded in the quebradeiras' struggle for land and forest rights.

Although less common, some IPs and LCs funds are beginning to incorporate youth participation mechanisms. The Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro (FIRM), hosted by the Federação das Organizações Indígenas do Rio Negro (FOIRN), includes youth and women's committees within its governance architecture. These committees can propose representatives to the fund's deliberative spaces, help shape annual priorities, and serve as a pipeline for emerging Indigenous Peoples leadership.[51]

6.3 Grantmaking processes

Across the mechanisms reviewed, grantmaking tends to follow various governance logics, including competitive and non-competitive mechanisms.

Competitive mechanisms. Many mechanisms use public calls with published eligibility, scoring criteria, ceilings by grant size, and conflict-of-interest safeguards. A technical body screens and ranks proposals, while a community/Indigenous Peoples decision body validates and approves. For example:

- **Fundo Podáali (Brazil)**: Podáali runs open calls with clearly published categories (small/medium/large) and procedures for selection, monitoring, and evaluation; results are publicly posted (e.g., 32 initiatives, R$1.6M in the first cycle). Screening is followed by sovereign approval by the Indigenous Peoples council.[52]
- **Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro (Brazil)**: Calls stipulate total envelopes (e.g., R$2.5M for 25 projects) and grant bands (Mirim, Intermediário, Wasu). A Technical Selection Chamber

[50] Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu (MIQCB). Caderno – Rede de Fundos. São Luís: MIQCB, 2023.https://miqcb.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Caderno-Rede-de-Fundos-18-x-25-cm-corrida.pdf; MIQCB. "Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu." Accessed November 11, 2025. https://miqcb.org.br/

[51] Federação das Organizações Indígenas do Rio Negro (FOIRN). "Governança – Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro (FIRM)." Accessed November 11, 2025. https://firn.foirn.org.br/governanca/

[52] Podáali – Fundo Indígena da Amazônia Brasileira. "Chamadas – procedimentos e categorias." Accessed November 11, 2025. https://fundopodaali.org.br/chamadas/; Podáali – Fundo Indígena da Amazônia Brasileira. "Editais – resultados e listas de selecionados." Accessed November 11, 2025. https://fundopodaali.org.br/chamadas/editais/

ranks proposals; the Managing/Deliberative Committee validates final awards, with regional distribution published for transparency.[53]

- **Fundo Dema (Brazil)**: Dema's rules set two submission channels (public call and special call), with secretariat pre-screening for completeness and a community-representative Managing Committee responsible for final evaluation and approvals—codifying conflicts-of-interest handling and documentary checks.[54]

Non-competitive mechanisms. Some funds channel resources according to territorially agreed plans (e.g., Indigenous Peoples Territorial Management Plans, "Planes de Gestión Territorial Indígena/PGTI," or "Planes de Vida"), reducing competition between communities and aligning disbursements to collectively defined priorities. For example:

- **Madidi (Bolivia)**: The 2023–24 Madidi initiative establishes a permanent financing channel for Tacana, T'simane-Mosetene, Lecos de Apolo, and Uchupiamonas peoples, explicitly tied to each people's management vision and territorial planning instruments, rather than open competition. Funds support territorial monitoring, governance, livelihood infrastructure, and enforcement aligned to those plans.[55]
- **Rio Negro (Brazil)**: Recent programmatic launches show FOIRN-affiliated associations using PGTA documents as guidance for priorities and territorial oversight, which are then reflected in call design and distribution of projects across regions.[56]

6.4 Role of the national state

In most country contexts, the state shapes the enabling environment for IPs and LCs finance by recognizing collective rights, defining authorized fundholding vehicles, and creating channels through which public or publicly managed climate and forest resources can reach IPs and LCs bodies.

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[53] FOIRN – Federação das Organizações Indígenas do Rio Negro. "Governança – FIRN." Accessed November 11, 2025. https://firn.foirn.org.br/governanca/; FOIRN – Federação das Organizações Indígenas do Rio Negro. "Edital nº 002/2023 – Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro." May 4, 2023. https://prosas.com.br/editais/13480-edital-002-2023-fundo-indigena-do-rio-negro; FOIRN. "Fundo Indígena do Rio Negro divulga projetos selecionados." February 10, 2022. https://foirn.blog/2022/02/10/fundo-indigena-do-rio-negro-firn-divulga-projetos-selecionados/

[54] Fundo Dema (FASE Pará). "Orientações para Projetos: Edital e Chamada Pública." Accessed November 11, 2025. https://www.fundodema.org.br/projetos/orientacoes-para-projetos/;

[55] Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Bolivia. "WCS Bolivia inicia experiencia pionera para la conservación autogestionada por pueblos indígenas." January 10, 2024.https://bolivia.wcs.org/es-es/Recursos-Informativos/Sala-de-noticias/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/21902/WCS-Bolivia-inicia-experiencia-pionera-para-la-conservacion-autogestionada-por-pueblos-indigenas.aspx

[56] Instituto Socioambiental (ISA). "Lideranças do Médio Rio Negro lançam PGTAs e reforçam luta pela governança dos territórios." October 8, 2025.https://www.socioambiental.org/noticias-socioambientais/liderancas-do-medio-rio-negro-lancam-pgtas-e-reforcam-luta-pela

Where multilateral climate funds are involved, delivery typically runs through a national executing agency that services an Indigenous-majority steering body, with grants then disbursed directly to communities. The **Dedicated Grant Mechanism** illustrates this model: CIF/World Bank resources flow through an executing entity to a National Steering Committee, where IPs and LCs share decision-making power; the NSC sets priorities and approves grants, while the agency handles fiduciary/administration. In this architecture, the state is not the paymaster but sits around the framework that legitimizes pass-through to IPs and LCs.

Some funds rely on statutory regimes that recognize community forest rights and permit direct channeling to legal community holders. The **Fonds Communautaire pour les Forêts** (DRC) operates within such a regime: the state's principal role is to provide the legal framework and authorizations that make an IPs and LCs-oriented fund model operable.

Finally, hybrid models blend state recognition with community-level revenue recycling that sustains territorial management. Ghana's **CREMA** approach, for example, uses legally recognized community structures to receive and reinvest revenues from wildlife use/forestry/PES into new management cycles, functioning as a de facto revolving pool aligned with national conservation policy.

7. Conclusions

This mapping provides an overview of IPs and LCs–led financial mechanisms across 26 tropical forest countries. Although the information base remains uneven, several patterns and lessons emerge that are directly relevant to the design of the TFFF and its Dedicated Financial Allocation component.

A rapidly expanding yet regionally concentrated landscape.

The number of IPs and LCs–led mechanisms has grown sharply in the past decade, especially since 2020. Latin America and the Caribbean dominate both multi-country and country-specific funds, reflecting the region's longer history of territorial organizing, legal recognition of collective rights, and philanthropic support for Indigenous Peoples federations. In contrast, Asia–Pacific and Africa still host fewer operational mechanisms, despite the presence of major Indigenous Peoples and local community territories. Expanding and adapting territorial-fund models in these under-represented regions remains a strategic priority.

Territorial funds as the core.

Half of all mapped mechanisms function as territorial funds, directly managed by Indigenous Peoples or local organizations and aligned with customary governance. These funds embody the principle of direct access, with community assemblies or councils deciding priorities and allocations. Their spread since 2020, including mechanisms such as Podáali, Nusantara, FIRM, and Rutî, signals a structural shift toward locally governed, rule-based finance.

Diverse financial architectures with limited scale.

Most funds operate as pass-through mechanisms dependent on new donor inflows; only a handful have established endowments or revolving components that ensure sustainability. Funding volumes remain small—typically below USD 1 million—with very few mechanisms reaching multi-million-dollar capitalization. Strengthening capitalization, establishing mixed endowment-and-grant models, and facilitating access to public climate finance will be essential for long-term viability.

Flexible legal and hosting arrangements.

A large majority of funds are not legally incorporated but are hosted by Indigenous Peoples federations or trusted NGOs. This "programmatic hosting" enables compliance and fiduciary management without creating new legal entities, though it can limit autonomy and visibility. Some newer funds—such as Nusantara Fund in Indonesia and Fundo Timbira in Brazil—demonstrate that incorporation as independent legal entities is possible where domestic frameworks allow. Strengthening enabling legal environments and mutual-recognition mechanisms across jurisdictions can expand such options.

Governance anchored in Indigenous Peoples leadership and accountability.

Across mechanisms, governance follows a two-tier structure: Indigenous Peoples or community councils hold decision-making power, while technical bodies conduct screening and monitoring. Member selection generally occurs through community assemblies or elections within federations, often complemented by gender and youth quotas. Indigenous women's leadership—exemplified by the AYNI Fund and the Fundo Babaçu—illustrates the potential of gender-responsive governance. Ensuring similar representation for youth and intergenerational renewal will further strengthen legitimacy.

Emerging innovations in grantmaking and planning.

While many funds rely on competitive public calls, others—such as the Madidi Mechanism in Bolivia and the Rio Negro funds in Brazil—anchor resource allocation in territorial management plans (Planes de Gestión Territorial Indígena), linking finance directly to community-defined priorities. Such approaches reduce competition among territories, align with local governance cycles, and could inform design principles for the TFFF's country windows.

Limited data transparency but growing visibility.

Financial information is scarce: only a minority of mechanisms disclose budgets or audited data. The Path to Scale Funding Dashboard provides valuable partial visibility, but systematic reporting standards for IPs and LCs-led finance remain lacking. Establishing shared disclosure

templates—without imposing undue administrative burdens—could enhance credibility and attract broader investment.

Implications for the TFFF and the broader donor community.

The mapped experience shows that locally governed funds already exist and can be scaled. For the TFFF's Dedicated Financial Allocation, the key is not to create parallel structures but to recognize, strengthen, and channel resources through existing Indigenous Peoples and community financial architectures, respecting their decision systems and fiduciary models.

Appendix

A1. Variables included in the mapping and description

Category	Variable	Description
General description	Name of the fund	The official name of the financial mechanism as used publicly.
	Short description	A concise (2–3 sentences) summary of what the fund/mechanism does and who it serves.
	Region	Broad geographic category: Amazonia, Congo Basin, SE Asia, Mesoamerica, Other
	Country(ies) of operation	All countries where the mechanism operates.
	Year established	Year when the mechanism was legally created or became operational.
	Communities attended	Groups the mechanism primarily serves (e.g., Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant communities, women, youth, smallholders).
	Example of activities funded	Illustrative examples of what funds are used for (e.g., territorial mapping, land tenure rights recognition, forest and land management capacity, etc.).

Legal status	Legal Status	The legal form under which the mechanism is registered. Legal status – definitions: 1. **Trust**. A legal arrangement where assets are held by trustees for the benefit of specified groups (e.g., Indigenous Peoples, communities). Trustees are legally bound to manage resources according to the trust deed. Common in Anglo-law countries (e.g., community trust funds). 2. **Foundation**. A registered non-profit legal entity that manages an endowment or donor funds to provide grants or implement programs. Typically has a board of directors and a formal charter. Common form for environmental and community funds globally. 3. **Association**. A membership-based legal body, usually registered under civil society law. Members (individuals or organizations) have the right to elect leadership and participate in governance. Often used by federations of Indigenous Peoples or community groups. 4. **Territorial fund**. A fund created to manage resources for a defined territory or collective landholding, often under Indigenous Peoples or customary governance. They may or may not have a distinct legal registration, sometimes housed within a federation. Key feature: funds are earmarked for a specific territory or ancestral domain. 5. **Cooperative**. A legal entity owned and democratically controlled by its members, typically for shared economic benefit. Members pool resources and share profits/losses. Can operate financial services (savings/credit), agriculture, or payments for ecosystem services. 6. **Other**. Any form that does not fit the above categories (e.g., NGO, government program, informal mechanism). Specify in Notes what the form is. 7. **No information found**.
	Legal Status - notes	Any additional details on registration, statutes, or exceptions.
	Led by	The actor(s) with governance control. Options: Indigenous Peoples organization; Local Community organization; Mixed.
	Host entity (if fund is housed in an organization) and/or implementing agency	The parent organization or institutional home if the fund is not legally independent. This can include Indigenous Peoples federations, NGOs, UN agencies, development banks, or government bodies that provide fiduciary management, host the secretariat, or serve as the legal vehicle through which the fund operates. In cases where an external organization is contracted to manage or disburse resources on behalf of the fund, this is noted as the implementing agency.
Funding sources	Main funding sources	Primary categories of financial support. Options: Multilateral / International Funds; Bilateral donors (government ODA); Philanthropic foundations / INGOs; Private sector; Carbon markets/Climate finance mechanisms; Domestic government funds; Community self-generated revenues; Hybrid.
	Main funding sources - notes	Specify exact funders.

	Financial setup (where money sits / how it renews)	The underlying financial arrangement that determines how the fund's resources are held, managed, and replenished. Options: 1. **Endowment / perpetual**. Capital is invested; a percentage of the returns is spent annually while preserving the principal. 2. **Sinking / time-bound**. Principal is drawn down over a fixed period (e.g., disbursed over X years) until depleted. 3. **Revolving**. Capital is replenished through reflows from loans, payments for ecosystem services, royalties, or revenue-sharing arrangements. 4. **Escrow/guarantee**. Funds are held in reserve to share risk or to unlock other financing by backing loans and commitments. 5. **Pass-through**. No holding; funds are received and quickly disbursed without building a permanent capital base. 6. **Blended**. A mix of the above approaches (e.g., partial endowment with a revolving component).
	Financial setup - notes	Additional information on the specific arrangement.
	Scale	Approximate resources managed (latest year, specify currency).
Governance & decision-making	Board composition	Who holds seats and decision-making authority in the board/governing body. Options: IPs majority; LC majority; Mixed parity; IPs+LCs minority; No formal board/informal governance; Unknown/Not disclosed.
	Board composition - notes	Details on seat allocation or governance rules.
	Decision-making processes	How grant or funding decisions are taken. Options: Majority vote; Consensus; Mixed (consensus-first, fallback vote); Assembly-based; Council of elders/traditional authority; Executive discretion; Other (specify in notes); Unknown/Not disclosed.
	Decision-making processes - notes	Details of quorum rules, voting thresholds, or customary practices.
	Grantmaking	The mechanism provides non-repayable funds (grants) to eligible organizations or communities for activities they propose. Selection is usually through open calls, nominations, or board decisions. Options: yes or no.
	Grantmaking - Notes	Details of the grantmaking process.
	Disbursement channels	How funds are transferred to beneficiaries. Options: Direct to communities; Through federations; Via intermediaries.
	Disbursement channels - notes	Details of intermediaries (if any) or exceptions.
Sources	Website	Main public website of the mechanism.
	Other relevant links	Sources used to gather the information above.

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