



# SHANDIA

A Platform for Direct Financing for  
Indigenous Peoples and Local  
Communities



**GLOBAL ALLIANCE**  
**OF TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES**



## CONTEXT

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are on the frontlines of protecting forests, which is key for stabilizing the global environment. It has been clearly documented that 80% of the world's biodiversity is protected and managed by IPLCs. Despite their important contributions, IPLCs have received minimal direct support.

A study by Rainforest Foundation Norway in 2021 shows that only \$270 million (1% of global funding) for climate change goes to increase IPLCs tenure and forest management. Of that amount, hardly any funding went directly to IPLCs, and only 17% (or \$47 million) went to projects that made reference to an IPLCs organization. It should be noted that there are enormous opportunities to make important gains in protecting forests and making significant and lasting contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

There are an estimated 400 million ha of IPLCs lands without legal recognition, and another (currently unquantified) area of degraded lands in IPLCs territories that can be restored to ensure ecosystem services are recovered.

Meanwhile, IPLCs territories are increasingly threatened, due to the weak protection and limited recognition offered by their respective governments. Additionally, IPLCs face many unnecessary administrative hurdles to effectively manage their territories due to excessive bureaucratic requirements. Expropriation of these areas continues to increase due to economic development policies that prioritize outside investment by any means necessary.

Relatively few bilateral and multilateral donors prioritize IPLCs tenure and other rights, and forest governance and management as part of their development aid. Meanwhile, most funds intended to support IPLCs are channelled through intermediaries - a mix of large international NGOs, UN agencies, and consulting companies - not directly to IPLCs organizations. Yet, at the UNFCCC COP26, bilateral donors and private philanthropists announced a pledge to increase direct support for IPLCs as part of an ambitious global effort to reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030. Operationalizing this global effort will require new approaches. The pledge presents a strategic opportunity to develop mechanisms for directly funding IPLCs organizations.

There is a clear need for a new mechanism, led by IPLCs and strategic allies, that facilitates access to finance pathways for IPLCs in Mesoamerica, Amazonia, Africa and Indonesia. New and higher levels of funding will support efforts and initiatives in protecting and managing IPLCs lands, territories, and resources, so that we can continue to directly contribute to reducing emissions related to deforestation and forest degradation, increasing carbon stocks and improving local economies. This platform will also assist IPLCs in preventing the seizure of their territories by socio-environmental investment regulations that work against IPLCs. The Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) has developed this necessary pathway for IPLCs funding, a platform called Shandia.

*The World Bank, 2008. The Role of Indigenous Peoples in Biodiversity Conservation - The Natural but Often Forgotten Partners <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/995271468177530126/the-role-of-indigenous-peoples-in-biodiversity-conservation-the-natural-but-often-forgotten-partners>*  
*Rainforest Foundation Norway, 2021. FALLING SHORT Donor funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to secure tenure rights and manage forests in tropical countries (2011–2020). [https://d5i6isOeze552.cloudfront.net/documents/Publikasjoner/Andre-rapporter/RFN\\_Falling\\_short\\_2021.pdf?mtime=20210412123104](https://d5i6isOeze552.cloudfront.net/documents/Publikasjoner/Andre-rapporter/RFN_Falling_short_2021.pdf?mtime=20210412123104)*  
<https://ukcop26.org/cop26-iplc-forest-tenure-joint-donor-statement>



## VISION

Shandia is a global platform that facilitates territorial financing of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Shandia ensures the protection of Mother Earth by supporting the recognition of tenure rights, strengthening the management of territories, promoting community-based economies, and advancing the fight against climate change, the protection of biodiversity and the reversal of the degradation of nature.

## MISSION

The mission of the Shandia platform is to guarantee sustainable and timely access to direct financing for actions to stop climate change and land degradation and for the protection of biodiversity by local organizations from IPLCs. These actions include respect for the rights and autonomy of IPLCs organizations, strengthening their economic endeavours, and respecting the priorities and aspirations of their representative organizations.

## HOW WILL IT WORK?

- The GATC is operationalizing the Shandia Platform to begin work immediately, using fiscal sponsors for the 'Global' and 'Readiness' components and financial intermediaries or implementation partners for the regional and national components, where needed.
- The GATC Council will use regular meetings with the Forest Tenure Donor Group and other key stakeholders to identify funding opportunities and negotiate agreements for medium and large projects.
- The GATC is seeking support for a series of regional and global consultation workshops to validate and refine principles, targets, and operational modalities, as well as widen the set of stakeholders involved.
- The Shandia Platform is utilizing a wide range of channels and pathways to get finance to communities, with an emphasis on supporting existing regional and national IPLCs funding mechanisms.
- The GATC will take a phased approach to develop the Shandia platform





## WHY SHANDIA? WHAT'S THE ADDED-VALUE?

- Shandia is a unique global mechanism arising out of a collaboration between IPLCs organizations in Mesoamerica, Amazonia, Indonesia and Africa, initiated by the GATC.
- It is governed by IPLCs representatives from the GATC.
- It builds on decades of experience generated by IPLCs in developing community initiatives and other solutions to fight against climate change.
- Provides a strategy to strengthen livelihoods, respect and recognize IPLCs' lifestyle, culture and traditional knowledge, as well as their collective actions that directly contribute to combating land degradation and climate change and protecting biodiversity, while generating benefits for the community itself.
- The Shandia platform leads a regular roundtable dialogue between donors and IPLCs in a spirit of mutual partnership with an equal participation in decision making.

## MAIN PRINCIPLES

- Securing rights to land, territories and resources of IPLCs.
- Ensuring the sustainability of ecosystems.
- Creating equal partnerships with full and effective participation of IPLCs in the governance structure of the Shandia platform.
- Ensuring implementation of Free, Prior, Informed Consent, including the inclusive, full and effective participation of women and youth.
- Ensuring transparency regarding the origin and use of funds.
- Building local capacities from the start.
- Upholding diverse traditional, cultural and local systems, including traditional and local knowledge.
- Understanding the challenges due to diverse geographical situations.
- Employing Result Based Reporting (RBR) that is effective and efficient and ensures accountability and transparency through simple and flexible administration mechanisms.
- Developing and applying IPLCs led approaches to evaluation and monitoring.
- Ensuring that IPLCs participate meaningfully in the design of program priorities and that all projects are co-designed through an FPIC process.

## MEASURING PROGRESS TOWARDS 2032

The GATC identifies a series of progress and impact indicators. These indicators can be defined in collaboration with specific donors for specific projects. These include:

### **Strengthening Recognition of IPLCs Rights**

- (#) New policies or agreements reached for the recognition of IPLCs rights

- (#) New IPLCs territories recognized

### **Strengthening Governance**

- (#) IPLCs organizations strengthened
- (#) Indigenous led education initiatives
- (#) Indigenous Schools established

### **Management of Territories**

- (# millions ha) of territories protected
  - (# millions ha) of territories mapped
  - (# millions ha) of territories rehabilitated
  - (# millions ha) of biodiversity protected through community-based conservation
  - (#) watersheds, micro watersheds and springs protected through traditional/local mechanisms
  - (#) Traditional knowledge related to climate change mitigation and adaptation identified and documented
- ### **Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Economies**
- (#) IPLCs based sustainable businesses launched or strengthened
  - (#) Potential local products identified and documented
  - (#) IPLCs supplied with renewable energy

**THE FUTURE  
IS WITH  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES  
AND LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES**



**GUARDIANS  
OF TOMORROW**



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## TYPES OF ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED

The GATC's Leadership Council proposes that the Shandia Platform be used to finance the following strategic activities, among others:

### **Strengthening Recognition of Rights**

- Public policy, advocacy and dialogues to advance the rights of IPLCs
- Land and natural resource mapping and legal recognition
- Legal support to human rights defenders and IPLCs women around human rights violations
- Legal and economic support for IPLCs victims of militarization
- Awareness raising and advocacy to implement Free, Prior and Informed Consent

### **Strengthening Community Based Decision Making and Capacity Building**

- Strengthening of IP-LC organizations and traditional institutions at the local, subnational, national and regional levels, including capacity building on advocacy, leadership, decision making, and financial, administrative, project and resource management.
- Capacity building for IPLCs women/youth/peoples with disabilities on necessary skills to adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Climate awareness and education at the community level.

### **Management of Territories**

- Community-based spatial planning (territorial, land use and natural resource management)
- Rehabilitation of land and territories, including reforestation and environmental restoration
- Water conservation and management
- Coastal zone management, including mangrove planting

### **Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Economies and Energy**

- Sustainable, environmentally friendly local economy
- Community renewable energy and technology transfer to combat climate change
- Food sovereignty

### **Emergency Response System**

- Disaster risk reduction and risk management, including early warning systems and disaster response
- Climate change migration prevention and support for climate refugees
- Promoting traditional and local knowledge on health programs (for new diseases)

### **Cultural Identity and Traditional Knowledge**

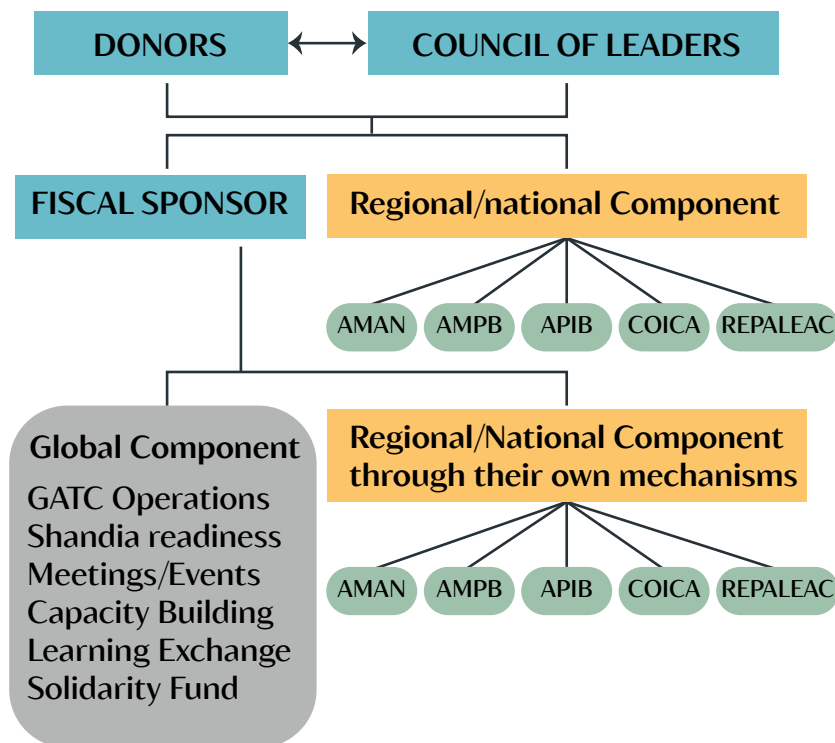
- Documentation of traditional knowledge, innovation and technology
- Protection of cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and language.



Photo: If Not Us, Then Who?

## SHANDIA FINANCIAL FLOWS

Shandia is coordinating with the GATC member organizations' regional funding mechanisms.



## EXPLANATION OF THE CHARTS

The Shandia Platform asserts that donors and IP-LCs must develop a mutual partnership. The GATC Leadership Council will have regular meetings with the Forest Tenure Donor Group and other key stakeholders to identify funding opportunities and negotiate agreements, including medium and large projects.

- Based on the different situations in each region, the Shandia Platform will function via existing direct and indirect channels of finance, including existing fiscal sponsors, trusted allies in each region, and the GATC member organizations' regional funding mechanisms.

- Shandia Funds will go to Global and Regional/National Components.

- Global Component will be administered by existing fiscal sponsors. Shandia will support global activities, such as: a) meetings and events in international conferences (UNFCCC, Climate Summit, CBD etc), b) capacity building of IPLCs organizations, especially, but not limited to: administration and financial management, c) learning exchanges among GATC member organizations/communities and with IPLCs in the Global South and North, and d) developing a solidarity fund.

- Regional/National Component funding will be channelled to GATC member organizations. GATC member organizations will determine how regional/ national funds will be used, channelled and administered, using their own regional/national financial mechanisms. Financing IPLCs regional mechanisms will be a major focus of the Shandia platform, to help mobilize significant and predictable funding for the new and emerging IPLCs led regional mechanisms, such as the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund (MTF), the Podaali Fund in Brazil and AMAN's Nusantara Fund.

- If a regional/national IPLCs organization requires a fiscal sponsor, they will be supported in the administration of the funds, and provided capacity building support on financial management or other necessary capacities related to the project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, or other needs, based on agreement with the grantees.



## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

2032 Target: \$300 Million

Global Component: \$3-5m/year

Regional/National Component: \$15-25m/year

## TIMELINE 2022-2032

### Phase I: 2022 – 2023 Readiness

- Implementation of Global Component
- Donor meetings on Readiness Phase: Priority work areas, agreement on indicators of success, financial commitments
- Strengthening technical capacities
- Shandia Structure & Governance Review of various types of funds

### Phase II: 2023 – 2030 Implementation

- Implementation of global/regional/national component based on its own design & mechanism
- Regular meetings with Donors
- Capacity building for local, sub-national and national organizations
- Strengthening GATC governance
- Annual Sharing Learning

### Phase III: 2030 – 2032 Consolidation

- Overall evaluation
- Lessons learned from the implementation phase
- Roundtable GATC & Donor Meeting: Report back on lessons learned from Shandia
- Future Plan – Scale up

Photo: Alcibiades Rodriguez.





## WHO WE ARE



### GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES

**The Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC)** is a coalition of indigenous and local community organizations from Mesoamerica, Amazonia, Africa and Asia. Protecting more than 958 million hectares of tropical forests, the Alliance represents 35 million people from forest territories in 24 countries. Made up of: Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN), the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB), the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) and the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPALEAC). Leading the movement for community-based climate solutions, we advocate for the recognition of the rights and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in global negotiations on climate change, forests and biodiversity.



Alliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara

**The Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN)** was established on 17 March, 1999. AMAN is composed of: 2,449 member communities; a population of 20+ million in population, 21 regional chapters, 115 local chapters, 3 wing organizations, 2 autonomous bodies, and 2 economic institutions. Additionally, we represent non-member IPs—over 60 million Indonesians who manage over 60 million hectares of forests and other natural resources in Indonesia. AMAN is a leading organization that fights for the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Indonesia. Nationally and globally AMAN

was the recipient of the Elinor Ostrom Award on Collective Governance of the Commons Council, Culture Award from the Indonesian Minister of Culture and Education, and “The Best Mass Organization Award” from the Indonesian Minister of Home Affairs. At the international level, AMAN has been involved in the initiation of various global initiatives including: the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC), The International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change/ IPFCC, and is a member of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP).

Visit: [www.aman.or.id](http://www.aman.or.id)



**The Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB)** is a space for coordination and exchange of territorial authorities that manage or influence the main forest areas of Mesoamerica. Indigenous governments and community forestry organizations that in the Alliance seek to strengthen their own dialogue, focused on conservation and community management of their territories, while jointly seeking to influence governments and international stakeholders to ensure that strategies for the conservation of biodiversity and for climate change mitigation, appropriately integrate the rights and benefits of Indigenous Peoples and Forest Communities. AMPB works on two clear advocacy routes: the Community Forest Management agenda and the Territorial Rights agenda. Both are based on the global climate change agenda. Members of AMPB include: MOCAF Network, ACOFOP, National Forestry Alliance, Utz Che', FEPROAH, MASTA, Mayangna Nation, YATAMA, RIBCA, Guna General Congress, and Embera Region-Wounaan.

Visit: <https://www.alianzamesoamericana.org/en/>



**The Articulation of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil – APIB**, was created by the indigenous movement at Terra Livre Camp (ATL) 2005. It is an instance of national reference of the indigenous movement in Brazil, bringing together indigenous organizations at the regional level, created from the bottom up. APIB's purpose is to strengthen the unity of indigenous peoples, the articulation between different indigenous regions and organizations in Brazil; mobilizing indigenous peoples and organizations against threats and aggressions against indigenous rights. APIB aims to promote and defend indigenous rights. APIB consists of: COIAB, APOINME, Terena Council, Aty Guasu, Comissão Guarani, Yvyrupa, ARPINSUDESTE and ARPINSUL.  
Visit: <https://apiboficial.org/?lang=en>



**The Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA in Spanish)** is an indigenous organization of international convergence that acts on behalf of 511 Indigenous Peoples, of which approximately 66 are Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI); articulated through organizations with a political-organizational base, present in the 9 Amazonian countries: AIDESEP (Peru), COIAB (Brazil), ORPIA (Venezuela), CIDOB (Bolivia), CONFENIAE (Ecuador), APA (Guyana), OPIAC (Colombia), OIS (Suriname), and FOAG (French Guiana). As Amazonian indigenous peoples, our efforts are oriented towards the promotion, protection, and security of our territories, through our ways of life, principles, and social, spiritual, and cultural values. COICA was born on March 14th, 1984, during the First Congress of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin.  
Visit: <https://coicamazonia.org/>



**The Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC)** is a sub-regional civil society organization and a specialized network of the Conference on Dense and Humid Ecosystems in Central Africa (CEFDHAC), a platform that brings together civil society organizations (CSOs) working for good governance and sustainable management of forests in Central Africa with the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC). Since its creation in 2003 in Kigali, Rwanda, REPALEAC and its active national network in Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Chad and Rwanda are taking action to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) as well as the sustainability of the ecosystems to which they are intimately linked and on which their survival depends.  
Visit: <https://repaleac.org>



For more information about the  
Global Alliance of Territorial Communities or the Shandia platform:  
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