



CONCEPT NOTE

Dialogue on the impact and scope of direct territorial financing in Mesoamerica Costa Rica, February 13 & 14, 2024

TOPIC: Sustainable solutions to promote direct climate financing to indigenous peoples and local communities with a rights-based approach, in key biodiversity areas in Mesoamerica

TYPE OF EVENT: In-person and virtual

LOCATION: Hotel Hilton Garden Inn, La Sabana, San José, Costa Rica

DATES: February 13-14, 2024

BACKGROUND:

At the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, England, a group of twenty-two bilateral and philanthropic donors called the Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG) pledged 1.7 billion dollars to promote indigenous and community forest tenure rights as a way to address climate change. In 2022, the FTFG published its first annual report reflecting that, in 2021, the FTFG allocated only 7% of total funding directly to organizations led by indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs), while approximately 50% was distributed indirectly through international non-governmental organizations.

Protecting forests by investing in indigenous peoples and local communities (IP & LCs) is considered one of the most effective ways to mitigate climate change and halt global biodiversity loss. The issue is that much of the funding does not reach the IP & LC-led organizations that can address these problems. In response to this, in various parts of the world in recent years we have seen the emergence of direct financing mechanisms for IP & LCs also known as direct territorial investment funds. These funds aim to facilitate mechanisms for financing to reach smaller IP & LC organizations with a rights-based approach in conservation processes, forest management, adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change, and territorial governance. The use of these mechanisms allows greater autonomy and contextualization regarding the priorities to be financed.

Likewise, territorial financing seeks to accompany organizations in a culturally adapted way, through the creation and strengthening of capacities, promoting sustainability and positive impacts on investment. To continue protecting the ecosystems of Mesoamerica through development cooperation better linked to grassroots territorial organizations, as well as delving into the understanding and positioning of direct financing mechanisms for IP & LC's, the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund | Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and



Forests propose this event– to contribute to building a joint vision and concrete proposals on the topic of climate financing and sustainable development in collaboration with IP & LC's in Mesoamerica.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

TO promote multi-stakeholder dialogue and position the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund (FTM) of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB) as an effective tool to streamline direct territorial financing and generate positive impacts for the development and sustainability of IPLC organizations, the ecosystems and biodiversity of Mesoamerica.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

Enable spaces for the exchange of perspectives and experiences of various key actors on the development of direct territorial financing through the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund (current and potential strategic partners). As well as sharing thoughts on the opportunities and challenges in the implementation of direct territorial financing for IP & LCs in Mesoamerica.

To showcase IP & LC organizations about the challenges, opportunities, and impacts experienced in accessing and implementing direct territorial financing.

Provide updates on the scope and implementation of the pledges made at COP 26 by the Forest Tenure Funders Group and present progress and challenges to direct territorial financing at the national and regional level in Mesoamerica.

Propose ideas and achieve some specific agreements to advance the objectives and goals of climate financing at the level of the Mesoamerican region.

PARTICIPANTS:

Bilateral and philanthropic donors to the Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG).

International cooperation linked to conservation and climate change issues.

NGO strategic partners of the FTM and AMPB.

AMPB members territorial organizations.

METHODOLOGY:

The event on the 13th and 14th will have a hybrid work methodology, as it is divided into more political strategic debates, and a format of keynote presentations in the morning on the other hand the afternoon sessions will have a more operational focus, be interactive and analytical, to obtain concrete recommendations in multi-sectoral working groups sessions to discuss the issues of direct territorial financing. The idea is to have a balance between visibility, the political positioning of the FTM's work, and the more operational-programmatic part of the work, as well as future projections of the FTM's work strategy, in debate with current and potential donors and strategic allies.

On February 15, we will visit the Cabécar Nairi Awari indigenous territory, one of the indigenous territories of the Cabécar people of Costa Rica located in the Province of Limón, near the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, approximately 3 hours from San Jose.