

Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Tenure in the INDCs



May 2016

STATUS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In December 2015, representatives of governments, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples' groups, and the private sector met in Paris for the 21st Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The resulting Paris Agreement marked a major turning point in the global struggle to combat climate change with its recognition of the crucial role that forests play in achieving targeted emissions reductions. Yet, the Agreement ultimately failed to take into account the significance of community land rights and community-based natural resource management for realizing its ambitious goals.

The Rights and Resources Initiative reviewed 161 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) submitted on behalf of 188 countries for COP 21. Our analysis examined the extent to which Parties made clear commitments to strengthen or expand the tenure and natural resource management rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP/LCs) as part of their climate change mitigation plans or associated adaptation actions. Of the 161 INDCs submitted, 131 are from countries with tropical and subtropical forests.



Only **21 INDCs**, representing **less than 13 percent of the world's tropical and subtropical forest area**, included **clear commitments to implement community-based tenure or natural resource management strategies** as part of their climate change mitigation plans or adaptation actions.

Figure 1

Countries that made clear commitments to strengthen or expand IP/LC tenure and natural resource management rights in their INDCs



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Only 21 INDCs, representing less than 13 percent of the world's tropical and subtropical forest area, included clear commitments to implement community-based tenure or natural resource management strategies as part of their climate change mitigation plans or adaptation actions. Only one of these countries set a measurable target for the expansion of IP/LC tenure rights. This illustrates a significant gap between states' recognition that securing IP/LC land rights is fundamentally important for achieving sustainable development and climate change targets, and their willingness to implement crucial reforms.

To close the gap, we recommend that:

- Parties monitor the development and resulting climate benefits of community-based natural resource management and IP/LCs' tenure systems, and share their experiences and lessons learned at the global stocktaking dialogue in 2018.
- Countries include specific, measurable, and robust tenure and natural resource rights for IP/LCs in national climate change mitigation strategies by 2020.
- Bilateral and multilateral climate financing mechanisms expand dedicated funding streams for tenure reform, and secure access to technical assistance to help Parties achieve such ends.
- The leading platforms funding or supporting land and forest-based mitigation strategies recognize IP/LC tenure rights in their guidelines and safeguards as a necessary prerequisite for effective, equitable, and accountable REDD+ implementation as a necessary prerequisite for achieving effective, equitable, and accountable emissions reductions.

For the full policy brief and citations, see: RRI. 2016. Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Tenure in the INDCs: Status and Recommendations. Rights and Resources Initiative, Washington, D.C.

The Rights and Resources Initiative

The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) is a global coalition consisting of 13 Partners, 4 Affiliated Networks, 12 International Fellows, and more than 150 international, regional, and community organizations dedicated to advancing the forest land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. RRI leverages the collaboration and expertise of coalition members to promote secure local land and resource rights and catalyze progressive policy and market reforms. For more information, please visit www.rightsandresources.org.

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