Rainforest Fund

2026 Project Report

South America

BRAZIL

• Amazonia Alerta

○ Mission: Strengthen territorial monitoring and legal defense for Indigenous lands in Araribóia and Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau.

○ Overview: This project supports Amazonia Alerta's collaboration with environmental agent teams to combat illegal invasions and deforestation. It combines immediate territorial protection measures with long-term monitoring and legal advocacy to safeguard Indigenous lands.

• Indigenous Rights Clinic

○ Mission: Strengthen legal networks and provide professional training for lawyers working in Indigenous rights across the Amazon.

○ Overview: Launched in September 2024, the Indigenous Rights Clinic provides ongoing legal education focused on the practice and theory of Indigenous Rights Law. By connecting legal professionals and facilitating knowledge exchange, the initiative strengthens Indigenous rights litigation and advocates for Indigenous rights education to become a mandatory component of legal training in Brazil.

• Instituto Raoni

○ Sustainable Cumaru Production: Supports the Mẽbêngôkre (Kayapó) communities in Mato Grosso and Pará by strengthening sustainable cumaru harvesting and production. The project promotes economic independence, preserves traditional practices, and provides alternatives to destructive activities such as illegal logging and mining.

○ Fire Brigade Emergency Support: Supports the establishment of an Indigenous fire brigade to prevent and combat forest fires in the Brazilian Amazon, particularly during the peak fire season between August and October.

COSTA RICA

• Bribri/FPP

○ Mission: Strengthen territorial governance, Indigenous rights advocacy, and environmental protection for Bribri and Brörán communities.

○ Overview: This project empowers Bribri women through cultural and ecological revival while promoting Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols. It supports Indigenous women's exchanges, research, and legal advocacy while assisting the Brörán community in opposing a dam that threatens their lands and livelihoods.

PERU

• Rainforest Foundation US

○ Mission: Support Indigenous communities in Peru in securing legal land titles and protecting their ancestral territories.

○ Overview: This project helps Indigenous communities obtain legal recognition of their land rights through community-held land titles. Securing these titles enables communities to defend their territories against deforestation and other harmful activities while strengthening long-term rainforest protection.

ECUADOR

• Projecto Luchar – New Project

○ Mission: Raise awareness of environmental pollution caused by legal and illegal mining in Indigenous communities in Napo Province and promote sustainable alternatives.

○ Overview: Gold mining in Amazonian rivers has caused significant environmental damage, including mercury contamination that threatens local communities and ecosystems. This project works to reduce contamination, restore affected environments, and promote sustainable practices that protect Indigenous lands and livelihoods.

Africa

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

• CECD/FPP

○ Mission: Strengthen community governance and sustainable natural resource management among Baka and Bakwélé communities in the Messok Dja massif.

○ Overview: This project supports Indigenous communities across 16 villages in the Messok Dja forest by strengthening local governance and building capacity for sustainable land and forest management. It aims to protect natural resources while promoting long-term community resilience.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

• ANAPAC

○ Mission: Revitalize Indigenous Peoples' cultural knowledge to protect territorial rights and strengthen sustainable livelihoods.

○ Overview: This project supports Indigenous communities in Walikale (North Kivu), Kiri (Maïndombe), and Mweka (Kasai Central). It focuses on preserving traditional knowledge, strengthening territorial rights, and promoting sustainable resource management and livelihoods.

• Talent of Indigenous and Rural Women (TIRW) – New Project

○ Mission: Empower Indigenous and rural women through medicinal plant cultivation, sustainable livelihoods, and economic opportunities.

○ Overview: This project empowers 515 Indigenous and rural women in East Kivu and Kinshasa through the cultivation, domestic use, and sale of medicinal plants. It expands cultivation across 25 hectares, establishes three processing units, and develops local and mobile sales channels. The initiative strengthens women's leadership, preserves traditional knowledge, and promotes forest conservation.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

• Rainforest Foundation UK

○ Mission: Support rights-based and inclusive forest management in the Central African Republic.

○ Overview: This project promotes community forestry and forest monitoring to strengthen local economies and protect forest ecosystems. It also advocates for legal and policy reforms that support sustainable forest management and empower local communities to protect their natural resources.

CAMEROON

• ACDD – New Project

○ Mission: Protect the ancestral land rights and traditional territories of the Bagyeli and Bakola Indigenous Peoples in southern Cameroon.

○ Overview: This project supports Indigenous communities across ten villages in the Lokoundje Department facing threats from logging, mining, agribusiness, and land grabbing. Through participatory mapping, advocacy, intercommunity dialogue, and land rights training, it aims to strengthen Indigenous governance, secure customary lands, and improve recognition of Indigenous rights.

KENYA

• CIPDP/FPP

○ Mission: Secure the ancestral lands, forests, and livelihoods of the Chepkitale Ogiek community through strengthened governance and land title efforts.

○ Overview: Following the legal recognition of ancestral lands in 2022, this project focuses on strengthening community governance, preventing evictions, and ensuring long-term territorial protection. It also supports local schools and sustainable livelihoods to preserve cultural heritage and improve community well-being.

UGANDA

• UOBDU

○ Mission: Empower Batwa youth and advocate for Indigenous human rights, land recognition, and livelihood justice.

○ Overview: This project provides human rights education to Batwa youth, strengthening their ability to engage with authorities and advocate for their communities. It promotes land recognition, protects access to natural resources, and supports the next generation of Batwa leaders.

Asia

INDONESIA

• YMKL/FPP – Kalimantan

○ Mission: Secure Indigenous land rights in North and Central Kalimantan through legal advocacy, land mapping, and community capacity building.

○ Overview: This project supports communities in Nunukan District in obtaining legal recognition of their ancestral lands. It combines territorial mapping, legal assistance, human rights training, and sustainable livelihood initiatives to protect forests, local seeds, and Indigenous territories.

• YMKL/FPP – Flores – New Project

○ Mission: Protect Indigenous communities' rights, livelihoods, and environment from the potential impacts of geothermal development on Flores Island.

○ Overview: This project addresses community concerns about geothermal development's potential effects on water resources, public health, and agriculture. It supports social and environmental assessments, community organizing, advocacy training, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) to ensure affected communities participate in development decisions and advocate for stronger environmental safeguards.

• PNP/FPP

○ Mission: Support Dayak Bahau communities in securing customary land rights and strengthening sustainable livelihoods, particularly for women.

○ Overview: This project assists communities in Long Isun, Datah Naha, and Long Pahangai in securing legal recognition of their land and natural resources under customary law (Adat). It also empowers women through sustainable non-timber forest product initiatives while strengthening community advocacy, youth engagement, and territorial management.

• EcoNusa

○ Mission: Strengthen Indigenous livelihoods and protect mangrove forests in West Papua through sustainable economic development.

○ Overview: This project supports Indigenous communities in producing sustainable non-timber forest products, particularly prawns, from mangrove ecosystems. By improving market access and supporting community-led economic activities, it promotes forest conservation and strengthens local livelihoods.

THE PHILIPPINES

• Coalition Against Land Grabbing (CALG)

○ Mission: Secure Indigenous ancestral lands, protect community rights, and strengthen sustainable livelihoods through legal advocacy and community-led development.

○ Overview: This project supports Indigenous communities in obtaining Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title (CADTs) and developing Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plans (ADSDPPs). It provides paralegal assistance, supports environmental and

human rights defenders, and promotes sustainable livelihood initiatives such as aquaculture, potable water systems, poultry farming, and mangrove restoration.