

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES & LOW-EMISSION RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The role of indigenous peoples and other traditional communities is particularly critical in dynamic frontier landscapes.

- Approximately 357 million hectares of forest lands in 30 of the world's tropical forest countries are owned or designated for use by indigenous and traditional peoples.¹
- In many regions, indigenous and other forest-dependent communities have successfully inhibited deforestation through relatively lower intensity land uses or through active protection of boundaries and other legal restrictions on natural resource exploitation by outsiders.²
- Indigenous peoples (IPs) and traditional communities (TCs) are important stewards of forest carbon stocks; Indigenous territories account for 27.1% (23,380 MtC) of total above ground carbon storage in Amazonia alone.³
- However, IPs and TCs are frequently marginalized when it comes to discussions, actions, incentives or benefits for reducing deforestation (including carbon credits).

In this brief, we explore the challenges, options and opportunities for improving inclusion of and benefit-sharing arrangements for indigenous and traditional peoples within the context of integrated, low-emission rural development programs in 10 jurisdictions.

In recent decades, there have been important advances in formal rights recognition for indigenous peoples with respect to forests and forest resources (see right). However, in many cases, these rights continue to be difficult to implement and enforce.

Despite these gains, indigenous and traditional communities still face significant **challenges**

- **Territorial Security** is undermined by insufficient clarity over land tenure, violent conflicts over land and resources, and in some cases, pending policy reversals.
- **Logistical and language barriers** inhibit participation in climate change dialogues.
- **Climate Finance** has yet to reach many jurisdictions and their forest-dependent populations.
- **Conflicting visions for regional development**, across sectors and stakeholders, slow the design of effective and equitable strategies.
- **Risks and uncertainties** regarding voluntary carbon markets and REDD+ projects present significant hurdles for IPs and TCs to obtain benefits, and unmet expectations may undermine credibility of such projects.

PROGRESS TOWARDS FORMAL RIGHTS RECOGNITION

Summary of major international instruments, domestic constitutions, and laws affecting indigenous rights in target countries with respect to rights to land, resources, and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)

- INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS
- NATIONAL
- SUB-NATIONAL/JURISDICTIONAL
- * LANDS
- † RESOURCES
- ‡ FPIC



1 Derived from Rights and Resources Initiative 2014.

2 Nepstad et al. 2006; Soares-Filho et al. 2010; Ferretti-Gallon & Busch 2014

3 Walker et al. 2014