

An aerial photograph showing a small village with several buildings and corrugated metal roofs nestled within a vast, dense tropical forest. A river flows through the forest on the right side of the image. The text 'Scaling support for forest tenure rights' is overlaid in large white font in the lower right quadrant.

Scaling support for forest tenure rights

The Forest Tenure Pledge 2020-2025

GDPRD AGA November 2024

Why does land and forest tenure matter

- Indigenous Peoples represent over 6% of the world's population
- Indigenous peoples and local communities (IP and LCs) manage and live in at least half of the world's land
- This land contains much of the world's remaining biodiversity and over a third of intact forests
- The rights of IP and LCs are protected in just 10% per cent of the land in which they reside
- Over 1 billion people worldwide feel insecure about their rights to property or land





Climate finance and forest tenure

- Analysis in 2020 showed less than 1% of ODA for climate mitigation and adaptation goes to forest tenure rights and forest management
- An even smaller share is reaching IPLC-led organizations directly
- Global donor funding systems, particularly bilateral donors, not set up to enable direct support to IPLCs



The Forest Tenure Pledge

- At COP26, 23 public and private donors committed \$1.7bn towards advancing forest tenure rights in ODA-eligible countries.
- Donors made individual commitments to spend \$Xm; spend and accountability individual.
- No central funding or allocation mechanism
- Donor coordination group established, including facilitating greater IP and LC dialogue to support collaboration

Priority funding shifts

The Pledge is also a commitment to explore how donors can **adjust policy focus and funding practices**:

Channelling more 'direct' support - *IP and LC organisations have greater control in design and how funds are spent*

Working with trusted partners – *where intermediaries needed, these are inclusive and collaborative partnerships with IP and LCs*

Increased **investment in capacity building** of IP and LC-led organisations – *building towards funding at scale*

Funder organisations champion **internal policy shifts and priority focus areas** to embed forest tenure throughout strategic and programme focus



Shifting funding approaches: donor ambitions



- Increased global attention on IP and LC tenure rights
- Mobilise more resources to support IP and LCs secure their tenure rights
- More effective funding mechanisms, including more 'direct' funding
- Better coordination of bilateral, multilateral, philanthropic and civil society activities and facilitated collaboration
- Shifting political will and capacity for action by governments in tropical forest countries



Types of projects

Land and forest tenure reforms

- e.g. building partnerships and capacity at national-level to develop or advance land and forest governance reforms

Regional level support structures

- e.g. support for regional and local governments,
- e.g. regional organisations and networks supporting IP and LCs

Direct support to IP and LC organisations

- e.g. Local mapping, tenure registration
- e.g. Capacity building to establish new funding mechanisms, absorb funds at scale.
- e.g. develop sustainable livelihoods



Types of challenges (for bilateral donors)

- Funding multiple individual projects = high project management costs, less likelihood of projects getting approved
- Inflexible internal due diligence, risk management and reporting requirements for large programmes
- Working through trusted intermediary organisations who manage multiple direct grants while reducing administrative and reporting burdens. These provide technical support to IP and LC partners, building capacity to absorb future funding at scale

However, part of Pledge commitment is exploring how this can change

Latest reporting

Pledge Funders Group Annual Report 2023-2024:

Pledge donors have now disbursed nearly **\$1.34 billion—79% of the total Pledge target**—indicating strong momentum toward achieving the full commitment by the end of 2025.

In 2023 alone, FTFG members reported nearly \$521 million in Pledge-aligned funding.

Around **\$55 million—representing 10.6% of total Pledge funds—reached IP and LC organizations directly in 2023**; *a significant increase from 2.1% in 2022 and 2.9% in 2021.*





Looking forward

- Discussions underway on a next phase of the Pledge, to be launched at UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil
- Donors aware of the importance of shaping this collaboratively with IP and LC led organisations and Global South Government
- Questions to explore include: how to improve reporting and accountability and how to incorporate meaningful and measurable targets? How can we work more effectively with multi-lateral funding mechanisms? How can we better join up work on reforms at national level with direct support to IP and LCs?