

An event for

Securing Afro-descendant Peoples' Land Tenure Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean

as an effective pathway to conservation and climate change action

June 11–14, 2024 | Bogotá, Colombia



Credit: Rafael Martins for RRI.

Context

In Latin America and the Caribbean, Afro-descendant Peoples make up 21% of the region's population. Over centuries, they have forged pathways and developed practices rooted in **ancestral knowledge**. Their customary territories include tropical forests, wetlands, shrublands, and marine ecosystems which are now recognized as **global biodiversity hotspots** crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. Yet, despite covering an area of 178.6 million hectares—larger than the size of Peru—**only 4.5%** has been official recognized as owned by these communities.

Convened by Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI), Proceso de Comunidades Negras (PCN), Coordenação Nacional de Articulação de Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas (CONAQ), and the Vice-Presidency of Colombia, the event will bring together Afro-descendant leaders, civil society organizations, NGOs, and government representatives to formulate **actionable recommendations** aimed at narrowing the intersectional inequality gap Afro-descendant Peoples experience and safeguarding their territorial rights.

Objectives

✔ Gain recognition

Gain recognition of Afro-descendant Peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean as rightsholders with their own rights-based agendas, and attain representation rights (Voice and Vote) in the CBD and UNFCCC.

✔ Take action

Secure commitments from donors, governments, and international agencies for concrete actions and increased funding to close the gap in the recognition and protection of Afro-descendant Peoples' territorial rights.

✔ Share

Make visible through data and storytelling the territoriality of Afro-descendant Peoples and the role they play in mitigating and adapting to climate change and protecting biodiversity in strategic ecosystems.

Convened by



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Opportunities, Audience and Themes

In October 2024, the government of Colombia will host the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD CoP16). This is a strategic opportunity to position the roles and contributions of Afro-descendant Peoples in the conservation and management of crucial biodiversity hotspots and their potential to help meet the goals of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Given this context, the 4-day event in Bogotá will be a critical opportunity to influence: national-level governments in Latin America and the Caribbean; environment, forest and gender ministries and policymakers; land agencies; various UN agencies and decision makers, including UN CBD CoP16 coordinators, UNFCCC processes, UN Women, and the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent; regional and international donors; scholars and researchers working in academia; international NGOs; the African Union; the World Bank; and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The event's central theme is: **Afro-descendant Peoples' territorial rights**, which is divided into six sub-themes all related to securing Afro-descendant Peoples' land tenure rights as an effective pathway to conservation and climate change action.

Participants

- » Representatives from +25 Afro-descendant organizations, associations, and groups from 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including women and youth
- » Government representatives from Colombia, Brazil, and other countries across the region
- » Strategic allies and members of RRI's global coalition and other NGOs
- » Donor representatives from foundations, philanthropies, etc.

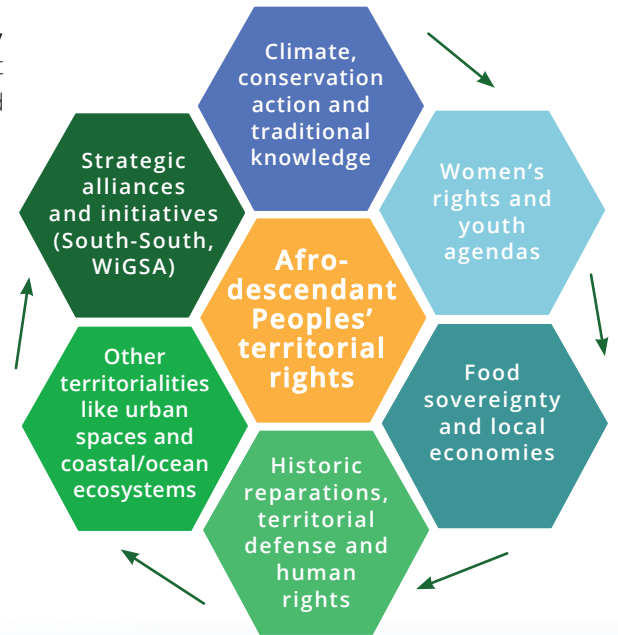


Photo taken during the religious celebration in honor of "Yemanjá"—queen of waters—an entity revered by African-based religions, Salvador, Brasil. Credit: Rafael Martins for RRI.