



# FSC INDIGENOUS FOUNDATION

*Co-creating Indigenous forest-nature-based solutions, promoting  
Indigenous rights and Indigenous holistic self-development  
worldwide.*

**Created by Indigenous Peoples,  
for Indigenous Peoples.**



## THE PROBLEM

- Indigenous Peoples have **limited access to capacity-building** training, spaces for inclusive decision-making, and support for Indigenous-led business enterprises.
- In 2020, 227 land and environmental defenders **were killed**, an average of more than four people a week. Over a third were Indigenous Peoples. About 70% were defending forests.
- Only 7.5% of 6.8 million** hectares of Indigenous and local community lands in the planet have legally recognized rights.
- Less than 1%** of official development assistance for climate change goes towards IPLC land tenure and forest management. Of this funding, only a very small amount reaches IPLCs and their organizations directly.
- The participation of Indigenous Peoples in sustainable production chains corresponds to **only 1%** of the 300 million hectares of certified forest on the planet.
- IPLCs experience risks to land tenure and have **limited access to finance**. Indigenous households are among the poorest households.
- Indigenous Cultural Landscapes are **disappearing**.

Only a fraction of funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities land tenure and forest management directly reaches Indigenous Peoples' organizations and local communities.

Driven by holistic and ancestral knowledge and practices, as well as cosmovision, it is urgent that the global value of Indigenous Peoples and their rights, livelihoods, ecosystem services, natural capital, and territories are recognized and incorporated into forest governance, climate finance, funding mechanisms, and market systems.



## OPPORTUNITIES

### Indigenous Peoples and Forests

IPLCs are the world's best forest guardians; Indigenous lands hold at least 36% of the world's intact forests.

- ✓ In the Amazon in Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia, the average annual deforestation rates from 2000 to 2012 in Indigenous lands were **two to three times lower** than in similar land not managed by Indigenous Peoples.
- ✓ In the Brazilian Amazon, the demarcation, registration and documentation of Indigenous lands from 1982 to 2016 produced a **66% reduction in deforestation**.
- ✓ In Benin, the titling of community land resulted in a reduction in tree cover loss of around **20%** and a reduction in fires by 5% from 2009 – 2017.
- ✓ Indigenous Peoples manage over 25% of the world's land surface which intersects with 40% of all terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact landscapes. On land managed by Indigenous Peoples, **biodiversity is higher than in protected areas**.



Indigenous  
Peoples  
constitute

**5%**

of the global  
population.



Nearly

**70 million**

Indigenous Peoples depend on forests for their  
livelihoods.



Indigenous  
Peoples  
and local  
communities  
manage

**1/4**

of the world's  
land

Indigenous Peoples and local communities  
manage at least

**54,546  
million MT**



of carbon in the tropical forests they live in, almost  
**1/4** of the total carbon found above ground in the  
global tropics.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Indigenous Peoples and Climate

IPLCs are repositories or nature-based solutions to combat climate change.

- ✓ Indigenous Peoples and local communities **manage at least 54,546 million** metric tons of carbon (Mt C) in the tropical forests they live in globally, or just under one-quarter of the total carbon found aboveground in the global tropics (about 250 times the carbon dioxide emissions from global air travel in 2015).
- ✓ While Indigenous territories cover 28 percent of the Amazon Basin, they only made up **2.6 percent of its carbon footprint**.
- ✓ Forests and other natural climate solutions can contribute upwards of **37% of CO2 mitigation by 2030**. Forests absorb twice as much carbon as they emit each year.
- ✓ Tenure-secure Indigenous and Community lands are a **central climate change mitigation strategy**.

### Indigenous Peoples' Lands and Prosperity

Protecting Indigenous land rights and increased participation of Indigenous businesses in trade and policy development has the potential to unlock mutual economic prosperity.

- ✓ IPLCs land **supports over two billion people** (almost a quarter of the world's population), including 370 million – 500 million Indigenous Peoples.
- ✓ Indigenous Peoples number over 470 million across the world and **manage a quarter of the earth's surface**. Land is a fundamental asset for the sustainable economic development of Indigenous Peoples, and land rights are critical for self-determination.
- ✓ Half the world's land is Indigenous Peoples or Local Community land, although estimates are as high as **65% or more of the global land**.
- ✓ Securing Indigenous lands is a **cost-effective** carbon mitigation strategy.



## CO-CREATING GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

The IF works to **elevate Indigenous Peoples in their contribution to the protection of the Mother Earth and recognize them as providers of solutions to global challenges**. By recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the IF catalyzes and facilitates Indigenous Peoples organizations through capacity development including creation of multi-sectoral connections to decision-making and supporting self-determination and self-development.

### Strategic Pillars



**Indigenous Leadership and  
Capacity Development**



**Indigenous Rights and  
Territorial Governance**



**Indigenous Forests, Climate  
Change, Economies and Self-  
Development**



**Indigenous Financial  
Mechanisms**



**Indigenous Cultural  
Landscapes**



## WHAT IS THE INDIGENOUS FOUNDATION?

**The Indigenous Foundation (IF)** is a global organization created by and for Indigenous Peoples that seeks to provide long-term solutions supporting Indigenous communities worldwide.

We are an Indigenous-led global entity part of the FSC family and based in Panama that works to co-create long-term Indigenous-nature-market based solutions through inclusion of Indigenous knowledge, authority and traditional practices.



**IF will achieve its mission and will implement its actions through:**

Providing technical, strategic and institutional support to

Working through partnerships with

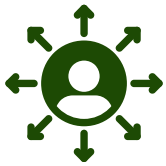
Facilitating funds and granting mechanisms to

Supporting innovative business solutions from

**Indigenous  
Peoples  
Organizations**

## IF POTENTIAL AND OPPORTUNITIES

*The IF was established by Indigenous Peoples, supported by FSC, to serve as technical, strategic and operational unit for the PIPC (Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee) and other Indigenous Peoples worldwide.*



IF will act as a global branch to facilitate programs and project implementation led by Indigenous Peoples organizations with direct funding management developed by them and managed by them.



Climate change will require multi-sectoral collaboration. Indigenous Peoples manage over 25 percent of the global landmass and any nature-based solution will depend on the future of Indigenous peoples and their territories.



Donors, companies, and other stakeholders have identified nature-based solutions as key programmatic priorities over the next decade. Indigenous Peoples have been the world's nature-based solution providers for thousands of years.



IF supports Indigenous Peoples in their active role in forest and nature-based solutions worldwide through: capacity building, providing technical, strategic and institutional support so they can be better equipped to influence public-private decision-making to secure self-governance of their territories, catalyzing an enabling environment that recognizes and incorporates Indigenous Peoples' interests into policies and investments, and partnering with the private sector to create opportunities to strengthen their economies based on new Indigenous Economic Models.



IF will facilitate funds and granting mechanisms to IPLCs, and support innovative business solutions from Indigenous Peoples.



## IF TARGET GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES



*In the initial 1-2 years, the IF will prioritize IPs in the Global South given the priority for this region by donors.*

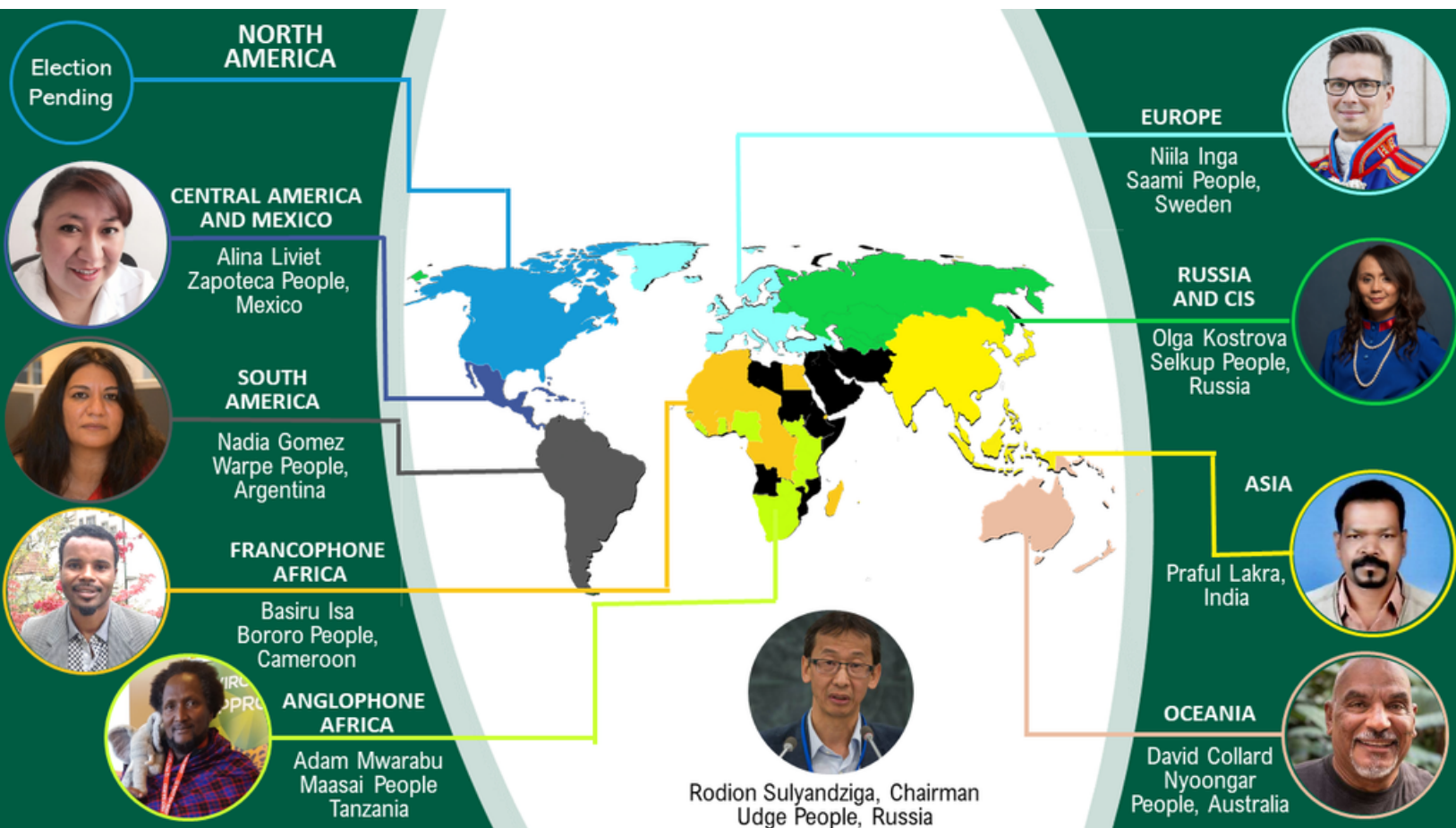
<b>Africa</b>	Anglophone Africa
	Francophone Africa
<b>Asia-Pacific</b>	Asia
	Oceania
<b>Europe-CIS</b>	Europe
<b>Latin America</b>	Central America & Mexico
	South America
<b>North America</b>	Canada
	USA

**Global Indigenous Advisory Committee**  
20 Indigenous Representatives





## INDIGENOUS GOVERNING REPRESENTATIVES



### IF Values

The IF is and will be led by, for, and with Indigenous Peoples. Its values are guided by Indigenous Peoples values including:

*International multi-disciplinary team*



IPLCs will manage their land, water, and ecosystems with great respect and care by recognizing that they only borrow them from future generations.



IPLCs will keep their promise to their ancestors to manage nature and the resources provided by the Mother Earth in a sustainable and respectful way.

## GOVERNANCE

The IF is an Indigenous-led global organization, governed by a Council with Indigenous representatives from around the world who is responsible to provide the strategic guidance of the Foundation and ensure that it operates in line with its mission, values, and principles

### FSC Indigenous Foundation Council



**ANDERS BLOM**

Chairperson of the FSC Indigenous Foundation Council and Founder and Senior Advisor of the Protect Sápmi Foundation



**NICHOLAS MUJAH ASON**

General Secretary of the Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA)



**HINDOU OUMAROU IBRAHIM**

Coordinator of the Association of Peul Women and Autochthonous Peoples of Chad (AFPAT) and Coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)



**KIM CARSTENSEN**

Director General of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)



**GREGORIO MIRABAL**

Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)

### Forest Stewardship Council Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee

The Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee (PIPC) is a global advisory committee of Indigenous representatives from all regions of the planet to advise the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) International Board on the FSC certification system, safeguard Indigenous Peoples' rights, enhance forest management, and support Indigenous Peoples in building FSC certified forest stewardship, increasing their market share and value.



**DR. FRANCISCO SOUZA**  
Managing Director, IF

### FSC Indigenous Foundation Staff

International, multi-disciplinary team

### Donors and supporters

In August 2020, the IF signed the agreement to launch its first major undertaking: a Global Development Alliance (GDA) with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC Global Development GmbH).

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The IF is seeking new strategic partnerships to provide the financial resources necessary to turn the vision of the IF into reality. Through in-kind or monetary support, our strategic partners help us to leverage key contributions from other private sector and philanthropic entities to scale up the work planned in the following years and beyond.

**You can contribute** to this global initiative by joining as a strategic partner of the IF. Your partnership and investment will support the long-term empowerment of Indigenous Peoples to shape their own development, territories, and livelihoods across the globe.

### **Key partners:**

- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**
- **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)**
- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**
- **UN Women**
- **Hivos**
- **Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB)**
- **Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)**
- **Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC)**

## FSC GLOBAL IMPACTS

The IF is a global entity part of the FSC family



Actions in 138 countries



~ 5,000 companies linked to  
FSC standards



216 million hectare of certified  
forests



1,162 International members  
in 89 countries



+ 20,000 certified products on  
the market





**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



**FORESTS  
FOR ALL  
FOREVER**



**FSC  
INDIGENOUS  
FOUNDATION**



**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
ALLIANCE FOR RIGHTS  
& DEVELOPMENT**

## IMPLEMENTATION

### The Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Rights and Development (IPARD)

In 2020, the IF launched the **Indigenous Peoples Alliance for Rights and Development (IPARD)**, a global development alliance convening multi-sector partners to enable Indigenous Peoples globally to strengthen their capacities, so they can manage and develop their communities based on their priorities, traditional knowledge, natural resource management, and respect for their rights. IPARD is implemented by the IF and is currently funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the FSC and private sector partners. **IPARD's goal** will be achieved through three objectives:



Organize and convene a **Capacity Development** Program for Indigenous Peoples' organizations and stakeholders, such as government entities and the private sector;

Foster an enabling and authorizing environment for Indigenous Peoples' **Effective Participation** and joint decision-making in matters affecting them;



Promote **Business Opportunities** and partnerships for Indigenous Peoples' sustainable development based on innovative economic models.

### The How: IPARD approaches and models and their implementation

Country-Focused Approach

Indigenous Project Management Approach

Indigenous Peoples Sustainability and Self-Reliance Model

Multi-Sectoral Approach

Partnership Model







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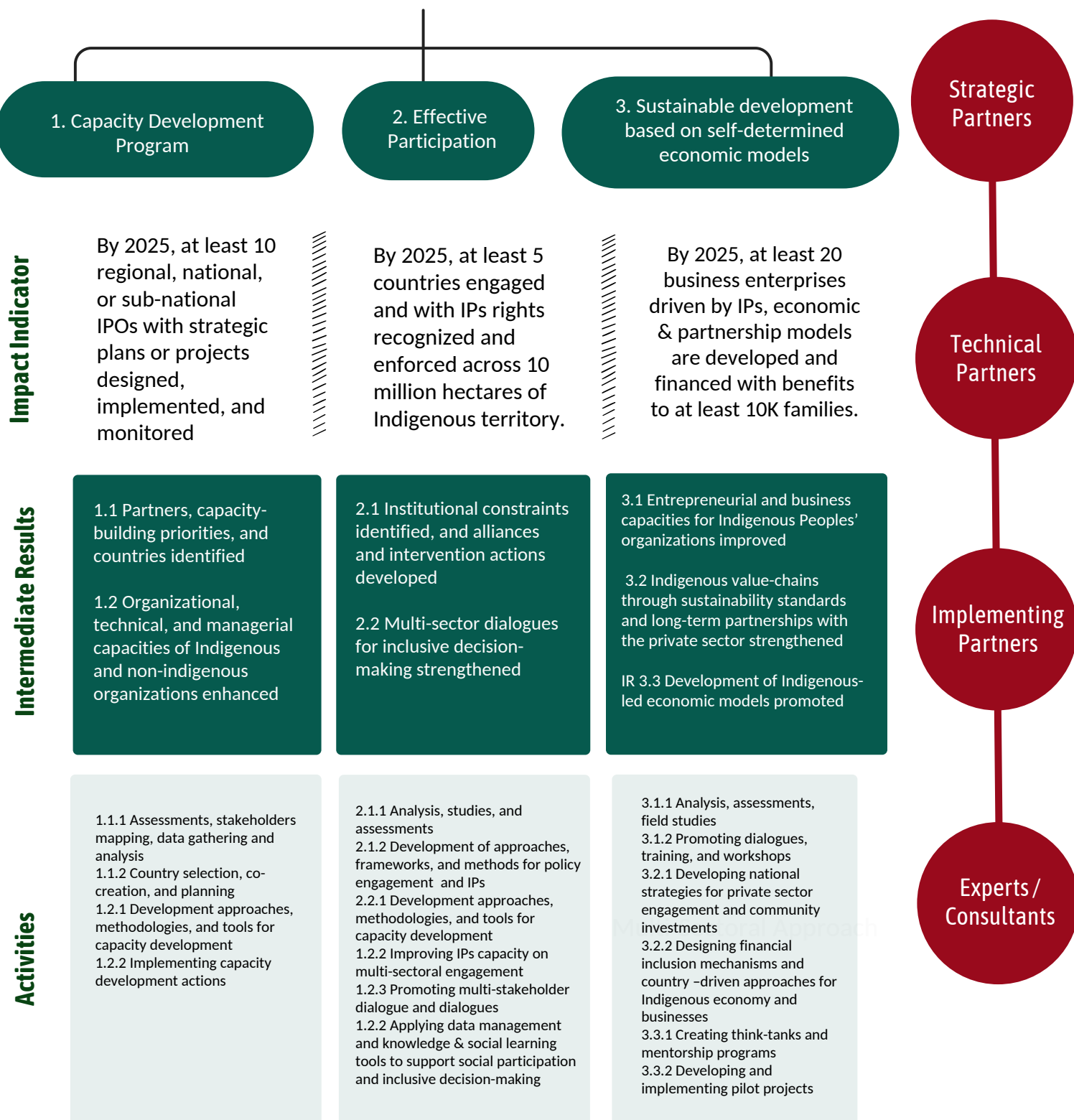


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## IPARD PARTNERSHIP MODEL





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**FORESTS**  
**FOR ALL**  
**FOREVER**



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**INDIGENOUS**  
**FOUNDATION**

## IMPLEMENTATION

### Indigenous Women and Girls Economic Empowerment Initiative (I-WEE)

*Empowering Indigenous women and girls in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador*



The IF is implementing I-WEE by bringing together support from multi-sectoral partners to address the root causes of social and economic vulnerabilities and improve the resilience of Indigenous women and girls. I-WEE is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and will take place in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

I-WEE aims to promote the **economic empowerment of Indigenous women and girls** by strengthening their skills and abilities, generating enabling environments for their active participation and advocacy, and strengthening productive initiatives led by Indigenous women.

These activities are framed in the following three objectives incorporating the gender approach:

**1**

**Capacity Building** - co-create with Indigenous women and girls a capacity building program to strengthen their technical, leadership and entrepreneurial skills; and to design and implement trainings for governmental agencies or other stakeholders to support the organizations of Indigenous women. The capacity building program will promote an inclusion-based approach to incorporate their rights, needs, and contributions inside and outside of Indigenous communities in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

**2**

**Participation** - foster an enabling environment for Indigenous women and girls to participate in decision-making on issues that affect them. Provide support to Indigenous women so they can participate in dialogue platforms to influence public investments and remove social, legal, and policy barriers to their social and economic empowerment.

**3**

**Economic Growth** - promote the sustainable development of Indigenous Peoples' economies based on their own ancestral processes and systems. Focus support to community enterprises led by Indigenous women and their growth through capacity development, building partnerships with the private sector, digital inclusion, and sustainable resource management.



## JOIN US

The FSC Indigenous Foundation aims to create impactful and lasting change with and for Indigenous Peoples around the world. This requires collaboration and strategic partnerships with different actors to support our goal.

We invite you to join us as strategic partners of the FSC-IF.

Contact us:



[fsc.if@fsc.org](mailto:fsc.if@fsc.org)



<https://www.fscindigenousfoundation.org/>

