



Rainforest Foundation  
Norway

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RFN SOLUTIONS BOOKLET

# *Scaling up Support for Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Actions to Protect their Forests*

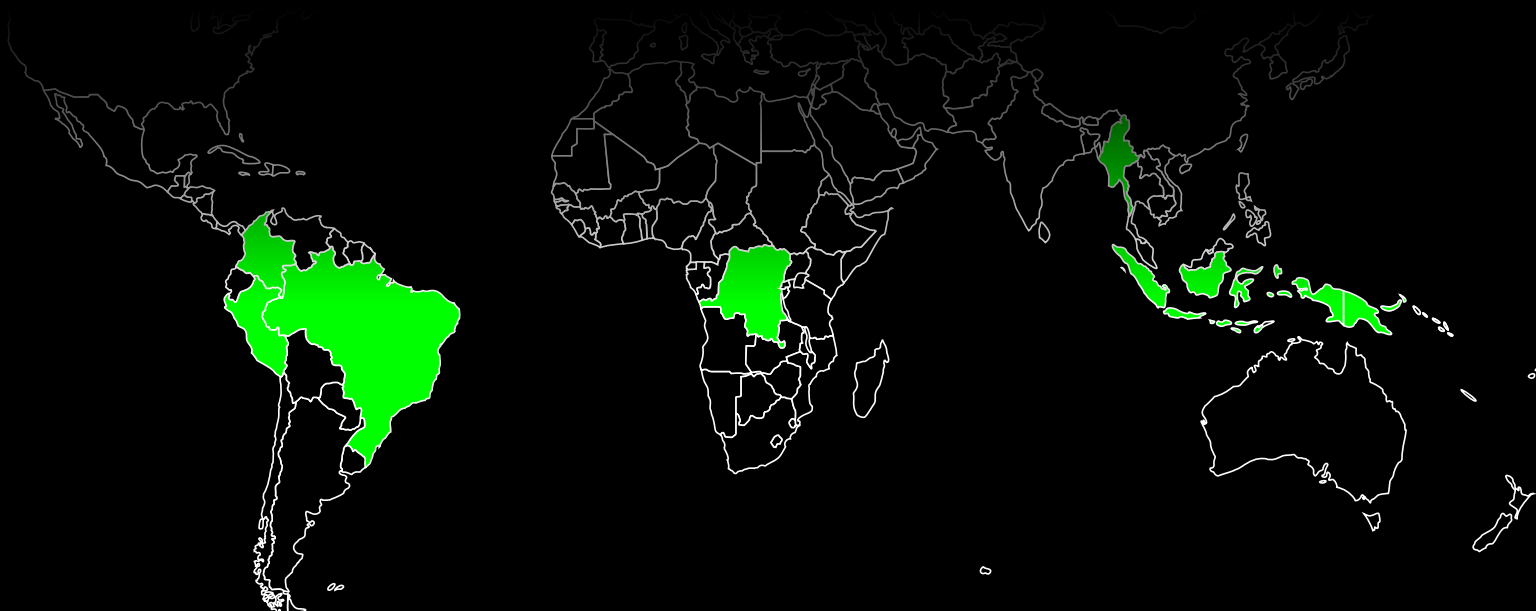
Investments for Forests, Climate, and People across the remaining large, contiguous tropical rainforests in Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Peru, Colombia and Papua New Guinea.

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## ***RFN, a global investment case for upscaling***

**S**aving the world's remaining large, contiguous rainforests for a livable climate where biodiversity and the human rights of indigenous and forest-dependent peoples and communities are upheld

Science has made it clear: we cannot solve the climate and biodiversity crises without the world's tropical rainforests. This requires immediate, large-scale, coordinated efforts by governments, philanthropists, the private sector and civil society, in close collaboration with the peoples and communities whose lives and cultures have been interwoven with the rainforest for generations. However, as Rainforest Foundation Norway's *Falling short* report documented, only a tiny fraction of official and philanthropic climate and forest support reaches the forest peoples themselves. Moreover, the current global political and economic paradigm continues to favor deforestation over standing forests and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). However, the unprecedented focus during COP26 on the vital role of IPLCs in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss has signaled willingness to change. Donor governments and philanthropic foundations have made impressive commitments—but these will require proper funding channels and mechanisms if they are to provide adequate support to the world's forest guardians.

**Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN)** has a 30-year history of prioritizing direct support to indigenous, environmental and rights-based organizations in the Amazon, the Congo Basin, Asia and Oceania. By providing core funding, financing multi-year projects, developing joint strategies, and systematically building the capacities of indigenous organizations to spearhead the fight to protect their forests, **RFN has fostered a vibrant network**

### **RFN: KEY FIGURES**

- ▶ Budget 2022: **USD 34 million**
- ▶ Percentage to projects executed by local rainforest partners with RFN's technical assistance: **74%**.
- ▶ Percentage to advocacy towards the private sector and authorities: **8,4%**.
- ▶ 6 program countries: **Brazil, Peru, Colombia, DRC, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea.**
- ▶ Number of long-term rainforest partners **62**.
- ▶ RFN and partners combined protect, on a continuous basis, **72 million hectares** of highly intact rainforest (twice the size of Germany).

of 62 long-term partner organizations in six major rainforest countries, home to 68% of the remaining tropical rainforest on Earth, and 78% of the world's intact rainforest.

### **Funding needs and opportunities**

As nature-based solutions may provide one-third of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed between now and 2030 (*IPCC report, 2022*), it is urgently needed to turn the growing awareness of forests and climate into high-impact investments that can shift the current paradigm towards the protection of rainforests and the rights of their guardians. Money, however, is not the only answer. Donors—understandably—enquire about local organizations' absorptive capacity and are weary of a complex operating landscape with weak administrative structures and high transaction costs. Indigenous organizations with consistent track records of efficient delivery do exist, **but specialized intermediary organizations are needed to reach and empower these forest stewards. Strategic partnerships can help amplify IPLCs' voice, provide greater absorptive capacity, and ensure that donor funds are managed in an efficient and accountable manner.** Consistency, a long-term horizon, and tested solutions are needed. Solutions exist, and are ready to be upscaled.



## What a US\$230 million investment can achieve over five years

With this investment, RFN will continue to secure the protection of 72 million hectares of rainforest on an ongoing basis, ensuring that it continues to store an estimated 9.4 billion tons of carbon, while delivering key outcomes. These include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ In **Peru and Brazil**, a broad network of partner organizations implements long-term protection of two contiguous corridors of primary rainforest inhabited by uncontacted tribes of indigenous peoples—combined area equivalent to the size of the UK.
- ▶ In **Brazil**, the comprehensive plans—still dormant, for lack of funding—for countering the massive illegal goldmining that creates environmental destruction, mercury poisoning and social upheaval across indigenous territories are activated, and indigenous environmental management plans are implemented on indigenous peoples' territories covering 14.5% of the Brazilian rainforest—an area larger than the state of California.
- ▶ In **Peru**, the Awajún indigenous nation, who control 3 million hectares of intact tropical rainforest in the North-Western Peruvian Amazon, receive crucial support, enabling them to implement their strategies and environmental management plans and consolidate their newly elected indigenous government.
- ▶ In **Colombia's** Eastern Amazon, RFN and partners implement the steps needed to conclude the establishment of the world's first indigenous municipalities, fully integrated within the country's public administration and national budget mechanisms.
- ▶ In **Indonesia**, RFN supports rights-based rainforest protection through close collaboration with 14 local and national organizations. While focusing primarily on Eastern Indonesia, where Asia's main intact rainforest is located, a new Social Forestry initiative is also being developed in North Kalimantan, Borneo, with long-term RFN partner WARSI.
- ▶ In **DRC**, national-level land-use policies give priority to rainforest protection and sustainable use of rainforest resources as a basis for rational land-use and long-term economic and social development.
- ▶ In **PNG**, RFN upscales the ongoing work to save the magnificent Sepik River Basin from extensive mining plans and illegal logging by assisting our partners to enhance their legal capacity, to intensify investigations of illegalities and corruption, and promote public campaign activities.

## SCALING UP

RFN, with its track record and unique network of long-term partner organizations in rainforest countries, offers a reliable pathway for absorbing increased funding commitments towards indigenous-led forest protection, accelerating climate action and biodiversity protection from the ground up, at low transaction costs.

Further, the three Rainforest Foundations (RFUS, RFUK, RFN) can synergize their combined networks of 100+ indigenous and local community partners, strengths in different geographies and a shared history of 30 years of experience in 20 rainforest countries, to reach an even bigger scale.

- ▶ **Globally**, major investors, including members of the Emerging Markets Investors Alliance and Principles for Responsible Investment, adopt strict policies and practices to avoid contributing to deforestation and human rights violations, deemed detrimental to their long-term financial interests.
- ▶ Key **European** countries prioritize rainforest protection in their foreign, trade and development policies.
- ▶ In **China**, institutional investors and development institutions implement “due diligence” routines to avoid deforestation risks and human right violations.
- ▶ **Globally**, indigenous peoples' organizations have the capacity to contribute meaningfully to implementation of the COP-26 donor pledges towards IPLCs, as well as ensuring effective participation of IPLCs in decisions relating to forest finance and carbon markets more generally.

## How we measure success

- ▶ RFN's monitoring and accountability system track the results achieved by RFN and partners in the six rainforest countries and globally, as well as their capacity to implement projects according to international standards.
- ▶ RFN tracks the number of institutional investors that have publicly committed to work towards deforestation-free portfolios, examining the quality of their investment policies and expectation documents, and whether they engage actively with their portfolio companies, following advice from RFN.
- ▶ At least two large European countries adopt strong no-deforestation legislation, implemented in line with demands from an NGO alliance supported by RFN.



## Results to date

- ▶ Since 2004, RFN has supported the national and regional chapters of the **main Peruvian organization** for indigenous peoples, effectively protecting 9 million hectares of pristine rainforest inhabited by indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation and obtaining legal protection for these extremely vulnerable tribal groups.
- ▶ Over a decade of support to the **national pygmy network, DGPA in DRC**, led to the historic adoption in the DRC National Assembly of the law on indigenous peoples' rights in 2021 and its confirmation in the DRC Senate in 2022.
- ▶ To promote the role of indigenous women in decision-making and to strengthen gender equality, RFN and partners in **Brazil and Indonesia** have supported capacity development, greater female participation in resource mapping, and dialogue for their equitable representation since 2016.
- ▶ RFN has supported the innovative **pan-Amazon mapping network, RAISG**, which has produced pioneering pan-Amazon maps of IP territories, protected areas, carbon amounts stored, threats to the rainforest, etc., annually since its inception.
- ▶ In **Brazil**, RFN has supported participatory processes leading to sustainable management plans for 13 indigenous peoples' territories covering an area equivalent in size to Italy.
- ▶ Since 2018, in **Peru**, RFN has been supporting 9 indigenous peoples in the North-Western Peruvian Amazon in establishing their own governance structures. This has led to the democratic election of the territorial autonomous governments (GTAs) among the Wampis and Awajún people.
- ▶ In **Colombia** since 2019, RFN has supported the official establishment, effective governance and stewardship of 15 Indigenous Municipalities, covering 10.3 million hectares of almost entirely intact rainforest and comprising 24% of Colombia's Amazon rainforest area.
- ▶ In **Norway**, RFN has, for many years, engaged with the salmon industry (which supplies about half the world's farmed salmon) to ensure that their soy imports from Brazil do not contribute to deforestation. Not only have these producers succeeded in ensuring that their soy imports are deforestation-free: the suppliers from which they import have introduced pioneering policies to ensure that ALL their soy, whoever the buyer, will be deforestation-free.
- ▶ In **New Guinea**, RFN played a key role in the revocation in 2021 of 16 palm-oil concessions, covering a quarter of a million hectares, in West Papua Province in the Indonesian part of New Guinea, and are working with local partners to get one million hectares of irregularly awarded concessions cancelled in Papua Province.

### OUR CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Norway's International Climate & Forest Initiative (NICFI), Norwegian embassies in Brazil and Indonesia, European Climate Foundation, Ford Foundation, Good Energies Foundation, Nia Tero, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Rainforest Fund.

## References

- ▶ Mireille Perrin, Good Energies Foundation
- ▶ Kevin Currey, Ford Foundation
- ▶ David Kaimowitz, Tenure Facility
- ▶ Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen, NICFI
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# *RFN, an investment case for policy and drivers of deforestation*

**R**aising national climate ambitions, ensuring effective implementation of the UN Conventions on climate and biodiversity, while transforming the main supply chains that drive deforestation.

## Context

There has been growing international recognition of the essential role of forest protection in achieving the 1.5oC climate goal and the boosting the effectiveness of forest management by indigenous and other forest communities. After the publication of RFN's *Falling Short* report, which exposed the severe lack of prioritization of IPLC tenure and direct funding reaching frontline organizations, the year 2021 marked a welcome shift in public and private funding commitments towards forests and IPLCs. But time is running out. A study published in March 2022 showed that more than 75% of the Amazon rainforest is losing resilience, nearing the point of no return. The main challenge now is to match the new supply of funding with solutions on the ground, at the speed and scale needed.

Agricultural expansion has continued to drive a large share of tropical deforestation. The production of commodities like palm oil, soy, beef and timber is a major cause of forest loss and social conflicts. Agriculture-driven deforestation remains a major challenge, but the demand for minerals is also increasing, requiring greater focus on extractives-driven deforestation, infrastructure development, and land speculation.

## **RFN'S WORK ON POLICY AND DRIVERS: KEY FIGURES**

- ▶ Budget 2022: USD 2.5 million
- ▶ **Strong advocacy voice**
  - ▶ Engaging with the world's largest sovereign wealth fund (NBIM), which has 9,000+ investees with assets worth \$1.3 trillion in 73 countries
  - ▶ Identifying the funding gap for indigenous land rights, and mobilizing governments and the donor community to act, via the Glasgow IPLC \$1.7 billion pledge.

## Funding needs and opportunities

The importance of indigenous land rights is increasingly recognized within global political processes. COP26 in Glasgow saw the largest amount of forest funding ever pledged, and the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the new Global Biodiversity Framework took center-stage at the Geneva Biodiversity Conference in March 2022. Our focus now shifts to the “hows:” (1) how to continue to mobilize funding while building the capacity of often-remote and politically disenfranchised communities to absorb and use these funds effectively; and (2) how to ensure that UN conventions on climate and biodiversity raise their ambitions and are fully implemented in all major rainforest countries—including when it comes to revising spatial planning policies to ensure that the world's remaining rainforests are protected. .

We at RFN will continue to address the drivers of deforestation from (1) the regulatory side, working with EU advocacy partners towards deforestation-free EU legislation, implemented with sufficient ambition; (2) the financial side, turning commercial actors and investors into zero-deforestation champions; and (3) public opinion in Norway and internationally, raising the awareness of our collective role as consumers to demand needed action by the public and private sectors. In addition to our focus on Europe, China—the largest end-user market for forest-risk commodities, and largest investor in many tropical rainforest countries—represents a promising new frontier for developing an advocacy program targeting commercial actors and consumers.

## **What will a US\$ 50 million investment achieve on Policy and Drivers over five years?**

With this investment, RFN will catalyze the following outcomes by 2027:

- ▶ Norwegian financial support for rainforest protection is further increased, and Norway continues to play a leading role in mobilizing international support for effective rainforest protection.
- ▶ A broad alliance of European NGOs has succeeded in advocating for increased and improved forest finance, establishing comprehensive EU-wide import restrictions on deforestation-risk commodities and making support to forest protection and indigenous peoples a priority within European climate and biodiversity policies.
- ▶ RFN and partners help donors implement their pledges towards IPLCs and commitments to deforestation-free supply-chains. Locally relevant mechanisms for participation and governance, such as IPLC Observatories, ensure the effective participation of IPLCs in decisions relating to forest finance and carbon markets in key rainforest countries.
- ▶ Major investors, including members of the Emerging Markets Investors Alliance and Principles for Responsible Investment, adopt strict policies and practices to avoid contributing to deforestation and human rights violation, deemed detrimental to their long-term financial interests.
- ▶ RFN has successfully engaged with Chinese commercial and policy stakeholders to help them achieve China's Net Zero pledge on rainforest protection, greening value-chains and ensuring that China's import policies are in line with global best practices.

### **How we measure success**

- ▶ Annual tracking of progress toward the 2025 goal: that Norwegian governmental support to rainforest protection is increased from NOK 3 billion to NOK 4.5 billion annually.

- ▶ At least two large European countries adopt a strong no-deforestation legislation, implemented in line with demands from an NGO alliance supported by RFN.

## **Results to date**

- ▶ In 2007, RFN proposed and successfully argued that Norway should dedicate USD 500 million annually to rainforest protection. This proposal gained broad support in Parliament and was announced by the Norwegian Prime Minister at the UNFCCC COP-13 in Bali, December 2007, establishing Norway as the global leader in rainforest protection—with RFN as a key advisor to the initiative ever since.
- ▶ RFN has been engaging with the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, Norway's Government Pension Fund Global (GPF) at the highest level. This has provided us with unique access and influence over a global leader in climate-sensitive investments, one which has made reduced deforestation and the rights of Indigenous Peoples' (IP) among its top responsible investment priorities, encouraging its 9000+ investees (with assets worth USD 1.3 trillion in 73 countries) not to contribute to tropical deforestation or violation of IP rights, directly or indirectly, and to issue public reports on their measures and results.
- ▶ In 2021, RFN's Falling Short report provided an important baseline, exposing the funding gap for indigenous land rights. This motivated governments and private donors to raise their support at the COP26 in Glasgow, through the \$1.7 billion IPLC Forest Tenure Pledge.
- ▶ Thanks to RFN's close follow-up of the negotiation process on the Letter of Intent between the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and the DRC, the new 2021–2031 Letter of Intent (LoI) shows notable progress regarding the protection of intact forests and on IPLC tenure and forest management, compared to the previous LoI (2016–2020). Norway (NICFI) and the UK (FCDO) have been instrumental in making these positive developments possible. Close contact with NICFI until the final stages of negotiation between CAFI and the DRC also resulted in the LoI confirming the maintenance of the moratorium on allocations of new logging concessions.





## **Why is RFN uniquely positioned to deliver**

RFN is one of the few NGOs to combine comprehensive international rainforest policy experience and extensive knowledge about the political and economic drivers of deforestation, with close, trusting relations with representative organizations of forest-dependent peoples and important civil society organizations in rainforest countries. This rare combination enables us to play an influential role in international policy arenas where decisions that affect rainforests are taken. It allows RFN to engage meaningfully with the financial sector, turning progressive investor groups into agents of change towards deforestation-free investments and supply-chains. RFN provides systematic contributions to the Norwegian government's international rainforest policy and complements the campaigning efforts of other European NGOs with specialized knowledge, expertise and advocacy. Moreover, RFN occupies a special niche among western NGOs as regards influencing the Chinese deforestation footprint.

## **CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL FUNDERS OF RFN'S WORK ON POLICY AND DRIVERS:**

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Norway's International Climate & Forest Initiative (NICFI), European Climate Foundation, Ford Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

## **References**

- ▶ Kevin Currey, Ford Foundation
- ▶ David Kaimowitz, Tenure Facility
- ▶ Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen, NICFI
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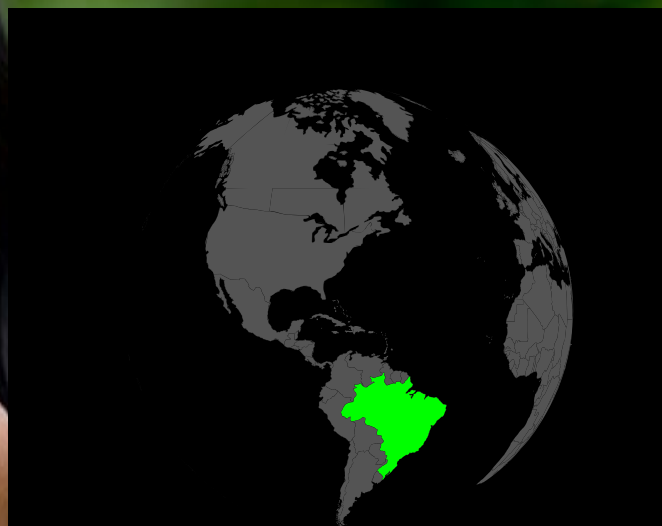


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## RFN, an investment case for Brazil

**S**caling up models for the sustainable management of the rainforest and strengthening resilient indigenous and local communities

### Context

The Amazon is in a critical state. A study published in the leading multidisciplinary science journal *Nature* in March 2022 showed that more than 75% of the Amazon rainforest was losing resilience: its ability to recover from droughts, fires and forest degradation. Scientists warn that deforestation is threatening to push the Amazon over a tipping point, past which there would be severe, irreversible consequences for the entire planet. Deforestation rates in the Amazon have increased, with August 2020–July 2021 the worst year in a decade: 13, 235 km<sup>2</sup> forest were lost (Brazilian Space Research Agency INPE). Stimulated by the Bolsonaro administration, land-grabbing, including indigenous territories and state lands, grew and gained strength. However, Brazil's Amazon rainforest still stores enormous amounts of carbon, and hosts the largest terrestrial biodiversity in the world. General elections in Brazil in October 2022 represent an opportunity for change—and the outcome will have far-reaching consequences.

### Funding needs and opportunities

Indigenous territories make up 22% of the Brazilian Amazon and are better preserved from deforestation than any other land category, including the country's national parks. However, the

#### RFN IN BRAZIL IN KEY FIGURES:

- ▶ Budget 2022: **USD 8.8 million**
- ▶ Number of trusted, long-term local partners: **18**
- ▶ Territories protected: **55.9 million hectares, storing 7.8 billion tons of carbon.**
- ▶ More than **300 local communities** engaged in advancing 65 sustainable, non-timber forest value chains across the Brazilian Amazon.

current economic crisis has greatly exacerbated deforestation threats and pressures on these territories. There is a great need to incentivize long-term, rights-based sustainable management of the rainforest over economic models dominated by short-term gains:

(i) by expanding our work on effective implementation of Indigenous Management Plans (PGTAs) for sustainable management of these forests on the basis of indigenous rights and aspirations, and to secure ecosystem services for the future; (ii) by scaling up a BioEconomy initiative across the Brazilian Amazon; (iii) by expanding our work with partners to influence national policy, and (iv) re-establishing civil society as an agenda-setter and increase advocacy towards targeted commercial and financial actors, for example to counter illegal goldmining.

This agenda is key to supporting our ambitions: (1) ensure that five key corridors covering contiguous rainforest areas of 15% of the Brazilian Amazon are governed through rights-based sustainable management models; (2) enhance political and legal frameworks that can contribute to the implementation of rights-based rainforest management and to securing the collective rights of IPLCs; and (3) significantly reduce violations and threats to the rainforest and the human rights of IPLCs from targeted commercial and financial actors.



## **What will a US\$ 100 million investment achieve in Brazil over five years?**

With this investment, RFN will catalyze the following outcomes by 2027:

- ▶ RFN will expand and deepen rights-based management by indigenous and local organizations in five extensive corridors of mainly intact rainforest, covering 14.5% of the rainforest in the Brazilian Amazon.
- ▶ RFN will revive its plans—currently dormant due to lack of funding—for countering the massive illegal goldmining which creates havoc, environmental destruction, mercury poisoning and social upheaval in many indigenous territories.
- ▶ A broad network of partner organizations will implement long-term protection of two contiguous corridors of pristine rainforest inhabited by uncontacted tribes of indigenous peoples along the Peru–Brazil border—combined area equivalent to the size of the UK.
- ▶ RFN and partners mobilize relevant public and civil society stakeholders to implement holistic, integrated sustainable management of large contiguous rainforest mosaics/corridors.

### **How we measure success**

- ▶ Additional number of territories and additional area (hectares) covered by sustainable management plans under implementation, developed with assistance from RFN and partners, against the December 2022 baseline.
- ▶ Number of illegal goldmines on indigenous peoples' territories targeted by RFN and partners' campaigns that have been dismantled and closed.
- ▶ Size of area that is effectively protected through the project for establishing two large corridors for isolated IPs along the Brazil–Peru border.
- ▶ Area (in hectares) of contiguous rainforest where there is effective multi-stakeholder cooperation for integrated, holistic management of rainforest areas under diverse tenure and property regimes, with assistance from RFN and partners.

## **Results to date**

- ▶ RFN has supported the innovative pan-Amazon mapping network RAISG since its inception, producing pioneering pan-Amazon maps of indigenous territories, protected areas, carbon amounts stored, threats to the rainforest, etc.
- ▶ RFN has supported the development or facilitated the implementation of environmental management plans for IP territories (PGTAs) in more than 50 indigenous territories, covering 36.4 million hectares, or about 12% of Brazil's rainforest area. Since 2018, 13 new plans have been presented years, covering an area the size of Italy. All these plans have been created, discussed, and agreed upon within the communities, and involve planned activities ranging from satellite monitoring, on-the-ground surveillance, communications, forest economy and livelihoods, to empowering indigenous youth and female indigenous leaders.
- ▶ The programs of RFN and partners currently promote 65 non-timber forest economy value-chains across the Brazilian Amazon.
- ▶ RFN boosted the advocacy efforts of national-level partners such as Observatório do Clima, thereby preventing nine destructive bills from being enacted in Congress in 2021 alone, on issues relating to land grabbing or mining threats. One collective victory with our partners was the landmark decision by mining company Vale to renounce its mining rights on indigenous lands, with adherence to the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.





## **Why is RFN uniquely positioned to deliver**

RFN has developed unique access and trusting relations with a diverse network of partners, representing hard-to-reach population segments. Deep and historical insights in various local contexts and close engagement with key indigenous and local community stakeholders at the local, national and Amazon level have made RFN a bridge-builder and a respected solutions-oriented interface aligning the agendas of IPLCs and global constituencies—from donor countries, decision-makers related to global trade agreements (the EU in particular), to investors and the international media. RFN provides strategic support to civil society networks and representative actors, creating opportunities where these global constituencies can make a difference.

## **RFN's network of partners in Brazil**

RFN has been engaged in Brazil since 1990, providing support to wide range of initiatives for the protection and sustainable management of indigenous territories as well as for the improvement of national policies. Our partner organizations include indigenous organizations, rights-based NGOs, and national-level networks and policy platforms:

• APIB (since 2018) • ARSX (2021) • ATIX (2014) • AWATAC • Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil (APIB) • Associação Rede de Sementes do Xingu (ARSX) • Associação Terra Indígena do Xingu (ATIX) • Associação Wajãpi Terra, Ambiente e Cultura (AWATAC) • Comissão Pró Índio do Acre (CPI/Acre) • Conselho Nacional das Populações Extrativistas / Memorial Chico Mendes (CNS—MCM) • Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira (COIAB) • Federação das organizações indígenas do Rio Negro (FOIRN) • Hutukara Associação Yanomami (Hutukara) • Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos (INESC) • Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM) • Instituto de Pesquisa e Formação Indígena (Iepé) • Institutos Socioambiental (ISA) • Observatório do Clima (OC) • Rede Amazônica de Informação Socioambiental Georeferenciada (RAISG) • Rede de Cooperação Amazônica (RCA) • Repórter Brasil

## **BRAZILIAN RAINFOREST: KEY FIGURES**

- ▶ By far the largest rainforest in the world, with over 300 million hectares tropical rainforest within its borders, of which 70% were considered still intact as of 2016.
- ▶ Brazil's intact rainforests store 31 billion tons of carbon in above-ground living biomass, equivalent to 114 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions if these forest ecosystems were lost.

(Source: State of Rainforest Report 2021, based on 2016 forest-cover data)

## **References**

- ▶ Mireille Perrin, Good Energies Foundation
- ▶ Daniela Lerda, Nia Tero
- ▶ David Kaimowitz, Tenure Facility
- ▶ Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen, NICFI
- ▶ Per Fredrik Ilsaas Pharo, NORAD

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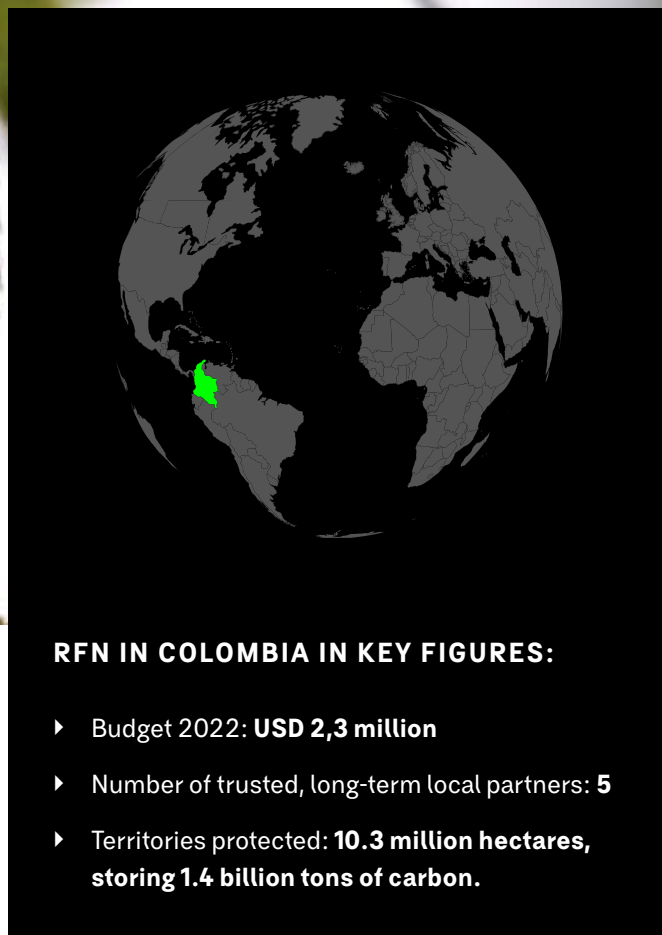


## ***RFN, an investment case for Colombia***

**U**pscaling innovative indigenous-led governance models, strengthening and uniting IPLCs for protection of the Colombian Amazon

### **Context**

Colombia hosts the Amazon region's third-largest rainforest area. It is one of the world's most biologically diverse countries, with 52% of its land area covered by natural forests, 66% of which are rainforests in the Amazon region. Although much global attention has focused on Brazil's dismal record in safeguarding the rainforest, 140,000 hectares of the Colombian Amazon were destroyed in 2020 alone (Source: University of Maryland): this is equivalent to about 20 soccer pitches every hour and contributes to pushing the Amazon rainforest towards a "tipping point." That figure is more than triple the level in 2015—the year before the peace agreement was reached with FARC, the unintended outcome of which was an acceleration of deforestation, turning important parts of the Amazon into a mosaic of islands of jungle interspersed with vast cattle ranches. Because of the absence of state presence, Colombia has been experiencing a surge of illegal armed groups taking control of forest areas, also involving a significant raise in violations of human rights.



### **Funding needs and opportunities**

Indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities hold collective land rights to 53.4% of Colombia's forest areas. Their role in ensuring the protection and governance of the country's remaining native forest is crucial. The national authorities have signaled willingness to protect it, and several policy decisions point in the right direction. However, implementation is lagging and deforestation of tropical forest in Colombia is accelerating, with illegal actors engaging in massive land grabbing, as well as rapid and illegal conversion of land to agriculture and mining activities. On a more positive note, there is growing evidence that full legal recognition of IPLCs' collective rights over their forests results in sustained protection. The vision of RFN's Colombia Country Program is to halt deforestation in the Colombian Amazon while guaranteeing the human rights of IPLCs. To this end, RFN will step up our work with representative IPLC organizations and selected NGO partners working locally with IPLCs for the sustainable management of large contiguous rainforest areas in the Colombian Amazon, as well as upscaling our work towards targeted drivers of deforestation.

## **What will a US\$ 15 million investment achieve in Colombia over five years?**

The “arch of deforestation” (Meta, Guaviare, Caqueta and parts of Putumayo departments in Central-Southern Colombia) is where Colombia is losing rainforests at the most alarming rate, due to land trafficking and conversion to agricultural land (for cattle ranching and palm oil production), threatening important protected areas. In Colombia’s Eastern Amazon, RFN and local partners Gaia and Etnollano have begun establishing and implementing the world’s first indigenous municipalities, fully integrated within the country’s public administration, national budget mechanisms, and governance structure. With this investment, RFN aims to catalyze the following outcomes by 2027:

- ▶ RFN and partners will implement a holistic approach to protecting Colombia’s remaining rainforest and biological corridors located in the “arch of deforestation” through monitoring, advocacy for effective implementation of existing legislation, strengthening of land rights for indigenous and peasant communities, combined with planning and governance.
- ▶ RFN will help partners create the conditions needed to finalize the indigenous municipal structures and mechanisms for achieving administrative decentralization and effective governance in the Eastern Colombian Amazon.
- ▶ RFN and partners will strengthen the recognition of indigenous land rights, governance, and the sustainable management of large rainforest areas, and will counter drivers of deforestation related to infrastructure development and oil extraction in Putumayo, a department with a high density of indigenous communities.

### **How we measure success**

- ▶ Gradual reduction in deforestation rates in the Colombian Amazon through effective implementation of Colombian legislation protecting the remaining rainforest and the country’s international obligations under UNFCCC and CBD.
- ▶ Degree of reduction in deforestation in Guaviare and Caqueta departments, where some of the worst deforestation hotspots are found today.
- ▶ Continuous retention and increased storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in the Eastern Colombian Amazon, and a shift from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to retention and carbon storage in the Western Colombian Amazon (areas of control: RFN project monitoring areas in defined rainforest corridors).
- ▶ Increased assignment of land rights to IPLCs in the Colombian Amazon by the responsible government office, in response to pending land claims.

## **Results to date**

- ▶ Since 2019, RFN has supported the official establishment (still ongoing), effective governance, and stewardship of 15 Indigenous Municipalities in alliance with Gaia Foundation and Etnollano Foundation, covering an area of 10.3 million hectares of almost entirely intact rainforest, comprising 24% of Colombia’s Amazon rainforest area.
- ▶ Since 2018, our partner Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (FCDS) has played a critical role in ensuring the passage of a new law against environmental crimes. This has led to the adoption of an ambitious law defining, for the first time, land trafficking as an environmental crime, and introducing jail sentences for deforestation.
- ▶ Since 2018, RFN has supported the strengthening of Colombian civil society so essential to the Peace Agreement, with several massive indigenous mobilizations (*mingas*) bringing together various sectors of civil society around the common struggle for recognition of Afro-descendants and indigenous rights, and better dialogue with Colombian authorities.
- ▶ RFN has built the capacity of indigenous leaders on territorial rights, business and human rights, and advocacy, supporting strategic local partners like Gaia Amazonas, and playing a central role in the mobilization of US\$ 3.4 million from Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative.





## **Why is RFN uniquely positioned to deliver**

RFN's global role, our longstanding experience with advocacy, rainforest management, drivers of deforestation, and our role towards the Norwegian authorities—including advising on and monitoring the Joint Declaration of Intent on forests with Colombia—give us advantages put to the service of our partners and allies in Colombia. RFN has nurtured strategic relationships with the main indigenous peoples' and local community organizations, and helped these organizations grow and unite in the struggle to protect the Colombian Amazon.

## **RFN's network of partners in Colombia**

RFN has been engaged in Colombia since 2016, focusing on the rainforest in the eastern Colombian Amazon and partnering with indigenous organizations as well as rights-based environmental NGOs.

• Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad (AAS) • Fundación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sostenible (FCDS) • Fundación Gaia Amazonas (Gaia Amazonas) • Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia (ONIC) • Organización Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Colombiana (OPIAC) • Organización Zonal Indígena de Putumayo (OZIP).

## **COLOMBIAN RAINFOREST: KEY FIGURES**

- ▶ World's fifth largest rainforest country (Amazon's third largest area of rainforest), with 53.3 million hectares of tropical rainforest, of which 63% were considered intact in 2016.
- ▶ Colombian intact rainforests store 4.75 billion tons of carbon in above the ground living biomass, equivalent to 17.3 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions if these forest ecosystems were lost.

(Source: State of Rainforest Report 2021 based on 2016 forest cover data)

## **References**

- ▶ Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen, NICFI
- ▶ Per Fredrik Ilsaas Pharo, NORAD
- ▶ Kevin Currey, Ford Foundation
- ▶ David Kaimowitz, Tenure Facility

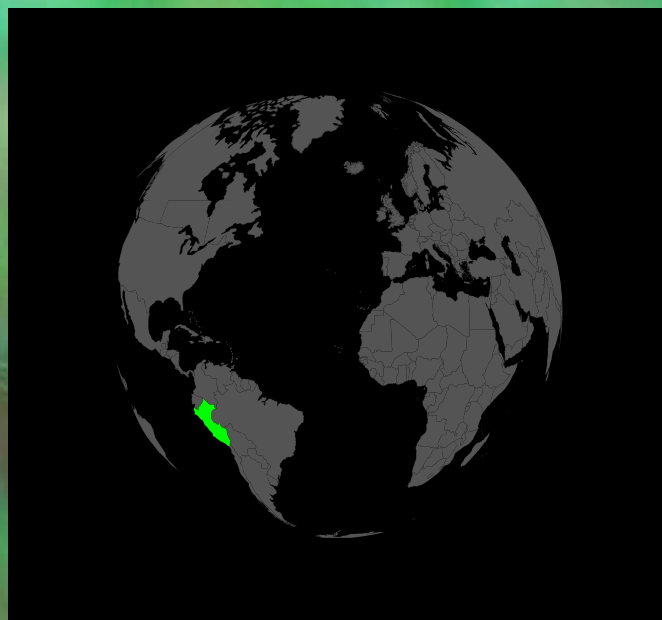
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## ***RFN, an investment case for Peru***

**C**reating the conditions for the long-term protection of Peru's three largest contiguous indigenous rainforest territories

### **Context**

The Peruvian Amazon is home to many indigenous peoples with a long history of stewardship of their mega-diverse rainforest home. Today, its guardians are coming under increasing pressure, due to the increased deforestation caused by the expansion of the agricultural frontier, and massive, largely illegal, topsoil strip mining. The rainforest also suffers from widespread degradation caused by the (often-illegal) timber industry; illicit coca cultivation; the development of small- and large-scale infrastructure; and wildcat gold mining which pollutes the Amazonian rivers with mercury. Increasingly, the traditional territories of indigenous peoples are being invaded by loggers, miners, coca growers, business speculators, and a host of other actors seeking economic opportunities in the Peruvian Amazon.

### **RFN IN PERU IN KEY FIGURES:**

- ▶ Budget 2022: **USD 2.5 million**
- ▶ Number of trusted, long-term local partners: **8**
- ▶ Territories protected: **12.5 million hectares, storing 1.75 billion tons of carbon.**

### **Funding needs and opportunities**

A national policy restricting the amount of forest lands that may be recognized as “indigenous territories,” combined with disorganized economic expansion into the Amazon, are causing serious conflicts between these newcomers and native Amazonian peoples who are trying to protect their ancestral homelands. With a weak and unstable political landscape, a deregulated and decentralized country, and inconsistent policies, indigenous and community-led efforts to ensure lasting protection of the remaining rainforest in Peru constitute a cost-effective, catalytic opportunity for progress in the fight against deforestation and climate change. After years of groundwork and support, three large, contiguous indigenous rainforest territories are now ready for upscaled investments: (1) the “territórios integrais” of the North-Western Peruvian Amazon (about 9 million hectares), (2) the Yavarí-Tapiche territorial corridor for the protection of isolated indigenous peoples along the northern border region between Peru and Brazil (about 15.6 million hectares), a third of which is in Peru and (3) the territorial corridor of the Pano, Arawak and other groups for the protection of isolated indigenous peoples (about 9 million hectares on the southern Peru-Brazil border).

## **What will a US\$ 20 million investment achieve in Peru over five years?**

Today, RFN plays a central key role in supporting sustainable rainforest management and governance among 9 indigenous peoples controlling a mostly intact rainforest area of 9 million hectares, including the Wampis and the Awajún territories as well as the Achuar and the Kukama Kukamiria peoples. New autonomous governments were elected in 2021, the second government for the Wampis and the first government of the Awajún peoples. In this context, with a US\$ 10 million investment, RFN will catalyze the following outcomes by 2027:

- ▶ Implementation of IPLCs' management plans and the establishment of an indigenous-led governance structure in at least five IP territories in the North-Western Peruvian Amazon.
- ▶ The establishment of a climate fund for the Wampis and Awajún territories, with appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms recognized by the national authorities and international donors.
- ▶ Policies and affirmative actions to strengthen female leadership and participation in decision-making.
- ▶ Resilience and adaptation plans for sustaining local livelihoods (forest economy, biodiversity).
- ▶ Community-led management plans (including compensation schemes for forest conservation), GIS, surveillance and monitoring systems for the protection of corridors for indigenous peoples living in isolation and initial contact.

### **How we measure success**

- ▶ Deforestation rates in IPLC-managed areas in targeted territories
- ▶ Area of intact rainforest under IPLC management regimes
- ▶ Level of participation of female leaders from targeted areas in local and national decision-making
- ▶ Net increase in climate funding to IPLCs' management plans in targeted areas.

## **Results to date**

- ▶ Since 2004, RFN has supported the national and regional chapters of the main Peruvian organization for indigenous peoples, effectively protecting 9 million ha of pristine rainforest inhabited by indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation and obtaining legal protection for these extremely vulnerable tribes.
- ▶ After years of supporting partners' research, documentation, and advocacy efforts, the Yavari-Tapiche Isolated Peoples Reserve (larger in size than Jamaica) was formally established by decree in 2021. In partnership with Peruvian partner organizations ORPIO, ORAU and allied indigenous organization UNIVAJA in Brazil, RFN also launched a study documenting the existence of the world's largest continuous territories of isolated tribal peoples, across an area of 16 million hectares of intact rainforest along the Peru–Brazil border.
- ▶ RFN's evidence-based advocacy support for its North-Western Amazon partners, based on anthropological and cartographic research, constitutes an important steppingstone to the legal recognition of these peoples' territories as ancestral indigenous territories.
- ▶ RFN's longstanding support to local NGOs and indigenous organizations has resulted in stronger and more effective organizations, improved alliances across civil society sectors, as well as more forceful demands for good governance and rights-based protection of the Peruvian Amazon.





## **Why is RFN uniquely positioned to deliver**

RFN is one of very few NGOs in Peru with global expertise and a solid network of partner organizations focusing on indigenous peoples' rights and rainforest protection. Active in Peru since 2004, RFN has leveraged its knowledge, capacity, and network of contacts, partners and allies to advance (1) the strengthening of representative organizations and institutions for Amazon indigenous peoples; (2) the promotion of the collective rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral territories; and (3) the protection of isolated indigenous peoples. RFN is also a close ally and co-implementer of UNEP's Interfaith Rainforest Initiative. These assets place RFN in a privileged position to "connect the dots," mobilizing a network of local partners, amplifying their voices through core support and guidance, and connecting partners with national and international actors, while catalyzing policy and advocacy campaigns for policy improvements and zero-deforestation commodity markets.

## **RFN's network of partners in Peru**

RFN has been engaged in Peru since 2004, focusing on the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation, the strengthening of indigenous organizations, and policy change. Our current partner organizations include indigenous organizations as well as NGOs that specialize in policy change, legal issues, and climate change.

- Coordinadora Regional de Pueblos Indígenas—CORPI San Lorenzo (CORPI)
- Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)
- Federación Nativa del Rio Madre de Dios y Afluentes (FENAMAD)
- International Institute for Law and Society (IIDS)
- Movimiento Ciudadano frente al Cambio Climático (MOCICC)
- Organización Regional de Pueblos Indígenas del Oriente (ORPIO)
- Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos Humanos—Perú Equidad (PERÚ EQUIDAD)
- Proética
- Wampis Nation.

## **PERUVIAN RAINFOREST: KEY FIGURES**

- ▶ World's fourth-largest area of rainforest, with 78.8 million hectares covering some 61% of the total area of the country.
- ▶ Peruvian intact rainforests store 7.2 billion tons of carbon in above-ground living biomass, equivalent to 26 billion of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions if these forest ecosystems were lost.

(Source: State of Rainforest Report 2021, based on 2016 forest-cover data)

## **References**

- ▶ Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen, NICFI
- ▶ Per Fredrik Ilsaas Pharo, NORAD
- ▶ Mireille Perrin, Good Energies Foundation
- ▶ Kevin Currey, Ford Foundation
- ▶ David Kaimowitz, Tenure Facility

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## ***RFN, an investment case for DRC***

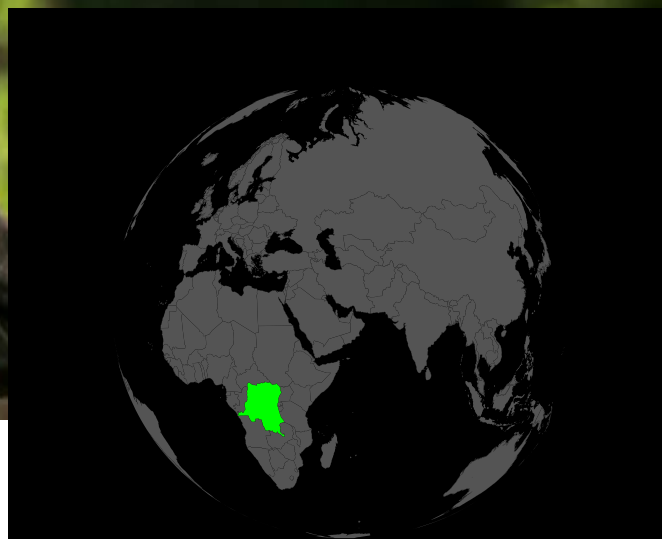
**A**ccelerating rights-based solutions for the protection of the remaining intact rainforests and the country's sustainable development

### **Context**

The Congo Basin's rainforest (second in size to the Amazon) is an invaluable treasure trove of biodiversity and natural resources. It stores 8% of all the carbon present in the world's forests. The Congo River is the second- largest in the world, providing water and life to the rainforest and its peoples. Thus far, the rainforest has largely escaped extensive destruction. However, recent research warns that, without rapid action, all primary forest might be gone by the end of the century, due mainly to land-use change and forestry. About 700,000 indigenous pygmy people live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). An estimated 80% of DRC's population (or 50 million people, comprising over 250 ethnic groups) depend on the rainforests for their livelihood. However, forest loss has accelerated in recent years, driven by poverty, slash-and-burn agriculture, and artisanal—largely illegal—logging for firewood and charcoal. Moreover, the expansion of industrial agriculture, encroaching on primary lands and forests, represents threats of a completely different nature and dimension. It is therefore urgently necessary to demonstrate the viability of an alternative development model that decouples economic development from forest destruction and degradation, a model based on the forest and land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), with firm guarantees for the protection of forest ecosystem integrity. For centuries, IPLCs have played an essential role in preserving the Congolese rainforest: they should be at the heart of DRC's development model.

### **Funding needs and opportunities**

Even though the DRC State exercises permanent sovereignty over all forests, much of the national territory is in reality



### **RFN IN DRC IN KEY FIGURES:**

- ▶ Budget 2022: **USD 3.2 million**
- ▶ Number of trusted, long-term local partners: **13**
- ▶ Territories protected: **0.8 million hectares, storing 112 million tons of carbon.**
- ▶ IP territories still lacking formal recognition: **3 to 6 million hectares.**

governed by customary rights. The involvement of IPLCs in the sustainable use of customary forests and sustainable management of protected areas is therefore vital to ensure effective protection of the country's remaining intact forests. In 2016, the DRC finally completed the regulatory framework for local community forest concessions (CFCLs), granting local communities the right to collectively establish and manage perpetual concessions up to 50,000 hectares over their customary forests. In 2021, the adoption of the Indigenous Peoples' Law by the National Assembly was a historic landmark and a significant step towards efficient nature conservation. Combined, these two measures open up opportunities for effective rainforest and biodiversity protection while ensuring the socio-economic development of local communities. RFN will capitalize on these opportunities by establishing an IPLC Forests Facility that will provide direct support to effective, equitable, rights-based management regimes for the remaining large blocks of intact forest in the DRC. In parallel, together with our partners, we will deploy advocacy efforts on two fronts: (1) national and provincial land-use planning frameworks that uphold forest integrity and biodiversity, promote community-based rainforest management and secure the rights of indigenous peoples; and (2) evidence-based monitoring of the commercial drivers of deforestation in the DRC's intact rainforests.

## **What will a US\$ 15 million investment achieve in the DRC over five years?**

With the overarching goal of securing indigenous peoples' territorial and cultural rights at the provincial level, and advancing the implementation of shared community forest management plans, RFN intends to catalyze the following outcomes by 2027:

- ▶ RFN will have established a facility that catalyzes protection and better management of the remaining large blocks of intact forest in the DRC in a sustainable and highly cost-effective way, securing the land and resource rights of forest-dependent peoples and addressing their development needs.
- ▶ RFN and partners will have significantly influenced and contributed to rights-based land-use planning in the provinces of Equateur, Tshopo, North Kivu, and South Kivu.
- ▶ RFN and partners will have supported over 20 communities in securing and managing their customary forests.
- ▶ RFN and partners will have contributed to securing full and effective implementation of the Law on Indigenous Peoples' Rights at national and provincial levels, including the establishment of the first indigenous peoples' territories in the DRC.
- ▶ RFN and partners will increase the engagement of industrial actors and contribute to the adoption of principles for sustainable, zero-deforestation exploitation.

### **How we measure success**

- ▶ Hectares of indigenous peoples' territories formally recognized.
- ▶ Hectares of intact forest areas under rights-based management regimes.

## **Results to date**

- ▶ RFN has been a major supporter of the leading national network of indigenous pygmy organizations in the DRC – Dynamique des Groupes des Peuples Autochtones (DGPA) – for more than a decade.
- ▶ Sustained advocacy by this network and RFN led to the adoption of a decree in 2019, setting up the administration of a Directorate of Indigenous Peoples (IPs): this helped to incorporate IPs in the management of customary conflicts and in integrating IP issues into the National Development Plan.
- ▶ Further advocacy efforts led to the development of the first bill recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples, followed by its historic adoption in the DRC Parliament in April 2021 and the DRC Senate in 2022.
- ▶ RFN has pioneered community forests in the DRC, helping to get the mechanism inscribed in the country's legal framework, and we contributed to the establishment of an innovative community-based conservation model for the Natural Reserve of Itombwe.
- ▶ The contributions of FN and partners to the negotiation process concerning the 2021–31 Letter of Intent (LoI) between the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) and the DRC government led to notable progress regarding the protection of intact forests and IPLC tenure and forest management, compared to the previous LoI (2016–20). Close contact with the various parties up until the very last stages of negotiation also resulted in the upholding of the moratorium on the allocation of new logging concessions, even though the DRC Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development had announced her intention earlier in 2021 to lift the moratorium.





## **Why is RFN uniquely positioned to deliver**

Our dual role as a strategic partner and technical expert on community-based forest management models has made RFN the natural entity for the establishment of the IPLC Intact Rainforest Facility. RFN has a rare ability to convene representative IPLCs and civil society networks in the DRC, provide organizational, strategic and technical support to partners, and elevate advocacy through solutions-oriented dialog with local, national, and global constituencies. Through its expert partners in the DRC and internationally, and working with its own Policy and Driver teams in Oslo, RFN also serves as a knowledge management hub for community forestry, participatory mapping, and evidence-based advocacy aimed at documenting and ultimately halting the drivers of deforestation in the DRC.

## **RFN's network of partners in DRC**

RFN has been engaged in the DRC since 2003, focusing on policy reform, the strengthening of civil society organizations, indigenous peoples' rights, and the development of community-managed forests. Partner organizations include national-level network organizations and regionally focused NGOs.

• Africapacity • Alliance Nationale d'Appui et de Promotion des Aires et Territoires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire en République Démocratique du Congo (ANAPAC-RDC) • Centre d'Appui à la gestion Durable des Forêts Tropicales (CAGDFT) • Coalition des Femmes Leaders pour l'Environnement et Développement Durable (CFLEDD) • Dynamique des Groupes des Peuples Autochtones (DGPA) • L'Ecole Régionale Postuniversitaire d'Aménagement et de Gestion Intégrés des Forêts et Territoires Tropicaux (ERAIFT) • Environnement Ressources Naturelles et Développement (ERN Institute) • Groupe d'Action pour Sauver l'Homme et son Environnement (GASHE) • Groupe de Travail Climat Redd—Rénové (GT-CR-R) • Mbou-MonTour • Programme Intégré pour le Développement du Peuple (PIDP-Shirika La Bambuti) • Réseau pour la Conservation et la Réhabilitation des Ecosystèmes Forestiers (Réseau CREF) • Solidarité pour la Promotion des Femmes (SPFA).

## **DRC RAINFOREST: KEY FIGURES**

- ▶ After the Amazon, the Congo Basin rainforest is the second largest bloc of intact tropical rainforest in the world, spanning six countries. The DRC contains 60% of this forest, of which some 60.4 million hectares are deemed intact.
- ▶ DRC's intact rainforests store 8.5 billion tons of carbon in above-ground living biomass, equivalent to 31 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions if these forest ecosystems were lost.

(Source: State of Rainforest Report 2021. based on 2016 forest-cover data)

## **References**

- ▶ Mireille Perrin, Good Energies Foundation
- ▶ David Kaimowitz, Tenure Facility
- ▶ Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen, NICFI
- ▶ Per Fredrik Ilsaas Pharo, NORAD

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## ***RFN, an investment case for Indonesia***

**S**ecuring the long-term vitality of Eastern Indonesia's forest landscapes through indigenous management

### **Context**

The Indonesian provinces of Papua, West Papua, Maluku, North Maluku, and North Kalimantan are renowned for their mega-diversity and are considered one of the most important global resources for combating climate change and avoiding loss of global biological and cultural diversity. However, this heavily forested bioregion suffers from poorly regulated, often illegal, destruction of intact rainforests, driven by logging, mining, and plantation companies acting in complicity with national political players. With the rapid expansion of infrastructure, agriculture, plantations, and human settlements, Eastern Indonesia's cultural and ecological future is in jeopardy. Between 2020 and 2036, the world stands to lose between 932,000 to 4.5 million hectares of primary forests in these provinces. Innovative and resolute actions are sorely needed to secure the long-term vitality of the forest landscapes of the eastern part of the Indonesian archipelago.

### **RFN IN INDONESIA IN KEY FIGURES:**

- ▶ Budget 2022: **USD 7.6 million**
- ▶ Number of trusted, long-term local partners: **14**
- ▶ Territories protected: **4.5 million hectares, storing 630 million tons of carbon.**
- ▶ IP territories still lacking formal recognition: **40 million hectares.**

### **Funding needs and opportunities**

Efforts to counter these trends have begun to bear fruit: when local communities gain collective legal control over forest areas, the potential for halting large-scale conversion to agriculture increases. Measurable progress has been made in the national, political, and legal processes aimed at empowering local communities to control and manage their forests, and indigenous forest management is a central component of the government's social forestry program. However, despite ambitious targets, Indonesia's social forestry program remains underfunded. RFN and partners have the capacity to slow down and ultimately reverse deforestation rates in Eastern Indonesia and North Kalimantan. Scaling up tested solutions is needed to ensure that (1) intact rainforest areas in Eastern Indonesia and North Kalimantan are managed by indigenous communities in ways that uphold biodiversity, forest ecosystem services, and the human rights of indigenous and other forest-dependent peoples and local communities, (2) legal recognition of indigenous territories in these areas and natural forests is secured through the social forestry management approach (*Hutan Adat*).

## **What will a US\$20 million investment achieve in Indonesia over five years?**

Rights-based community-driven strategies have proven successful and can be expanded across these provinces. The ability of RFN partners to manage higher levels of investments is increasing, due largely to the strategic and administrative capacity-building conducted by RFN staff. The EcoNusa Foundation, a leading environment and development organization, has a broad impact on forest protection and community development in Eastern Indonesia; with RFN support, it has increased its activities tenfold over the past four years. Additionally, there is an urgent need for more effective rainforest protection in North Kalimantan, where efforts remain severely underfunded, as compared the situation for other intact forest provinces in Indonesia. Specifically, there is significant potential to upscale WARSI and RFN's collaboration with local government forestry officials as well as the national Ministry of Environment and Forestry as regards implementing social forestry projects, based on respect for indigenous rights and traditional management strategies for conservation.

A US\$ 20 million investment in Eastern Indonesia is expected to catalyze the following outcomes by 2027:

- ▶ Expansion of the recognition of indigenous community rights over their territories in West and East Papua, Maluku, and North Maluku, and official support and management rights over large tracts of Indonesia's most important rainforests.
- ▶ RFN and its long-term partner WARSI have scaled up rights-based, community-led approaches to protect large areas of Borneo's remaining rainforests in the province of North Kalimantan.

### **How we measure success**

- ▶ Number of communities involved in social forestry projects with support from RFN and partners and stage achieved in the official process of recognition of management rights.
- ▶ Forest area requested and forest area approved for local community management in North Kalimantan.

## **Results to date**

- ▶ In 2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, RFN, together with local partners, played a key role in the revocation of 16 palm oil concessions, covering over a quarter of a million hectares in West Papua Province.
- ▶ In 2021, the first Customary Forest was locally recognized in West Papua, with efforts underway to achieve national-level recognition.
- ▶ In 2021, RFN facilitated a South–South learning platform—Kelas Berbagi (Sharing Class)—an innovative knowledge-sharing platform that promoted institutional strengthening of the partners.
- ▶ RFN co-financed the 1999 Congress for Indigenous Peoples in Indonesia, which founded AMAN, Indonesia's main national IP organization, provided critical support for expanding the organization (currently representing some 20 million indigenous people) and has since then assisted AMAN in mobilizing millions of dollars in membership support.





## **Why is RFN uniquely positioned to deliver?**

With 25 years of experience in supporting civil society and community organizations in securing and managing their forest areas in Eastern Indonesia, RFN has been instrumental in securing recognition of indigenous rights and the expansion of social forestry programs. Working at the village level and in the forests with local indigenous communities as well as with leading Indonesian policy thinktanks and advocacy organizations, has given us a unique brokering role. We support frontline organizations financially while ensuring they have the human, analytical, and strategic capacity to advance the necessary village community processes and governance mechanisms and negotiate with province-level and government entities on forest management.

## **RFN's network of partners in**

### **Indonesia**

RFN has been active in Indonesia since 1997, focusing primarily on the eastern regions of the archipelago as well as on the implementation of the collective rights of indigenous communities living near or within the rainforest. Partner organizations include local-level grassroots organizations and more policy-focused organizations with national outreach.

• Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN) • Perempuan AMAN • Perkumpulan BENTARA Papua (BENTARA) • Yayasan Ekosistem Nusantara Berkelanjutan (EcoNusa) • Perkumpulan Forest Watch Indonesia (FWI) • Perkumpulan Pembaharuan Hukum Berbasis Masyarakat dan Ekologis (HuMa) • Yayasan Intsia di Tanah Papua (INTSIA) • Conservation Community Indonesia WARSI (KKI WARSI) • Yayasan Madani Berkelanjutan (MADANI) • Papua Forest Watch (PFW) • Perkumpulan Silva Papua Lestari (PSPL) • Yayasan Pusaka Bentala Rakyat (PUSAKA) • Transformasi untuk Keadilan Indonesia (TuK Indonesia) • Yayasan Citra Mandiri Mentawai (YCMM).

## **INDONESIAN RAINFOREST: KEY FIGURES**

- ▶ The world's third largest rainforest country, with 84.3 million hectares of tropical rainforest, of which 35% (29.4 million ha) were considered intact in 2016.
- ▶ Indonesian intact rainforests store 4.1 billion tons of carbon in above-ground living biomass, equivalent to 15 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions if these forest ecosystems were lost.

(Source: State of Rainforest Report 2021, based on 2016 forest-cover data)

## **References**

- ▶ Frances Seymour, World Resources Institute
- ▶ Kevin Currey, Ford Foundation
- ▶ David Kaimowitz, Tenure Facility
- ▶ Andreas Dahl-Jørgensen, NICFI
- ▶ Per Fredrik Ilsaas Pharo, NORAD

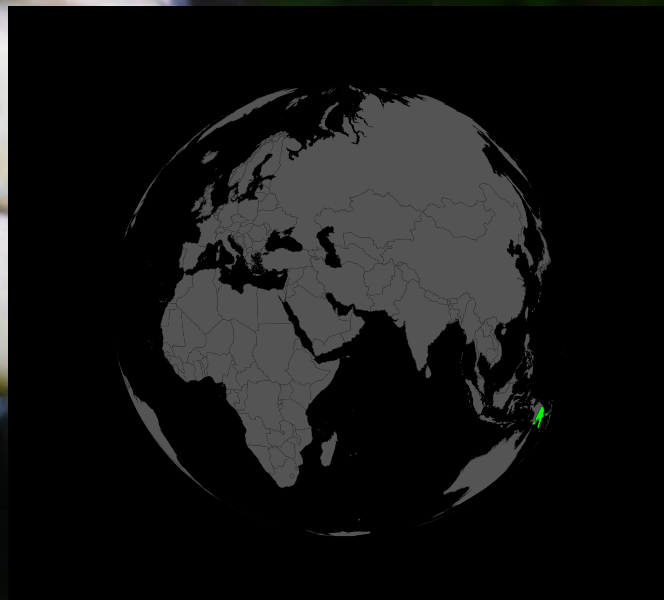
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## ***RFN, an investment case for Papua New Guinea (PNG)***

**C**atalyzing collective action, building innovative models of strategic cooperation to prevent the worst effects of the resource-extraction boom

### **Context**

As PNG sinks deeper into social and economic crisis, its forests are increasingly logged, even though the Constitution guarantees local rights over the forests. The very institutions established to control forestry have become hubs for criminal cartels and corruption. The forests of PNG are being sold off, in total impunity, to companies with political connections. Local tribes are tricked or forced into signing documents they do not understand. Most of the accessible lowland forests have already been licensed for logging, although many of these licenses are not active. Log exports to China are rising. At the current speed of logging in all accessible lowland forests, the PNG rainforest will have reached the point of no return within a decade or two.

### **RFN IN PNG IN KEY FIGURES:**

- ▶ Budget 2022: **USD 2.0 million**
- ▶ Number of trusted, long-term local partners: **5**
- ▶ Customary land protected: **1.2 million hectares, storing 168 million tons of carbon.**

### **Funding needs and opportunities**

The Sepik Basin contains the largest pristine, unlogged lowland rainforests in PNG. It consists of one contiguous, large forest area that is now being fragmented by illegal licensing processes and that has already experienced several years of large-scale industrial logging. Swift and urgent action is needed to stop the destruction of old-growth forests. Other densely forested areas require a sharpened focus, in view of ongoing legal battles with national implications over corruption and forest crime (as in Collingwood Bay and Karamui). To protect these areas, partners and allies must intensify their legal, local, advocacy-oriented activities for defending the local ownership of these areas and safeguarding them against foreign vested interests. In the Sepik Basin, this will require coalition-building efforts, rallying civil society actors as well as local rights-holders aiming to block the resource-boom frenzy, ultimately getting all logging and mining licenses there cancelled by court order. Through strategic cooperation and legal, evidence-based advocacy efforts will be made to use every opportunity to convince PNG politicians and bureaucrats to put a halt to illegal logging, emplace a moratorium on all logging activities, implement appropriate law reform, undertake financial and contractual audits of all past logging projects, and prosecute wrongdoers.

## **What will a US\$ 11 million investment achieve in PNG over five years?**

With the overall goal of enhancing the rule of law and preventing the destruction of the world's seventh-largest, biologically unique, rainforest, RFN aims to catalyze the following outcomes by 2027:

- ▶ The magnificent Sepik River Basin saved from extensive mining plans and illegal logging, by systematically enhancing the capacities of national and local partners to utilize legal action, step up investigation of illegalities and corruption and intensify national and international public campaign activities.
- ▶ By 2027, a million hectares of intact rainforest areas in the southern Sepik (from Karawari to April River) are recognized by local, regional, or national authorities through required statutory processes.
- ▶ All current logging licenses are evaluated by a team of lawyers to determine which should be tried before the courts.
- ▶ A substantial Legal Fund is established, to allow partners to contract the best available lawyers to speed up court cases and raise the success rate.
- ▶ Helping the nine tribes in the Collingwood Bay to achieve their dream of having the 560,000-ha Collingwood Bay area declared a protected area.

### **How we measure success**

- ▶ Number of local communities expressing collective opposition against logging and mining in the Sepik Basin
- ▶ Number of active logging concessions in PNG shut down by court order.

## **Results to date**

- ▶ Since 2018, RFN has supported indigenous and local community leaders in the “Save the Sepik” campaign, aimed at preventing massive environmental and social damage in the largely untouched Sepik rainforest basin as a consequence of the establishment of a large copper mine at the headwaters of the Sepik River.
- ▶ In 2021, a draft Conservation Area Committee and Management Plan was put in place for the Managalas Conservation Area; it is now awaiting gazettal from the Conservation and Environment Protection Agency (CEPA).
- ▶ To ensure the involvement of local communities throughout the application process, an MoU was signed between RFN's partner and the Simbu Provincial Government concerning a highly biodiverse area in Karimui. The intention behind the Karimui Proposed Conservation Area is to have the area demarcated, with local ownership recognized and a land-use plan endorsed by the Conservation and Environment Protection Agency, CEPA.
- ▶ As a result of the publication of an investigative report, “The Money Behind the Chainsaws: How the Commercial Banks Support Destructive Logging in Papua New Guinea,” published by a local NGO partner supported by RFN, three of the targeted Australian banks, including ANZ and Westpac, have taken steps to reduce their funding of commodity production that drives deforestation and violates the human rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
- ▶ The advocacy efforts of RFN partners to promote legal means for countering mining plans have resulted in significant national and international media coverage and a highly critical report by a series of UN Special Rapporteurs that has been presented to PNG authorities as well as the governments of China, Australia, and Canada.





## **Why is RFN uniquely positioned to deliver**

With 25 years of engagement in PNG and comprehensive knowledge of the local culture, RFN has earned the trust of indigenous and local community partners. This has given RFN the legitimacy to convene key players—civil society networks and expert organizations—and drive fact-grounded, locally owned transformational change through knowledge-sharing, learning, and innovative models of strategic cooperation. RFN has built up the organizational, programmatic, and resource mobilization capacity of important partners in PNG since 1997. Our comprehensive contextual knowledge of local policy initiatives, together with a strong campaigning and evidence-based advocacy capacity, is required in order to engage local authorities as well as international stakeholders in a sensitive, dialogue-oriented, and influential way.

## **RFN's network of partners in PNG**

RFN has been engaged in PNG since 1997, focusing on the establishment of locally governed conservation areas, paralegal training, the strengthening of civil society organizations, anti-corruption, and policy reform. Partner organizations include organizations with long-term, specific geographical focus and those specializing in legal or policy outreach.

• Act Now! • Bismarck Ramu Group (BRG) • Center for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR) • Karawari Cave Art Fund (KCAF) • Partners with Melanesians (PwM) • Project Sepik.

## **PNG RAINFOREST: KEY FIGURES**

- ▶ World's seventh largest rainforest country, with 31.9 million hectares of tropical rainforest, of which 39% (12.5 million hectares) were considered intact in 2016.
- ▶ PNG intact rainforests store 1.75 billion tons of carbon in above-ground living biomass, equivalent to 6.4 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions if these forest ecosystems were lost.

(Source: State of Rainforest Report 2021, based on 2016 forest-cover data)

## **References**

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## **Contact us**



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