Rainforest Fund

2024 Projects

EcoNusa (Papua)

EcoNusa is a new partner and RFUND will help fund a project in Papua designed to empower the local population economically while preserving their natural environment.The project focuses on increasing the protection of mangrove forests. The two primary objectives are to assist and support these communities in producing non-timber forest products within the mangrove areas, like prawns, and facilitating market access for these products.

RF US (Panama)

The purpose of this project is to secure land rights for local partners, enhance territorial governance for forest protection, and bolster the governance capacities of these partners. The plan involves supporting local partners in managing and defending land titles, amounting to 2.8 million hectares, and improving territorial governance over 6.9 million hectares. This includes integrating technology for forest monitoring and training.

RF UK (C.A.R)

This project is focusing on community forests as a sustainable and rights-based land management model that promotes development and forest protection in the Central African Republic (CAR). Targeting the Lobaye and Mboumou prefectures and the capital Bangui, it aims to benefit nearly 10,000 people across 24 villages, including indigenous Bayaka and Bantu communities. These communities have previously engaged in claiming 46,000 hectares of forests, which they had prepared for through participatory methods. The project will not only directly benefit these local communities but also contribute to wider policy and legal reforms in CAR, potentially improving land rights and equity under the Forest Code for the entire population.

RF Norway (West Pupua)

This project aims to protect the rainforests of Southwest and West Papua, which are rapidly being deforested. It will strengthen the management practices offering capacity building programs that emphasize sustainable livelihoods and the roles of women and youth in forest conservation. The project plans to influence village decisions on

rainforest protection and advocate for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)rights in forest-based economic development, leveraging partnerships with other organizations, community engagement, and youth networks.

Association Terra Indigena do Xingu (Brazil)

The project seeks to enhance the Xingu Indigenous Fire Brigade in Canarana, Brazil, enabling it to better protect the Xingu Indigenous Territory. Managed by the IFAX and involving multiple ethnic groups, the brigade aims to protect 18 villages from increased fire risks due to drier seasons, deforestation, and climate change. This proposal, focusing on a one-time equipment purchase and six-month institutional support, responds to the heightened fire threats in an area beset by agricultural encroachment and insufficient government firefighting resources. They urgently need funding for supplies and training to effectively combat these challenges.

CALG (Philipines)

This project focuses on securing land for indigenous communities and improving their livelihoods. Key efforts include obtaining CADT certificates under the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act, implementing community-driven Sustainable Development and Protection Plans, and providing legal support against corporate conflicts. It aims to address livelihood needs through various initiatives like agricultural conservation, livestock dispersal, and aquaculture, alongside supporting indigenous students and healthcare needs. These activities are part of the broader 'SECURE' and 'SOS HEALTH' programs, enhancing indigenous land rights and health.

APETDS (Republic of Congo)

The project aims to empower 16 communities, particularly the indigenous Baka, in effective advocacy, rights defense while enhancing community governance , with an expanded scope to include training for Baka communities in participatory mapping. The project builds on previous efforts funded by RFUND over the past three years. This initiative will run alongside APETDS's renewed project in collaboration with the Forest Peoples Programme.

PNP (Kalimantan, Indonesia)

The project aims to assist Dayak Bahau communities in Long Isun, Datah Naha, and Long Pahangai in securing legal rights to their land and natural resources through recognition of Customary Law (Adat). A secondary objective is to empower women to manage non-timber forest products, thereby enhancing family incomes through the creative economy. The project will be monitored and conducted in close collaboration with the Forest People Program (FPP)

ECAM (Brazil)

ECAM aims to extend its Indigenous and Traditional Rights Defenders program in Amapa, Brazil, enhancing the autonomy of indigenous and traditional communities. Building on progress from 2023, the project focuses on empowering the Tiriyo in Tumucumaque and Afro-descendant communities, collaborating with existing organizations and establishing new ones like CONAQ-Amapa. The objective is to strengthen Indigenous and Quilombola representation, facilitate the recognition of traditional lands, and equip 60 communities with legal, communication, and technical expertise to safeguard and advocate for their rights.

YMKL (Kalimantan ,Indonesia)

This project focuses on supporting the Dayak Agabag communities in Nunukan District, North Kalimantan, and Dayak communities in Barito Timur, Central Kalimantan, who have historically managed their lands but now face challenges due to oil palm plantation expansion. Comprising around 15,000 people in five villages in Nunukan and 17,000 in six villages in Barito Timur, these communities are struggling with land loss and environmental degradation. The project aims to help these communities secure their rights and access to land, protect remaining forests, and address vulnerabilities due to development pressures and legal challenges. Objectives include building community negotiation skills for dealing with companies and lobbying local governments for recognition of indigenous rights, as well as developing agroecological economic initiatives, particularly by indigenous women, to reduce deforestation and preserve forests within their customary territories.

UOBDU (Uganda)

OUBDU plans to to conduct human rights training specifically for Batwa youth, aiming to equip them with knowledge and skills to fight for their rights, including in legal cases. The project involves selecting a youth champion from each district to continue advocacy work even after the project's conclusion. The primary participants are 40 Batwa youths who will disseminate human rights knowledge within their communities and at various levels.

Amazoni Alerti (Brazil)

AmazonAlerta is a newly established nonprofit organization with operations in Brazil and the UK. It collaborates closely with indigenous communities in the Amazon region to monitor and report on environmental issues and related crimes.

The project involves supporting two Indigenous guardian teams. One is the existing Environmental Agents team in Araribóia Indigenous Land, comprised of local Guajajara

community members and funded by RF, continuing from 2023. The second is the launch of a new Environmental Agents team in the Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Indigenous Land, formed by the Amondawa people, with start-up costs for equipment like uniforms, boots, GPS devices, and drones. Additionally, the plan includes the salary for Kari Guajajara, the Director of Strategic Partnerships and a leading Indigenous lawyer in Brazil, who recently received the US State Department's Global Anti Racism Award 2023. The proposal also covers administrative costs associated with managing both Environmental Agents teams.

C.I.P.D.P. (Kenya)

The Ogiek community's 2024 plan focuses on key objectives: 1) Participating in policy making for land and forest conservation; 2) Creating educational materials and setting up Early Childhood Development centers; 3) Legal advocacy for land and resource rights; 4) Supporting community scouts in conservation efforts; 5) Building relationships with external entities and studying deforestation causes; 6) Mapping resources for negotiation and legal purposes; 7) Economic development through beekeeping, livestock, and cooperatives, with KIRDI's support for value addition; 8) Strengthening community health services with additional staff and resources. Overall, the project seeks to enhance sustainable land management, economic growth, and legal empowerment for the community.

A.N.A.P.A.C. (DRC)

The project aims to enhance the skills of indigenous leaders in defending their territories and asserting their rights. It seeks to educate indigenous communities about carbon financing mechanisms and their potential impacts on indigenous rights and territories. Additionally, the project focuses on supporting traditional livelihoods connected to land use, especially among indigenous women, and aims to improve access to medical care for households in remote areas. This multifaceted approach combines empowerment, education, and practical support to strengthen indigenous communities' autonomy and well-being.

Costa Rica (FPP)

This project supports the Bribri and Brörán indigenous peoples of the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. We have been supporting them over the past five years. Both groups have faced ongoing violence, threats, land grabs and legal challenges, including over 70 court cases. The assassination of Bribri leader Sergio Rojas and the murder of Brörán leader Jehry Rivera highlight the severity of these conflicts.