



SECURE INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS CONTRIBUTE TO FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

The **Global Call to Action on Indigenous and Community Land Rights** aims to engage and mobilize communities, organizations, governments, and individuals worldwide in promoting and securing Indigenous Peoples and local communities' land rights.

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES OFFER PROMISING SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE. DRAWING ON THEIR TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, THEY HAVE BEEN STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR GENERATIONS. SECURE, LEGALLY RECOGNIZED COMMUNITY TENURE RIGHTS ARE A PROVEN AND COST-EFFECTIVE CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION.



WHEN COMMUNITIES LEGALLY OWN THEIR LAND, DEFORESTATION RATES DECREASE

■ Guatemala

20 times less deforestation in legally recognized community forests in the Petén Maya Biosphere Reserve (RRI/WRI).

■ Amazon region of Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia

Average annual deforestation rates on tenure-secure indigenous lands 2-3 times lower than in similar forests without secure tenure (WRI).

INDIGENOUS LANDS STORE MORE CARBON AND REDUCE EMISSION

■ Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' contributions to climate change mitigation are far greater than previously realized: **their forestlands hold at least one quarter of all above-ground tropical forest carbon, 54,546 million metric tons**, which is equivalent to four times the total global carbon emissions in 2014. Given data is not yet available for all the lands communities claim and manage around the world, **the actual impact of community ownership is far greater** (RRI/WRI/WHRC).

■ **One tenth of the carbon stored in the world's tropical forests – 22,322 million metric tons – is in community forests that lack formal, legal recognition.** Insecure rights threaten communities and the forests they protect. Unless these forests and the carbon they contain are recognized as community-owned, the world's ability to deliver on the promises of the Paris Climate Agreement is in jeopardy (RRI/WRI/WHRC).

PASTORALIST MANAGED LANDS IN MONGOLIA: A MODEL OF ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, AND RESILIENCE

■ Pastoralists in the Western foothills of Mongolia are promoting climate change sensitive land management. They have developed mobile and flexible resource management practices, effectively mitigating, adapting to, and building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

■ When agro-pastoralists manage their lands, **1 billion tons of carbon** could be kept in the ground per year, equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions of **200 million cars** (ILC).

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR GOVERNMENTS TO RECOGNIZE INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS SO THEY CAN CONTINUE TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE, BUT MOST ARE IGNORING THIS COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION.

■ Securing the ownership rights of these forests for Indigenous Peoples and local communities is both an inexpensive and cost-effective method for lowering carbon emissions. The benefits over the next 20 years amount to \$523 billion to \$1.165 trillion in Brazil, \$54-119 billion in Bolivia, and \$123-277 billion in Colombia. The cost of securing rights—only a few dollars per hectare of forest each year—is less than 1 percent of the total benefits.

■ Despite peer-reviewed evidence that strong land rights allow Indigenous Peoples and communities to outperform all other managers in caring for their forests, only **21 of 188 countries** included forest peoples in their plans for reducing carbon emissions under the Paris treaty (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions).