

## HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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Re: Roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030

Dear Ambassador Corrêa do Lago,

Greetings from Human Rights Watch. We are an international nongovernmental organization that conducts research and advocacy on human rights in more than 100 countries around the world. The investigations of our Environment and Human Rights division expose the connections between local environmental degradation, human rights harms, illegality, and trade. We engage with governments, multilateral institutions, and private companies to advocate for policies that protect rights and keep natural forests standing.

We congratulate the COP30 Presidency on its initiative to draft a roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and to launch this process in consultation with a diversity of stakeholders, maintaining momentum on this critical issue.

We urge the COP30 Presidency to adopt the following overarching recommendations:

- The Forest Roadmap should explicitly acknowledge agriculture, particularly livestock, as the main driver of forest conversion and propose solutions that reflect this assessment.
- The Forest Roadmap should explicitly acknowledge the role of Indigenous peoples and local communities in keeping forests standing and call on states parties to take steps to accelerate the formal recognition of their rights and protection of their territories.
- The Forest Roadmap should call on states parties to adopt laws and regulations that require companies and financial institutions to identify, mitigate and remediate environmental and human rights risks in their value chains, and hold them accountable when they fail to do so.
- The Forest Roadmap should call on states parties to regulate carbon markets in line with international human rights law and the Carbon Justice Principles.



Below, Human Rights Watch provides detailed responses to the consultation's questions. We remain available to answer additional questions.

Sincerely,  
Luciana Téllez Chávez  
Senior Researcher and Forestry Lead  
Human Rights Watch

## Human Rights Watch Submission to the COP30 Presidency Consultation on a Roadmap to Halt and Reverse Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030

**What are the most critical barriers — whether physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social — preventing the halting and reversing of deforestation and forest degradation?**

### **1. Barriers to formally recognizing and protecting Indigenous peoples and local communities’ land tenure rights.**

- Globally, only 8 percent of customary land is formally recognized with documented ownership rights.<sup>1</sup> The failure to formally recognize customary tenure rights in statutory law or in practice leaves important biodiverse territories vulnerable to encroachment and destruction.

#### **Case Study: The Sarawak Land Code**

The Land Code in Sarawak, Malaysia, establishes a process by which an Indigenous community may obtain a collective land title for their territory. However, the state may unilaterally revoke Indigenous land titles without consent or even compensation. The state has also arbitrarily capped the size of Indigenous territories to an absolute maximum of 1,000 hectares, regardless of the size of the community or the history of customary use.

The Land Code also provides for the state of Sarawak to issue provisional leases to companies for timber and oil palm plantations even before the area of the lease has been surveyed, disregarding potential impacts to customary land. These ostensibly temporary leases can be granted for up to 60 years and can be continually renewed. Further, a federal court ruled in 2017 that if a provisional lease is converted to a regular lease, Indigenous communities can no longer get that land back, even if they successfully prove their customary rights to it.

Source: Human Rights Watch, “Deforestation and human rights risks associated with the timber and palm oil industries in Sarawak, Malaysia,” May 2024.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> FAO, ILC and CIRAD, “The status of land tenure and governance,” 2026, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8473en> p. 20. Customary lands, as defined by the authors of the report, includes: private and common holdings under documented collective ownership rights for Indigenous Peoples; private and common holdings under documented collective ownership rights for Afro-descendant Peoples, tribal communities, and other traditional and non-traditional communities; private and common holdings under recognized and designated collective use rights (owned by the state) for Indigenous Peoples; private and common holdings under recognized and designated collective use rights (owned by the state) for Afro-descendant Peoples, tribal communities, and other traditional and non-traditional communities; private and common holdings under unrecognized collective rights for Indigenous Peoples; and private and common holdings under unrecognized collective rights for Afro-descendant Peoples, tribal communities, and other traditional and non-traditional communities (p. 79).

<sup>2</sup> Available at:

[https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media\\_2024/09/Human%20Rights%20Watch\\_Submission%20to%20the%20European%20Commission\\_May%202024.pdf](https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2024/09/Human%20Rights%20Watch_Submission%20to%20the%20European%20Commission_May%202024.pdf)

- Where land tenure rights have been recognized, communities may still face barriers to fully enjoy their social, economic, and cultural rights and sustainably manage their territories over the long term. These barriers include:
  - Lack of access to financing for developing sustainable livelihood activities<sup>3</sup>;
  - Obstacles to access markets such as poor connectivity and nonexistent transport infrastructure;
  - Lack of access to training and equipment to manage forest fires;
  - Poor communication with or insufficient intervention from law enforcement to suppress environmental crime;
  - Lack of enforcement of their right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) on laws, policies and projects that impact their rights and livelihoods.

### Case Study: Cachoeira Seca Indigenous Territory

In Pará, Brazil, the Arara Indigenous people depend on the rainforest in their 733,000-hectare territory “Cachoeira Seca,” which was formally recognized by the Brazilian government through presidential decree in April 2016. The federal government is legally required to remove non-Indigenous occupants. Instead, people involved in landgrabbing have established illegal cattle ranches, thus reducing the availability of game and forest products, restricting Indigenous peoples’ movement in their own territory, and undermining their cultural rights. Cachoeira Seca registered the largest deforested area in an Indigenous territory in the Brazilian Amazon in 2024.<sup>4</sup>

Source: Human Rights Watch, “Tainted: JBS and the EU’s Exposure to Human Rights Violations and Illegal Deforestation in Pará, Brazil,” October 2025.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Rainforest Foundation Norway, “Falling Short: Donor funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to secure tenure rights and manage forests in tropical countries (2011–2020),” available at: <https://www.regnskog.no/en/news/falling-short>

<sup>4</sup> Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/10/15/brazil-illegal-ranches-devastate-rainforest-livelihoods>

<sup>5</sup> Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/10/15/tainted/jbs-and-the-eus-exposure-to-human-rights-violations-and-illegal>

## 2. Barriers to holding private entities accountable for their contribution to deforestation and other environmental and human rights harms.

- Agricultural expansion drives almost 90 percent of global deforestation, the vast majority in tropical biomes. In Africa and Asia, more than 75 percent of the forest area lost was converted to cropland. In South America, nearly 75 percent of deforestation is due to livestock grazing.<sup>6</sup>
- Overall, the expansion of cattle pasture accounted for 42 percent of global deforestation driven by agriculture between 2001 and 2022, converting an area of forest the size of Spain and releasing half of all carbon emissions caused by commodity-driven deforestation globally.<sup>7</sup>
- Most cattle-driven deforestation happens at the expense of the Amazon rainforest, with cattle expansion in Brazil alone accounting for roughly a quarter of all agriculture-driven deforestation globally between 2001 and 2022.<sup>8</sup>
- Insufficient traceability and transparency over domestic supply chains and international trade of agricultural commodities prevent law enforcement from verifying the legality of products and tackling crimes that take place at the early stages of production such as illegal forest clearances, fraudulent documents, illegal appropriation of public lands, labor rights violations and forced displacement of rural communities. This opacity also obstructs scrutiny by law enforcement on the links between legal and illicit economies, allowing perpetrators of environmental crimes to launder illegally obtained commodities through legally established businesses trading commodities domestically and internationally.
- Absence of binding legislation requiring companies to conduct environmental and human rights due diligence over their entire value chains, and taking steps to identify, mitigate and remediate risks, create an accountability gap where private entities cannot be held responsible for their contribution to rights abuses or the destruction of public goods.
- The absence of robust regulatory frameworks and their enforcement to ringfence the independence of regulators and elected representatives to ensure that their decisions are taken giving primacy to human rights and environmental concerns contributes to deregulation of environmental standards.

<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/cop26-agricultural-expansion-drives-almost-90-percent-of-global-deforestation/en>

<sup>7</sup> C. Singh and U.M. Persson, “Global patterns of commodity-driven deforestation and associated carbon emissions,” Nature Food, February 23, 2026, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-026-01305-4#Sec16>

<sup>8</sup> The Deforestation Footprint dashboard presents the outputs of the Deforestation Driver & Carbon Emissions (DeDuCE) model — a global dataset linking commodity production to forest loss — and integrated trade models, <https://www.deforestationfootprint.earth/> (accessed March 18, 2026)

### Case Study: JBS operations in Pará, Brazil

Cattle ranchers illegally seized land and devastated the livelihoods of lawful residents in the Terra Nossa smallholder settlement and the Cachoeira Seca Indigenous territory in Pará, affecting their rights to housing, land, and culture. Analysis of official sources shows that illegal farms in these areas sold cattle to several direct suppliers of JBS—the world’s largest animal protein company—prior to October 2025.

At the time, JBS did not have a system to track its indirect suppliers of cattle, despite pledging it would implement one as early as 2011, though it said it would require its direct suppliers to declare indirect suppliers as of January 2026. The state of Pará developed an individual cattle traceability system, began tagging animals and built regulatory capacity, only to postpone implementation until 2030. The postponement will continue obscuring the origin of animals from illegal cattle ranches, and enable environmental criminals to evade law enforcement.

Sources: Human Rights Watch, “Tainted: JBS and the EU’s Exposure to Human Rights Violations and Illegal Deforestation in Pará, Brazil,” October 2025<sup>9</sup>; Luciana Téllez Chávez, “JBS Still Can’t Root Out Illegal Ranches from its Supply Chain,” Folha de S. Paulo, November 20, 2025<sup>10</sup>; Richard Pearshouse dispatch “Delay on Tracing Cattle Endangers Brazil’s Amazon” <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/01/26/delay-on-tracing-cattle-endangers-brazils-amazon>,

### 3. Barriers to developing rights-respecting “green carbon” projects.

- The vast majority of tropical forested countries seeking to benefit from international forest carbon markets have not yet defined the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities and Afro-descendant peoples over carbon in their customary lands and territories.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/10/15/tainted/jbs-and-the-eus-exposure-to-human-rights-violations-and-illegal>

<sup>10</sup> Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/11/21/jbs-still-cant-root-out-illegal-ranches-from-its-supply-chain>

<sup>11</sup> Rights and Resources Initiative & McGill University, “Status of Legal Recognition of Indigenous Peoples’, Local Communities’ and Afro-descendant Peoples’ Rights to Carbon Stored in Tropical Lands and Forests,” June 2021, available at: <https://rightsandresources.org/publication/carbon-rights-brief/>

## Case Study: Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project

The Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project carried out by the Cambodian Ministry of Environment and the conservation group Wildlife Alliance encompasses half a million hectares in the Cardamom mountains, a rainforest area that has been home to the Indigenous Chong people for centuries. Human Rights Watch found the project operated for more than two years without consulting the local Chong people on the project, who have faced forced evictions and criminal charges for farming and foraging in their traditional territory. At the time of the project's inception, the customary land of the Chong had not been surveyed or titled. Verra, the certification company that had enabled the project to issue carbon credits, suspended the Southern Cardamom REDD+ project for more than a year and reinstated it on condition it demonstrated it was meeting many of the recommendations made by Human Rights Watch.

These recommendations included revising their human rights policy to align with international standards, training rangers on human rights standards applicable to their conduct, establishing disciplinary measures for misconduct, providing legal assistance to community members in conflict with the project, revise its grievance procedures, and revise consultation processes to include discussions about boundaries and benefit sharing. Verra also revised its Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), the only standard that is mandatory for projects listed on Verra's registry, to reflect some of Human Rights Watch's recommendations including a requirement that project developers share information about revenue projections, actual revenues, and project costs regularly with rightsholders.

Source: Human Rights Watch, "Carbon Offsetting's Casualties: Violations of Chong Indigenous People's Rights in Cambodia's Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project," February 2024;<sup>12</sup> Luciana Téllez Chávez, "Systems Failure in the Voluntary Carbon Market," Quantum Commodity Intelligence, May 16, 2024;<sup>13</sup> Verra, "Verra Reinstates Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project," September 10, 2024;<sup>14</sup> Verra, "Verra Launches Updated Landmark Standard, with Communities at Its Core," December 16, 2025.<sup>15</sup>

- When traditional communities' carbon rights aren't defined and aren't enforceable, it enables carbon project developers to treat them as stakeholders instead of rightsholders, leading to:
  - Flawed processes to seek free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) defined by: failure to hold consultations in advance of critical project design choices; failure to consult legitimately constituted traditional authorities; failure to provide accessible information about the design, scope, nature and duration of a project; and failure to respect communities' own FPIC protocols.
  - Opaque financial management defined by: inadequate or non-existent compensation for communities impacted by carbon projects on their customary lands; limited or no access

<sup>12</sup> Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2024/02/29/carbon-offsettings-casualties/violations-chong-indigenous-peoples-rights>

<sup>13</sup> Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/05/16/systems-failure-voluntary-carbon-market>

<sup>14</sup> Available at: <https://verra.org/verra-reinstates-southern-cardamom-redd-project/>

<sup>15</sup> Available at: <https://verra.org/verra-launches-updated-landmark-standard-with-communities-at-its-core/>

to commercial information about projects developed on their customary lands; and so-called benefit-sharing agreements that inappropriately conceptualize communities as beneficiaries instead of rights holders.

### Case Study: Sabah and Hoch Standard PTY Ltd provisional conservation agreement

In October 2021, the Sabah state government in Malaysia concluded a provisional conservation agreement with Singapore-based Hoch Standard PTY Ltd that would hand the company management of 4.9 million acres of tropical forest for up to 200 years. Hoch Standard would have had the exclusive right to monetize “natural capital,” including issuing carbon credits. It was unclear how the agreement would affect the management, use, or access-rights of Indigenous and other communities who live on or depend on the land covered by the agreement. In February 2022, the deal was declared illegal following sustained civil society advocacy by Human Rights Watch and a Sabah civil society coalition.

Source: Human Rights Watch, “Malaysia: End Secrecy on Major Land Deal in Sabah,” April 2022<sup>16</sup>; Mongabay, “Reporting spurs reversal of controversial carbon credit project in Borneo,” March 12, 2025.<sup>17</sup>

**What potential levers, whether economic, financial, institutional, social or technological, exist for accelerating the implementation of the commitment to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation? (The information provided here also answers the consultation’s third question: (c) What country, regional or sector experiences, best practices, and lessons learned can be shared regarding forest conservation and restoration?)**

1. **Secure tenure rights in law and in practice.** Globally mapped customary lands account for approximately 40 percent of the world’s total Intact Forest Landscape area, equivalent to an estimated 1.13 billion hectares.<sup>18</sup> The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land found that policies empowering Indigenous peoples and enhancing local and community collective action enable sustainable land management for climate change adaptation and mitigation.<sup>19</sup> Acting on this evidence would require that states parties:
  - Create new, or align existing legislation defining rights over customary land in line with key human rights instruments which, at a minimum, should include the UN Declaration on the

<sup>16</sup> Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/04/25/malaysia-end-secrecy-major-land-deal-sabah>

<sup>17</sup> Available at: <https://mongabay.org/impact/reporting-spurs-reversal-of-controversial-carbon-credit-project-in-borneo/>

<sup>18</sup> FAO, ILC and CIRAD, “The status of land tenure and governance,” 2026, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8473en> p. 12

<sup>19</sup> Arneth, A., et al, “Climate Change and Land Summary for Policymakers,” IPCC, 2020, <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/summary-for-policymakers>

- Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land (VGGT).<sup>20</sup>
- Enable Indigenous communities to develop and enforce their own FPIC protocols and provide avenues for redress when these protocols aren't observed by external actors, including avenues for holding accountable government agencies that fail to respect them.
  - Map and title collectively managed territories and maintain public registries of their boundaries and locations.
  - Channel finance directly to traditional communities to support the development of sustainable livelihoods in customary lands, including through the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF).
  - Adequately resource law enforcement authorities in charge of combatting environmental crime in customary lands, including through the TFFF.

### Case Study: Peru accelerates titling of Indigenous territories

Between June 2023 and May 2024, Indigenous peoples secured 37 land titles in the Peruvian Amazon. The regional government of Loreto agreed to contract soil analysts, lawyers, and Geographic Information System (GIS) specialists to support the titling process. Then, the non-governmental organization Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Jungle (AIDSEP) trained Indigenous forest monitors in geospatial maps and satellite technology to also work in their territories, thus accelerating the titling process.

Source: Miguel Guimaraes Vasquez, Wendy Pineda, "Record number of Indigenous land titles granted in Peru via innovative process," September 6, 2024.<sup>21</sup>

2. **Regulate the conduct of businesses and financial institutions to align with environmental goals and human rights obligations.** Under multiple international human rights treaties with broad adherence, the state has a positive obligation to prevent and punish third-party interference with the enjoyment of rights. This duty to protect includes preventing corporations from violating rights and taking steps to hold them accountable and provide reparation to victims when they do

<sup>20</sup> United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), 2007, [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf); United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP), 2018, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1650694?ln=en&v=pdf>; FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, 2012, <https://www.fao.org/tenure/voluntary-guidelines/en/>.

<sup>21</sup> Available at: <https://news.mongabay.com/2024/09/record-number-of-indigenous-land-titles-granted-in-peru-via-innovative-process-commentary/>

so.<sup>22</sup> This duty can also be leveraged to address the responsibility of private entities and financial institutions for deforestation. Specific levers include:

- Adopting binding domestic legislation that requires private entities and financial institutions to conduct due diligence on their value chains to identify and mitigate environmental and human rights risks, and, where relevant, take steps to remediate environmental and human rights harms to which they advertently or inadvertently contributed.
- Establish nationally enforceable, dissuasive penalties for private entities and financial institutions that fail to conduct mandatory due diligence or fail to proactively remediate harm to which they advertently or inadvertently contributed.

### Case Study: Regulating companies to combat child labor in tobacco farming

Brazil took steps to enforce a ban on child labor in tobacco farming and hold both farmers and businesses in the supply chain accountable for violations of that ban. Penalties under Brazilian law apply not only to farmers, but also to companies purchasing the tobacco, creating an incentive for the tobacco industry to ensure that children are not working on farms in their supply chains.

Human Rights Watch research found that companies' contracts with farmers generally included an explicit ban on child labor, and provided for financial penalties if children were found working. Companies also made a point of sending "instructors" to visit farmers several times during each tobacco season to remind farmers that child labor was prohibited.

Source: Human Rights Watch, "Human Rights in Supply Chains: A Call for a Binding Global Standard on Due Diligence," May 30, 2016.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>22</sup> See generally Professor John G. Ruggie, "State Responsibilities to Regulate and Adjudicate Corporate Activities under the United Nations' Core Human Rights Treaties," Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, February 12, 2007, [https://www.banktrack.org/download/state\\_responsibilities\\_to\\_regulate\\_and\\_adjudicate\\_corporate\\_activities/070219\\_stateresponsibilitiestoregulatecorporateactivitiesunderuncoretreaties12feb2007.pdf](https://www.banktrack.org/download/state_responsibilities_to_regulate_and_adjudicate_corporate_activities/070219_stateresponsibilitiestoregulatecorporateactivitiesunderuncoretreaties12feb2007.pdf) See also UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment 31; UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, General Recommendation 23; and Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 24.

<sup>23</sup> Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/05/30/human-rights-supply-chains/call-binding-global-standard-due-diligence>

## Case Study: the EU Deforestation-free Products Regulation (EUDR)

In April 2023, the EU adopted the Deforestation-Free Products Regulation, putting the onus on companies registered in EU member states to ensure that the wood, palm oil, soy, coffee, cocoa, rubber, and cattle they import or export have not been produced on land that was deforested after December 31, 2020. The law requires companies to trace the commodities back to the plot of land where they were produced, or, in the case of cattle, the locations where the animals were raised.

The regulation also requires companies to ensure that these seven agricultural commodities are produced in conditions that comply with “relevant laws” in their country of origin. These include laws on land use rights; labor rights; human rights protected under international law; free, prior, and informed consent, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and anti-corruption laws.

The enforcement of the law has been delayed twice, but is expected to begin in January 2027.

Source: Human Rights Watch, “EU: Major Step for Deforestation-Free Trade,” April 19, 2023<sup>24</sup>; European Commission, Regulation on Deforestation-free Products.<sup>25</sup>

3. **Regulate carbon markets to align operations with human rights standards.** Mapped customary territories hold an estimated 45 gigatons (Gt) of irrecoverable carbon.<sup>26</sup> Forest biomes dominate this carbon storage capacity, accounting for 85 percent of the total.<sup>27</sup> Developing carbon markets that are rights-respecting and operate with environmental integrity could be a way to channel finance directly to customary lands, but strong regulations must be put in place. Specific levers to accomplish this include:
  - Create new, or align existing legislation defining Indigenous peoples and local communities’ carbon rights with the Carbon Justice Principles.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/04/19/eu-major-step-deforestation-free-trade>

<sup>25</sup> Available at: [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/forests/deforestation/regulation-deforestation-free-products\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/forests/deforestation/regulation-deforestation-free-products_en)

<sup>26</sup> “Irrecoverable carbon” refers to the vast stores of carbon in nature that are vulnerable to release from human activity and, if lost, could not be restored by 2050 — when the world must reach net-zero emissions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. FAO, ILC and CIRAD, “The status of land tenure and governance,” 2026, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8473en> p. 12.

<sup>27</sup> FAO, ILC and CIRAD, “The status of land tenure and governance,” 2026, <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd8473en> p. 12.

<sup>28</sup> Grassroots Justice Network, Carbon Justice Principles, <https://grassrootsjusticenetowork.org/carbon-justice-movement/> The principles are: **“No Pay to Pollute”** (Carbon payments must not be a substitute for eliminating avoidable emissions; Fossil fuel companies should be barred from taking part in carbon payment schemes), **“Respect Community Rights to Land and Water”** (Recognize the use and ownership rights of communities, including customary rights, irrespective of whether a community holds legal title to the land; Work with legitimate community governance structures, rather than setting up bespoke, hand-picked committees), **“Free, Prior, and Informed Consent”** (No carbon projects should exist without a robust and meaningful Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) of the communities whose land is in question), **“Fair Compensation”** (For nature-based projects, the communities whose land it is should receive at least 50% of gross revenue; Communities should be able to determine how that money is spent, e.g. on what sorts of development projects), **“Fair Participation”** (Enable communities to lead the work of stewardship, including accessing opportunities for training and employment; Ensure communities have access to independent legal

- Ensure that the management of protected areas, including the zoning of protected areas, is done in partnership with Indigenous peoples and local communities living in or near them, and respects their human rights, supports their livelihoods, and affirms their rights to land and culture.
- Enable Indigenous communities to develop and enforce their own FPIC protocols and provide avenues for redress when these protocols are not observed, including avenues for holding accountable government agencies that fail to respect them.

### Case Study: Amazon Indigenous REDD+ (RIA)

RIA was initiated in 2010 by the Peruvian Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDSESEP), and it blends the carbon accounting of REDD+ with traditional Indigenous agroforestry strategies. At the core of the methodology is also the advancement of Indigenous peoples' land rights.

Through RIA, more than 400,000 hectares in the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve in the Peruvian Amazon have been protected by the Amarakaeri community. The program was implemented in partnership with national and local governments as a part of Peru's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

Sources: Declan Foraise, "In Katowice, Indigenous Leaders Call For Wider Uptake Of REDD+," Ecosystem Marketplace, December 6, 2018<sup>29</sup>; Peter Veit, Marlena Chertock and Katelyn Bredsnajder, "Peru's Indigenous Communities Manage Their Forests. Others Should Follow Their Lead," World Resources Institute, January 23, 2019.<sup>30</sup>

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support before and during a project; Community members should be able to exercise their rights without fear of reprisal; Allow community activities which do not affect carbon storage; Make it easier for communities to access carbon payments directly, without intermediaries), **"Enforcement"** (Governments and certification bodies should ensure robust oversight and accountability; When carbon projects violate these principles or otherwise go wrong, there should be clear channels by which communities can pursue a remedy).

<sup>29</sup> Available at: <https://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/articles/katowice-indigenous-leaders-call-wider-uptake-redd/>

<sup>30</sup> Available at: <https://www.wri.org/insights/perus-indigenous-communities-manage-their-forests-others-should-follow-their-lead>