



TWO DECADES PARTNERING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Forest Trends has worked for two decades in the Amazon, partnering with indigenous communities to defend their forest homelands. Put simply, we cannot guarantee a safe future climate unless we protect the Amazon, one of the planet's last great carbon sinks. Supporting indigenous and forest communities to thrive in their homelands is one of the best safeguards against deforestation: nearly half of the remaining wilderness areas in the Amazon are in indigenous territories. But these defenders face unrelenting pressures to clear forests for agriculture, logging, mining, and illegal activities – and often experience violence or political repression when they resist.

Our strategy is threefold: we partner with indigenous communities to incubate new value chains for products that can be grown and harvested without cutting down forests. We support emerging leaders and tools for strong self-governance in indigenous communities so they can effectively advocate for their rights. Meanwhile, we engage companies and governments around the world in the battle to reduce market demand for illegal and unsustainable beef, soy, and timber, and to enforce existing laws to protect forests and the rights of indigenous peoples.

OUR EMERGENCY COVID RESPONSE

We've coordinated the production and distribution of over 30,000 masks. We're safely distributing food and cleaning supplies, and creating partnerships with family farming organizations for a food distribution system. We're disseminating COVID-19 prevention information and security protocols to all of our indigenous partner organizations. We are providing technical support for locally led projects so they can apply for and secure emergency relief funds. Forest Trends is also working to secure resources to support an indigenous-led communication network, identify connectivity gaps, install internet access points, and develop additional healthcare training and informational materials.



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR INDIGENOUS TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE

Forest Trends created this 12-month governance training program to strengthen community leadership – particularly among people often excluded from leadership, including women and young people – so they can address the complex challenges of governing large territories. We've worked with over 30 indigenous groups, including the **Shipibo** (Peru), **Shuar** (Ecuador), and **Siona** (Colombia) Peoples.

RESTORING DEGRADED AREAS ON INDIGENOUS LANDS

Forest Trends and the Arbor Day Foundation are working in partnership with indigenous communities to restore forests in **nine indigenous lands in the Tupi mosaic** covering 1.5 million hectares. The project will use agroforestry techniques, which increase carbon storage and support biodiversity. Crops like açai, Brazil nut, cocoa, and babassu also provide food security and income.

GROWING WOMEN'S ARTISAN ENTERPRISES

The artisan sector is the second-largest employer in the developing world, and an important source of income for **Yawanawa** and **Paiter Surui** women. Forest Trends supports women from these communities to grow their enterprises, connecting them to training, suppliers, and new sales platforms.

ELEVATING INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S VOICES

We work across the Amazon to strengthen the presence and voices of women within Amazonian communities. In Brazil for example, Forest Trends supports the **Association of Indigenous Women Warriors of Rondônia** (AGIR) in its work advocating for women's rights and representation, and creating marketing opportunities for artisan work to provide income for indigenous women.

BUILDING A RAINFOREST-TO-TABLE MOVEMENT

Chef and restaurants across Latin America are celebrating local ingredients and traditions. Our Cumari initiative connects restaurants directly with small-scale producers of unique rainforest products. Restaurants get access to high quality local products; small enterprises, including women-led businesses from the **Bora and Huitoto Peoples** of Peru and the **Kichwa** of Ecuador, get access to premium buyers.

LEVERAGING POLICY AND CLIMATE FINANCE FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

We help ensure indigenous leaders are at the table and can advocate for their rights and contributions in climate change/rural development policies and financing instruments. Forest Trends worked closely with the State of Acre in Brazil to create the first jurisdictional REDD+ system in the world, including an Indigenous sub-program for benefit-sharing in the State's 35 indigenous territories. This effort is part of the reason why 88% of forest cover in Acre remains intact.

LAUNCHING THE LIVING PHARMACY PROJECT

This project brings back traditional knowledge of medicinal plants from the brink of extinction. The **Yawanawa** and **Paiter Surui** are working with Forest Trends to create a network of "living pharmacies" through medicinal plant gardens and agroforestry systems. Part laboratory and part classroom, each living pharmacy provides a space where elders can pass on their traditions to the next generation.

CRAFTING LIFE PLANS

We support communities, including the **Yawanawa** and communities in Brazil's **Rio Branco Indigenous Territory**, to create indigenous development strategies, called "Life Plans," that affirm cultural identity, preserve traditions, and build a sustainable economy.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS AND TERRITORIAL MONITORING

Non-timber forest products like Brazil nuts and cocoa are an important economic activity for **indigenous groups of the Tupi mosaic**. Forest Trends provides community-based enterprises with business training and connects them to buyers. Expanding harvesting sites also allows communities to patrol their lands more frequently for illegal incursions by speculators, cattle ranchers, loggers, and miners.



SOME OF THE INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS WE WORK WITH

PERU: Bora, Huitoto, and Shipibo Peoples
ECUADOR: Kichwa, Waorani, Sapara, Shiwiar, Achuar, and Shuar Peoples
COLOMBIA: Inga, Pastos, Pijao, Quillasinga, Siona, and Yanacona Peoples
BRAZIL: Paiter Surui, Yawanawa, Zoró, Arara, Cinta Larga, Tupari, Kaao, Kwaza, Aikanã, and Sakarabiat Peoples