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Annual Report



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2023

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Cover photo: Omayra Casama from the Ipetí-Emberá community of Panama sitting around the main Maloka of the Alto Bayano Collective Territory, Panama City. Omayra was the first woman from the Ipetí-Emberá community to become a *cacique* (chief). Photo taken during the Women in Global South Alliance (WiGSA)'s first strategic meeting in 2023. Credit: Tova Katzman.

Letter from Our Coordinator

Dear friends,

I am delighted to present to you RRI's 2023 annual report—a snapshot of our major achievements from last year.

There is an African proverb that says, “*If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.*” Indeed, across societies, collective power can play a vital role in challenging the status quo and bringing transformative change. In 2025, RRI will celebrate its coalition's 20th anniversary. In preparation for this milestone, we must reflect now on how to redefine our shared vision for using the collective power RRI has cultivated in two decades.

Since 2005, RRI has grown into a global solidarity network that has the potential to transform social-economic relationships and help build a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable planet. Despite geographic and cultural disparities, we have found many commonalities in the struggles of rightsholders across the world. We want to use this year to reflect on how we can leverage these commonalities and the incredible impact our members across the world have achieved.

For our staff and leadership, 2023 was a year of building and strengthening movements with the



communities that underpin RRI's mission. Through regional conferences, global workshops, and strategic meetings, we heard from rightsholders about the ways we can strengthen the coalition. Perhaps the most pivotal one was to do more to include and amplify the voices and perspectives of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women and youth who have historically been left out of national and global strategies and meetings.

In 2023, we continued our commitment to evidence-based advocacy by releasing our flagship report monitoring forest and land tenure rights across all ecosystems. The second edition of [*Who Owns the World's Land?*](#) brought us back to the fundamental question of who owns the world's resources—finding that while governments recognized over 100 million hectares of

community lands between 2015 and 2020, much of this progress is attributable to communities themselves with little government support or donor assistance. The report underscores the need for a dramatic increase in global investments in collective land rights, and recognition that international climate and biodiversity commitments can only be met if we prioritize the foresight, capacity, and stewardship of the communities who have maintained the world's ecosystems thus far.

Across our regions, we continued to strengthen and incubate new alliances and networks. Our Africa coalition organized the continent's first-ever [Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Conservation Congress](#) in Namibia, paving the way for a new Alliance for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Conservation in Africa (AICA). In Indonesia, we supported the Coalition for Tenure Justice in leading the Third National Tenure Conference, which granted momentum for Indonesia's tenure movement in the recently concluded 2024 elections. And in Latin America, we strengthened the Afro-descendent coalition, helping its leaders engage strongly in global climate spaces. At CoP28 in Dubai, they demonstrated Afro-descendant Peoples' contribution to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation by releasing significant [geo-referenced data](#) of their territories in biodiversity hotspots across Latin America and the Caribbean.

We also took major steps to strengthen women's solidarity and voices within the broader community rights movement. In partnership with Central Africa's Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems (REPALEAC), we organized the

[First Forum of Indigenous and Local Community Women in Central Africa and the Congo Basin](#). This unprecedented gathering highlighted the leading role of Indigenous and local community women in protecting the Congo Basin's natural resources and advocated for more funding to support their climate and conservation efforts.

Our current [Strategic Program](#) places a key emphasis on youth and incorporating intergenerational leadership in RRI's work. In line with this, RRI members in Asia and Latin America undertook two exciting projects: one was [a manifesto](#) led by Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community youth in Latin America, united for the defense of their ancestral territories. Another was a [joint report](#) from Asia that incorporated the experiences of Indigenous and local community youth activists into a call to action. Both initiatives planted seeds for broader actions the coalition will pursue in 2024 to build stronger intergenerational dialogue within our communities.

This annual report is a snapshot of just some of our pivotal successes that energize us as we embark upon [our 2024 workplans](#). We are excited to begin working on these plans and demonstrate the indelible power of collective action.

As always, I am deeply grateful for your continued support for our mission.



Dr. Solange Bandiaky-Badji
Coordinator, Rights and Resources Initiative



Landscape photo of rice fields.
Credit: iStock.

Fostering Our Coalition: A Global Outlook

What does it mean to nurture a coalition?

In our case, it's a coalition that's grown from a handful of individuals and organizations in 2005 to over 150 members across five continents. With RRI's 20th anniversary approaching in 2025, this question is more pertinent than ever before.

Two years ago, our Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community members helped us inform our [Blue Skies](#) vision and current [Strategic Program](#). And throughout 2023, the coalition came together—through national and global planning meetings, workshops, and regional conferences—to inform the strategies we must pursue to achieve this vision.

Our annual Global Strategy Meeting brought RRI partners, collaborators, fellows, donors, and board members together in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to identify RRI's key priorities for this year (read these along with [our 2024 workplans](#) here). We found that despite each

territory's unique characteristics, our members' agendas are aligned across many thematic areas. Themes like the need to decode carbon markets for communities; increase direct funding for rightsholders, particularly women; strengthen community livelihoods; and empower youth leadership were among the topics our members were eager to prioritize.

When asked how to strengthen the coalition, members agreed that we need more opportunities for meaningful knowledge sharing and collaboration, and the creation of new intergenerational spaces for learning. We ended the year with a strong sense of collective power, ready to be channeled toward coordinated advocacy, research, and networking.

We also took a big step toward ensuring the healthy functioning of the coalition and promoting collaboration, transparency, and learning. In 2023, we undertook a coalition-wide mapping project, interviewing over 40 members about their work, priorities, and achievements, and we used these insights to create a [unique online platform](#) to help our members, donors, and allies gain a better understanding of our wide-ranging and diverse efforts to advance community land, territory, fresh water, and natural resource rights. The tool showcases the power of our coalition to funders and allies in community land rights, climate, and conservation spaces.

From the mountaintops of the Peruvian Andes to East Africa's desert plains and the coastal mangroves of Indonesia, our coalition is hard at work to create conditions that enable the recognition of rights.

By continuing to leverage our diverse strengths, we will go on to catalyze real change for the betterment of the planet and its people.

“We are here to learn from each other, for each other, and for our Mother Earth. We are not divided, but united.”

Jenifer Lasimbang, Kadazan from Sabah, Malaysia–Borneo and representative of Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

How We Deliver

Projects in 33 Countries



Africa

Cameroon	Madagascar
Central African Republic	Republic of Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Sierra Leone
Gabon	South Sudan
Kenya	Tanzania
Liberia	Togo
	Uganda

Latin America

Bolivia	Guatemala
Brazil	Honduras
Colombia	Mexico
Costa Rica	Nicaragua
Dominican Republic	Panama
Ecuador	Peru
El Salvador	Suriname

Asia

Cambodia	Nepal
India	Philippines
Indonesia	Thailand



Partnerships

33 countries*	150+ collaborators
21 partners	19 donors

*Number of countries where RRI worked in 2023 or has allied networks.



Secretariat Staff

43 total staff worldwide	12 men
31 women	7 facilitators in developing countries



Knowledge

27 publications	23.3k downloads
5 languages	47.5k blog readers

14 projects were approved through RRI's Strategic Response Mechanism in 2023, granting **US \$712,115**

GLOBAL ACHIEVEMENTS



Tenure

Tracking Tools

In 2023, our Tenure Tracking Program continued its pivotal role in monitoring global progress in the recognition of Indigenous Peoples', Afro-descendant Peoples', and local communities' tenure rights. We witnessed significant strides and challenges in securing these rights, and several international developments that offer opportunities to advance them.

For example, the endorsement of the World Committee on Food Security of the Voluntary Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in October 2023 offers key guidance on including women and girls in decision-making processes on food security; and the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) from June 2023 is envisaged as a significant mechanism to ensure compliance of key deforestation-driving commodities with both domestic and international human rights legislation.

As the world progresses on the 2030 Global Agenda, our role in global monitoring of community tenure is increasingly vital. Our recent acquisition of the [LandWise Law Library](#), the launch of a robust [Tenure Tool](#), and the publication of groundbreaking new research further expand our repository of publicly available knowledge, providing valuable and unprecedented data on communities' rights.

Here are a few highlights of our achievements in 2023.

01 Through the ongoing development and promotion of the Tenure Tool and a growing suite of online knowledge-sharing platforms, RRI continues to position itself as an essential resource for globally relevant data on the land and resource rights of both communities and the women within them. Currently, the [Tenure Tool](#) houses the largest and most comprehensive dataset on the forest tenure rights legally held by Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local communities in 58 countries, and its 2024 expansion to encompass RRI's Land Tenure and Freshwater Tenure datasets will improve its coverage even further. Since September 2022, the Tool has been accessed over 3,500 times in English, French, and Spanish.

02 In September 2023, we acquired the [LandWise Law Library](#), a key legal database on women's land rights. Initially established by the Landesa Center for Women's Land Rights to drive legal and policy reforms benefiting women, the database later transitioned to the non-profit organization Resource Equity. This acquisition will expand RRI's role as a legal resource on community rights, meeting the increasing demand for accessible information crucial for advocacy and research.

SPOTLIGHT

Who Owns the World's Land?



Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities comprise up to 2.5 billion of Earth's population and customarily hold and use at least 50 percent of its lands. According to the second edition of RRI's flagship report, *Who Owns the World's Land?*, communities gained legal recognition to over 100 million hectares of additional land from 2015–2020, and now own more than 11 percent of the world's land.

The report analyzes the legal frameworks of 73 countries covering 85 percent of Earth's terrestrial area and finds that at least 39 national governments increased the area under Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community ownership between 2015 and 2020. Importantly, communities made these gains despite limited government or donor assistance, implying that greater investment in their rights could rapidly advance global climate and conservation goals.

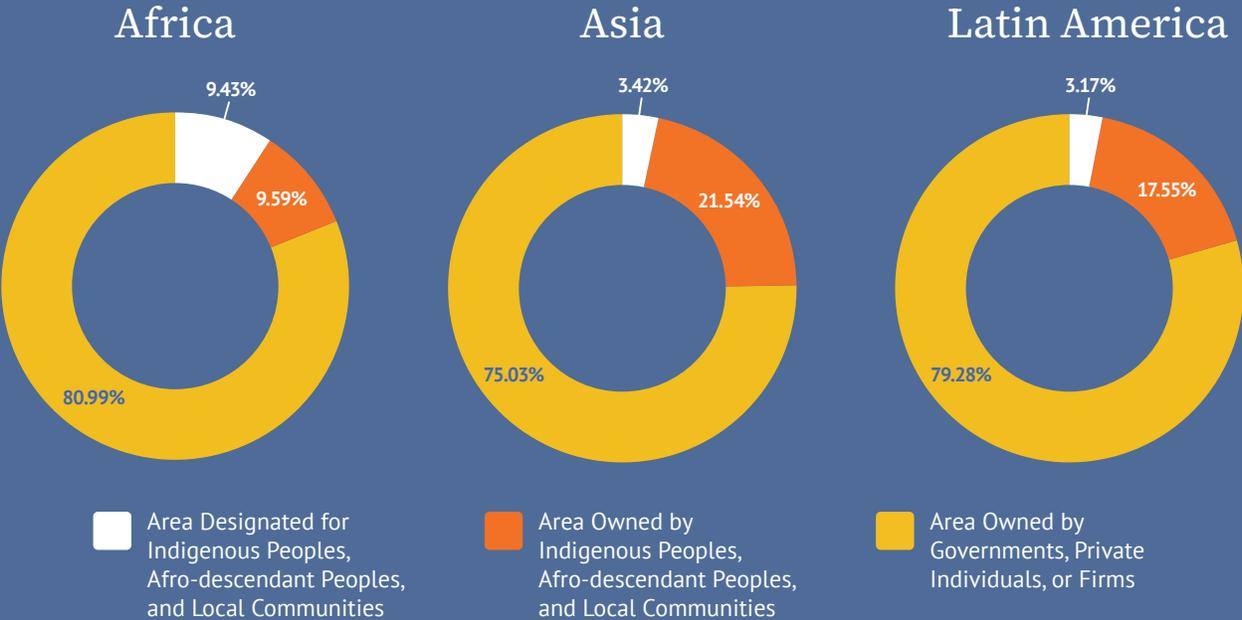
Countries Covered in Study



Sustained advocacy and engagement by rightsholders and civil society groups have resulted in new legislative developments as well as the implementation of existing legal frameworks. Full implementation of existing laws has the potential to increase community-owned or controlled lands by at least an additional 260 million hectares across the world—an area twice the size of Peru!

This should spur action by governments, bilateral and multilateral donors, international organizations, philanthropists, and other stakeholders to accelerate the adoption and implementation of tenure reforms that recognize the rights and critical role Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities play in stewarding the lands where they have lived for generations.

Breakdown by Region



Between 2015 and 2020, Sub-Saharan Africa witnessed the most notable growth of legal recognition of community land rights of any region. In Asia, nearly 98 percent of all recognized community-owned land is in China, where collective ownership of forestland and an extensive pasture contract system cover nearly half the country’s land area. Without China, Asia has the lowest percentage of community ownership of any region, at only 0.83 percent. Latin America experienced considerable threats of rollback during the 2015–2020 period, and increases in legal recognition of collective lands were, in many countries, marginal to nonexistent.

Read the full Second Edition of *Who Owns the World’s Land?* on [our website](#).

“Our *Who Owns the World’s Land?* report makes it clear that much more could be achieved if governments, donors, and development institutions prioritized collective tenure rights and rights-based approaches in their climate and biodiversity commitments.”

Dr. Solange Bandiaky-Badji, RRI Coordinator

Lake Tamblingan in the customary territory of the Adat Dalem Tamblingan Indigenous community in northcentral Bali, Indonesia.

Credit: Nicole Harris, RRI.



Charting a Path to Scale

The [Path to Scale Initiative](#), catalyzed by RRI in 2021 and co-chaired with the Tenure Facility, is an informal network of donors, financial intermediaries, and rightsholders' groups committed to scaling up funding, coordination, and innovation for the land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples—particularly the women and youth within these groups—to achieve 2030 global climate and biodiversity targets. Participants work together toward the following [two targets](#):

1. Support the recognition of tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples to at least 400 million additional hectares of tropical forests by 2030; and
2. Mobilize \$10 billion in new funding dedicated to advancing Target 1 by 2030.

Achieving these targets would put at least one-half of all tropical forests under the control of local peoples, and dramatically increase their potential for long-term conservation and climate mitigation action.

Here are a couple highlights of what Path to Scale achieved in 2023.

01 The Path to Scale solidified its position as the leading platform for coordinating donor and intermediary action to scale up funding for Indigenous Peoples', Afro-descendant Peoples', and local communities' tenure. Representatives from over 50 organizations (including Ford Foundation, World Bank, Conservation International, BMZ, Maliasili, and rightsholder networks) participated regularly to share information, develop analyses, and strategize for major international events.



Hands of an Afro-descendant leader in Chocó, a department in the pacific region of Colombia.
Credit: William Martinez.



Indigenous man sits on a felled tree in the Amazon rainforest in Peru.
Credit: The Tenure Facility.

02 The Path to Scale [organized an event](#) in September 2023 during UN Climate Week in New York City. Over 100 in-person and virtual participants attended the meeting, including from rightsholder-led funding mechanisms, civil society, and leaders from prominent Indigenous, Afro-

descendant, and local community rightsholder movements to assess progress, identify challenges and opportunities, and strategize together on how to translate “[fit for purpose](#)” funding policies and commitments into practice. The Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG) provided participants updates on the historic [Forest Tenure Pledge](#) committed at CoP26. Participants agreed to develop a roadmap toward organizing a high-level international event at CoP30 in Brazil in 2025 to ensure that community tenure remains front and center in climate negotiations and to mobilize other leaders and funding from governments, civil society, and the private sector.

“We have a collective dream. We want to speak our own languages, dance our dances, wear our clothes, and feed ourselves from our land. If we lose our territories, we will lose all of this.”

Jhontoni Tarihoran (AMAN), former national chair of the Indigenous Youth Front of the Archipelago in Indonesia (BPAN)

Linking Rights with Climate and Conservation Action

In 2023, the Rights, Climate, and Conservation Program faced a dynamic landscape shaped by the adoption of the 2022 Kunming–Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework, which underscores the need for rights-based conservation, and growing distrust over the ability of voluntary carbon markets to do the same. However, even as governments and corporations turn to nature-based solutions and market-driven approaches to fulfill their climate and biodiversity commitments while simultaneously expanding projects that worsen the world’s environmental crisis, the pressures exerted on Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities are only likely to grow.

With these considerations in mind, we gave particular attention to identifying structural constraints to the advancement of rights-based approaches and enhancing collaboration and knowledge sharing to help the coalition and its allies better understand the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Here are a few of our achievements from 2023.

01 During UN Climate Week in New York City, we initiated a [new dialogue series](#) with Rainforest Foundation Norway, Rainforest Foundation US, and the Forest Peoples Programme. The inaugural dialogue provided a platform for over 70 rightsholders and their allies from Africa, Asia, and Latin America to share experiences and lessons learned from market and non-market climate financing initiatives. The participants identified a broad range of challenges and pathways that can better support their current and future needs. Going forward, RRI will provide field-level technical and legal support to rightsholders to strengthen their capacity to advocate for the climate futures they seek.

02 Also at UN Climate Week, we facilitated a [workshop](#) on Advancing Rights in Area-based Conservation in partnership with the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC), Campaign for Nature, and the ICCA Consortium. By connecting rightsholders with global actors who are working on meeting 30x30 targets, the discussion fostered participants’ shared understanding of rights-based and community-led approaches and helped them identify multi-stakeholder solutions to bring these approaches to life. The workshop’s deliberations are now being integrated



A fishing boat sits on Lake Tamblingan in the customary territory of the Adat Dalem Tamblingan Indigenous community in northcentral Bali, Indonesia.
Credit: Nicole Harris, RRI.

into emerging conservation strategies at national and international levels, and RRI is planning new analyses and convenings in 2024 to shift the focus from conceptualization to implementation.

“Science shows that when our communities have strong rights and protections to our ancestral lands, we protect natural ecosystems better than anyone else. Our rights must be central to global efforts to protect Earth’s climate and biodiversity.”

Gam Shimray, Indigenous Naga leader and Secretary-General of RRI partner, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

03 Our [new policy brief](#) on rights-based climate and conservation action identified structural constraints and proposed an action framework to support governments, development institutions, conservation organizations, and the private sector in fulfilling their commitments to Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, local communities, and particularly the women and youth among them. The brief analyzes a broad set of challenges that rightsholders and their allies must overcome and offers pathways for rights-based interventions and best practices to mitigate risks.

Advancing Justice for Women

For our coalition's women leaders, 2023 was a year of international engagement and advocacy. Over the last three years, our Gender Justice Program has mobilized and supported over 75 Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community grassroots women's groups and networks in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. This year, we made great strides in creating space for these women in decision-making spaces while advocating for the incorporation of a gender-inclusive lens to existing and emerging global climate finance in regional and international fora.

At the beginning of the year, we helped organize the first strategic meeting of the Women in Global South Alliance ([WiGSA](#))—launched by our coalition members at CoP27 in 2022. We also helped at least 20 women leaders participate in key international events to share [Our Call to Action](#), which calls upon global leaders and donors to increase direct access to funding for grassroots women's organizations.

Here are some highlights of our achievements in pursuing gender justice.

01 In March 2023, 16 Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women, representing 14 countries from the Global South, braved cross-continental travel and multiple time zones to meet in Panama for WiGSA's [first strategic meeting](#). At this meeting, we collectively composed the Alliance's mission, vision, and values; identified moments of international intervention that could serve as a platform for key messages; and jointly built a gender justice advocacy strategy that will act as our roadmap in the years ahead.



Women leaders from the Ogiek, Maasai, Batwa, Aweer, Benet, Sengwer, and Yaaku Indigenous communities meet in Mt. Elgon, Kenya for the 2022 East Africa Assembly. Credit: TonyWild Photography.



Women of the Ipetí-Emberá community of Panama dance with members of WIGSA in the main Maloka of the Alto Bayano Collective Territory, Panama. Credit: Walter Hurtado.

02 WIGSA members participated in key regional and international events to push for direct access to climate finance for Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women and girls. These events included the Mesoamerican Climate Week in Panama City, Panama; the Global Environmental Facility's 7th Assembly in Vancouver, Canada; the 2023 Women Deliver Conference in Kigali, Rwanda; the First Forum of Indigenous and Local Community Women in Central Africa and the Congo Basin in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo; and at several side events at CoP28 in Dubai.

“We must recognize the leadership role women and girls are playing in conservation efforts. We cannot save nature unless we put Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and rural women at the center.”

Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet, Founder and President of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF)

Linking Rights with Community Livelihoods

RRI's Rights and Livelihoods Program empowers Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities with evidence, capacity, networks, and advocacy to advance their self-determined strategies to manage and govern lands and forests and improve their livelihoods. The program develops strategic analyses to build the economic, environmental, and development case for community governance, and catalyzes dialogue and collaboration between communities and “unlikely allies”—like the private sector and governments—to promote and mainstream rights-based investments.

The Rights and Livelihoods Program helped to create several “firsts” for RRI in 2023. By launching flagship tools to advance rights-based practices in supply chains, pioneering innovative approaches to influence companies and governments in sourcing landscapes, and creating the tools needed to support collective action and advocacy “beyond land rights”, RRI is unlocking new pathways for communities to fully realize the social and economic benefits of secure rights.

Here are a few highlights of what the program achieved in 2023.

01 [The Interlaken Group](#)—an RRI-convened network of leaders from progressive companies and investors, international organizations, civil society groups, and rightsholder networks—marked its 10-year anniversary in 2023 and positioned itself to lead the next decade of private sector action for collective land rights and livelihoods. Participants met on [September 15 in New York City](#), just ahead of Climate Week, to reflect on the network’s accomplishments over the preceding decade and assess emerging challenges and opportunities to continue driving private-sector support for community tenure rights and livelihoods. Indigenous, local community, and Afro-descendant leaders highlighted the urgency of transparency and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) within community-private partnerships and discussed solutions. Participants agreed to hold a retreat in 2024 to refresh the Interlaken Group’s strategy in the context of the new environment for mobilizing private sector support for community tenure rights and to align the ambitions of the network with the 2030 climate and biodiversity targets.



A Talang Mamak man prepares river fishing rods in Riau province, Sumatra, Indonesia. Rubber plantations have surrounded the Talang Mamak for generations beginning with Dutch colonial rule. Many of these rubber plantations were converted to palm oil plantations in 1980s, and since then, more than 5,000 hectares of forest has been cleared and converted to palm oil plantations by large companies. The Talang Mamak rely on the forest for their livelihoods, food, and for cultural practices and rituals. Credit: Jacob Maentz.

02 The Interlaken Group launched [Principles of Community Monitoring](#)—an innovative resource that will help companies and investors to build productive partnerships with communities to secure collective land tenure, contribute to rural livelihoods, and improve private sector compliance with environmental and social standards and commitments. The resource was prepared by a multistakeholder group of leaders from organizations like Unilever, Proforest, Oxfam, AsM Law Offices, and Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA). The document was accompanied by a [resource page on community monitoring](#) for practitioners. Companies like Nestlé have committed to incorporating community monitoring in their [Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Land Rights Action Plan](#) and Net Zero Emissions strategies.

“If companies and investors are to meaningfully and sustainably contribute to global development goals and comply with their own sustainability and human rights commitments and obligations, they must prioritize building respectful direct and balanced partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and local communities impacted by their projects.”

Stanley Kimaren Ole Riamit, Maasai leader and President, Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA)

03 We helped coalition members leverage community monitoring to engage and influence companies in Indonesia and Liberia. In Sumatra, Indonesia, we supported the expansion of [community monitoring and capacity building](#) in major palm oil sourcing landscapes, where it is now well-positioned to be integrated into several companies' Forest and Nature Positive commitments. In Liberia, we mobilized civil society organizations to utilize community monitoring to [document the compliance of palm oil companies](#) with the government's requirements on local livelihoods and food security in concession

agreements. The project has prompted the government to consider integrating community monitoring into its national investment policy.

04 The coalition endorsed a new [collective vision](#) for the network to support the self-determined economic and development aspirations of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities, including women and youth, to fully realize their customary land and resource rights. The vision asserts that empowering these groups to achieve their livelihood needs and

priorities is foundational to the realization of collective tenure rights, the establishment of community-based governance institutions, food security, and the pursuit of global climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development targets.



Ari Ariyanto, a coffee farmer from Tebat Pulau, Sumatra, Indonesia. Tebat Pulau is located in the middle of two protected areas where the local community has lived for generations. Credit: Jacob Maentz.

Coalition and Strategic Networks

RRI's Coalition and Strategic Networks Program leverages the power of the coalition to amplify the voices of local peoples and ensure its healthy functioning by keeping partners, collaborators, fellows, and Board members engaged with our ongoing advocacy and processes. Importantly, we support the participation of coalition members in global fora, ensuring Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities—especially the women and youth within them—are collaborating strategically across geographies. The program facilitates communication, collective learning, and information sharing to ensure the creation of strong bonds among coalition members.

In 2023, we organized two in-person events, the first in the United States in January for our annual Governance Meeting, and the second in the DRC in October for our Global Strategy Meeting. More than 40 people from 21 countries attended these meetings, demonstrating the coalition's global reach. We also interviewed more than 40 partners and collaborators about their work, priorities, and achievements to develop a unique coalition mapping project, and revitalized MegaFlorestais, RRI's network of public forest agency leaders.

Here are some of our key achievements in 2023.

01 2023 marked the first in-person convening of the [MegaFlorestais network](#) since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting brought together top forest agency leaders from eight countries across five continents in Lake Tahoe, California, United States. The convening was key to revitalizing the network and strengthening our relationship with these leaders from around the world. Following the event, the core planning team of MegaFlorestais was awarded the 2023 US Forest Service Chief's Honor Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership in the forest sector in the United States.

02 In 2023, we initiated work on a comprehensive coalition mapping tool. This [unique online platform](#) helps coalition members, donors, and allies gain a better understanding of our wide-ranging network and documents how each member contributes to the collective mission of advancing Indigenous Peoples', Afro-descendant Peoples', and local communities' land, territory, freshwater, and resource rights. The tool, launched in early 2024, showcases the power and impact of the coalition to donors and allies in the international land rights, climate, and conservation spaces.



“We have been living in harmony with nature and biodiversity since time immemorial, as an open living museum that needs to be protected for our next generations.”

Nima Lama, Chairperson of Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality, Nepal

REGIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS



Strategic Response Mechanism



The Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM) is a financial mechanism designed by RRI to enable timely, flexible responses to unforeseen opportunities and threats facing communities in our focus regions. It allows organizations in-country to effectively shift political landscapes in their constituencies, influence important legislation on land and resource rights, as well as empower and protect local communities against crises and criminalization.

- In Nepal, the SRM supported advocacy for the passage of the [Shagya Tradition Preservation Act](#) in the Gorkha District's Tsum Nubri Rural Municipality, which formally recognizes and preserves the Indigenous Tumba community's Shagya tradition of nonviolence. The law's passage followed sustained community advocacy supported by the Center for Indigenous Peoples' Research and Development (CIPRED). Following the bill's passage, Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal attended the community's centennial festival to commemorate the Shagya principle and expressed his commitment to support Shagya culture.
- In a big win for the [Maya Q'eqchi' People of Guatemala](#), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruled in favor of the community's lawsuit, recognizing that Guatemala's issuance of mining permits had violated collective land rights. The Indian Law Resource Center, which spearheaded the community's legal battle, was supported by the SRM. The court's decision, announced on December 15, has given the government six months to award a land title to the community.
- In Cameroon, the SRM supported the establishment of an Indigenous and Community Conserved Area (ICCA) consisting of 150 hectares of sacred forests and 110 hectares of community lands in five districts, benefiting more than 60,000 people. The *Fondation Internationale pour le Développement, l'Éducation, l'Entreprenariat et la Protection de l'Environnement* (FIDEPE) developed five environmental and social management plans for biodiversity conservation activities, carried out participatory mapping, and led capacity-building trainings for communities on key international biodiversity legislation. Now, FIDEPE is working with Rainforest Alliance to secure ICCAs in three additional districts in the west of the country, all of which will help to achieve Target 3 of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework.



View of Tsum Nubri community land in Gorkha district, Nepal.
Credit: the Center for Indigenous Peoples' Research and Development (CIPRED).

Asia

Vibrant social movements led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities alongside their civil society allies are the primary drivers of tenure recognition and reforms in Asia. Their struggles have brought increasing attention to Indigenous and local community rights as a development, climate, and conservation priority at both the global and local levels. However, even though Asia is home to 70 percent of the world's Indigenous population, it still has the lowest percentage of community land ownership compared to Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa when China is excluded from the results.

In 2023, our Asia coalition pursued legal reforms in the land rights, biodiversity, and conservation sectors through a combination of research, legal advocacy, and programs in the field. Indigenous and local community youth, who hold a unique position on the frontlines of climate justice and land rights struggles, also took center stage this year. We supported them by hosting a virtual International Youth Day celebration and published a new collaborative report showcasing youth leadership in Asia.

Here are some of our achievements from 2023.

01 We joined forces with Indigenous and local community youth, policymakers, donors, community leaders, and environmental experts on [International Youth Day](#) to amplify the voices and perspectives of youth. We partnered with six youth-led organizations to co-organize a webinar on Empowering Indigenous and Local Community Youth for a Sustainable World. The webinar, attended by more than 500 people, demonstrated on a global scale how youth in Asia are playing a crucial role in protecting and defending the region's lands, territories, waters, and natural resources.

02 Co-authored by 16 organizations spanning youth groups, Indigenous networks, and ally organizations, we published [a flagship report](#) on youth leadership in Asia. The report shows how by building a strong intergenerational bond with their communities, cultures, and ecological contexts, youth become self-motivated defenders of their collective rights. The publication, available

in English and Bahasa Indonesia (with Nepali and Hindi translations forthcoming in 2024) and designed by an Indigenous youth in India, will be instrumental in further mobilizing Indigenous and local community youth in Asia and elsewhere.

03 In Indonesia, we contributed to the Third National Tenure Conference in coordination with both national and international organizations. The event convened 700 participants from rightsholders' groups and other actors engaged in tenure reform and culminated in a national consensus on how to push forward in engagements with governments. It helped grant momentum to Indonesia's tenure movement in the recently concluded 2024 elections. With the Coalition for Tenure Justice at the helm, the conference was attended by representatives from social justice movements, rightsholder and civil society organizations, and the media, many of whom are now crucially integrating tenure reform into wider agendas for social justice across Indonesia.

“We do not call what we do conservation. It's our daily habit and it's who we are.”

Putu Willy Suputra, a youth trekking guide and member of the Adat Dalem Tamblingan Indigenous community in Bali, Indonesia

04 We partnered with the Working Group for ICCAs in Indonesia (WGII) to pursue legal reforms in the biodiversity and conservation sector in Indonesia. The WGII network submitted [recommendations](#) for the National Parliament’s consideration as part of the process of amending the current Conservation Bill. The proposed amended bill recognizes and strengthens the important role Indigenous and local communities play in conservation. We also supported WGII’s participation in the joint government-civil society collaboration to develop the first official draft of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which outlines how the Indonesian government will implement rights-based conservation policies going forward.



Ketut Ayu is head of the Women Farmers’ Group and member of the Adata Dalem Tamblingan Indigenous community in northcentral Bali, Indonesia. The Group plants, grows, harvests, packages, and sells over 700kg of coffee every month in shops throughout Bali.
Credit: Santhi Wijaya.



A family from the Maji Moto Group Ranch, Maasai community, Kenya. Photo taken during the filming of RRI's 2023 documentary, *Our Life. Our Land*, in collaboration with the Video Consortium and Skoll Foundation. Credit: Anthony Ochieng Onyango.

Africa

Rapidly growing demand for natural resources and development has placed unparalleled pressure on Africa's land and the Indigenous Peoples and local communities who depend on it. Despite this, Africa showed the highest growth of legal recognition of community land rights of any region between 2015–2020 according to the latest edition of *Who Owns the World's Land?* The total area owned by Indigenous Peoples and local communities rose by 12 percent that period, and ongoing land reforms in several countries present unprecedented opportunities to secure more rights.

However, the burgeoning carbon market is redefining [African governments' climate agenda](#)—with some governments drafting new carbon-focused legislation and signing carbon deals that pose a potentially significant threat to this progress on tenure rights. In response, our work in Africa continues to focus on mobilizing civil society and Indigenous movements to help rightsholders strategically engage with their governments as well as the private sector, using evidence-based advocacy for progressive legislative reforms, and promoting community-conserved areas as a strategy to reduce emissions and achieve 30x30 goals.

[Here are some of our achievements.](#)

01 In May 2023, RRI joined hands with the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC), the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), and the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC) to hold the First Forum of Indigenous and Local Community Women in Central Africa and the Congo Basin. We brought Indigenous and local community women leaders from Africa, Asia, and North and South America together with international donors, African ministers, and political actors in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo to strengthen their global solidarity movement for women-led initiatives to address the dual climate and biodiversity crises. The event resulted in [a roadmap](#) and [declaration](#) that laid the groundwork for a new potential Indigenous-led funding mechanism to channel support directly to the Congo Basin's women and girls.

02 We co-organized the first-ever [Community-led Conservation Congress in Africa](#) in Windhoek, Namibia alongside the newly established Alliance for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for Conservation in Africa (AICA). The Congress created a space for Indigenous and local community

leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue with governments, donors, and NGOs to prioritize people-centered rights-based approaches to conservation. We gathered over 300 participants from 47 countries and set the stage for a new study on community-led conservation in Africa, forthcoming in 2024.

03 With support from the Skoll Foundation and the Video Consortium's Solutions Storytelling Project, we helped produce a documentary showcasing the decades-long land rights struggle of the Maasai community on the Maji Moto group ranch in Kenya. In collaboration with the Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), [Our Land, Our Life](#) shows how the community is taking back its land from powerful interests and inspiring other communities to follow suit.

04 To capitalize on commitments made and lessons learned in previous convenings in Ghana (2017), Madagascar (2019), and Togo (2021), we co-hosted the 4th African Land Institutions Network for Community Rights (ALIN) Conference in Arusha, Tanzania in partnership with the Government of Tanzania and the Tanzanian Forest Conservation

“It will be a great and joyous achievement to have my title. I will have the right to do everything on it as the owner. My land is my lifeline.”

Noormeshuki Lekisaika, Maasai woman and member of Maji Moto Group Ranch, Narok, Kenya

Group. ALIN is a community of practice for Africa's national land institutions and ministries to [share their experiences](#) and progress in advancing community land rights. The conference's participants called upon governments to scale up financial and technical support to their land institutions to help them implement more progressive land policy reforms and secure communities' land rights. [Learn more.](#)

05 For more than a decade, South Sudan has been developing a National Land Policy (NLP) to ensure the implementation of the Land Act of 2009. To capitalize on a critical window



An Indigenous woman in the DRC poses in front of the camera with an axe.
Credit: REPALÉAC.

“Land policy reform and helping communities determine land use is necessary because land population is increasing along with demand for agriculture. Conservation must be a long-term vision.”

Charles Mecshack, Tanzania Forest Conservation Group at the 4th African Land Institutions Network for Community Rights (ALIN) Conference in Arusha, Tanzania

of opportunity in 2023 when a draft of the policy was due to be sent to parliament, the South Sudan Land Alliance (SSuLA), with funding from RRI's Strategic Response Mechanism, launched an awareness-raising campaign to ensure that the draft policy's progressive provisions were understood and achieved consensus. They built strong relationships with and trained over 250 land administrators from the South Sudan Land Commission and led three media campaigns reaching over 17 million people. Now, the NLP is with the country's cabinet for review.



“We, as Indigenous Peoples, always live in harmony with nature: animals, plants, and people. Now, we are coming together as women and Guardians of Mother Earth to build our own road.”

Aissatou Oumarou, Mbororo leader from Chad and vice-coordinator of the Network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPALEAC)



A community woman cooks food over a firepit outside her home in Honduras.
Credit: Joel Redman for If Not Us Then Who?

Latin America

Latin America continues to report a higher level of recognition of collective land tenure compared to Africa and South and Southeast Asia. However, the pace of progress has dramatically slowed since 2015. According to RRI's 2023 flagship report, [Who Owns the World's Land?](#), less than 1 percent of land across 16 countries in Latin America was recognized as being owned by or designated for the region's Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities between 2015 and 2020.

In 2023, we collected regional data to support and anchor these communities' advocacy for their land and resource rights. We also published a new analysis on Afro-descendant Peoples' Territories in Biodiversity Hotspots Across Latin America and the Caribbean using results from the first-ever [open-access GIS tool](#) to monitor Afro-descendant territories. We also catalyzed major legal wins for Indigenous communities in Bolivia and the Maya Q'eqchi People of Agua Caliente in Guatemala.

Here are a few highlights of our achievements.

01 In February 2023, we published [a new analysis](#) demonstrating the territorial presence of Afro-descendant communities in 16 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean. The report is a collective effort by RRI, the Process of Black Communities (PCN), the Pontifical Universidad Javeriana's Observatory of Ethnic and Campesino Territories (OTEC), the National Coordination of Articulation of Rural Black Quilombola Communities (CONAQ), and a coalition of 21 Afro-descendant rights organizations. The study identifies 205 million hectares of land managed by these communities, of which only 5 percent is currently legally recognized. The map, available in an online [open-access cartographic tool](#), also shows the overlap of Afro-descendant Peoples' customary territories with formally protected areas and biological hotspots, underscoring the pivotal role these groups play in global conservation efforts.

Indigenous girls attend school near Cuzco in Peru.
Credit: Omaira Bolaños, RRI.



02 In Bolivia, we secured the titling of 181,130 hectares of land within the Multiethnic Indigenous Territory, benefiting the Mojeño Trinitario, Mojeño Ignaciano, Movima, Yuracaré, and Tsimane Indigenous Peoples. This achievement was made possible through the efforts of our collaborators, the National Confederation of Indigenous Women of Bolivia and the Center for Legal Studies and Social Research (CEJIS).

03 At CoP28 in Dubai, RRI supported the Afro-descendant coalition in presenting [initial findings](#) from its legal analysis on Afro-descendant Peoples' tenure rights in 11 countries in the

“We are very hopeful that peace will become a reality in our territories and that people will be able to come and enjoy what these lands hold without fear.”

Luz Deifa Carabalí, member of the La Alsacia community council, Colombia

region. The analysis reveals key disparities in the advancement of Afro-descendant Peoples' tenure rights, with only five countries—Colombia, Honduras, Brazil, Ecuador, and Mexico—possessing legal frameworks that acknowledge the collective rights of these communities.

04 We also played a pivotal role in convening Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community youth leaders from 10 countries for a landmark gathering in Bogota, Colombia leading to the formulation of a [Youth Manifesto](#). The manifesto represents the youth leaders' desire and commitment to strengthen their leadership skills and knowledge to become agents of change in the defense of their ancestral territories and the planet.

05 The end of 2023 also brought a historic milestone for the Naso People of Panama with the validation of their Organic Charter. The charter outlines the territorial governance and management practices of the Naso Tjër Di Comarca, marking theirs as the first Indigenous Territory in Panama to be officially recognized despite overlapping with protected areas. RRI collaborator, Asociación ANAI, helped make this achievement possible.

“We, youth leaders from Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendent Peoples, and local communities, are the bridge between ancestral knowledge and technology and we created together a manifesto to raise our voices so that each one of us can be heard.”

*Yaily Nadir Castillo,
Alianza Mesoamericana de
Pueblos y Bosques (AMPB)*

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY LAND TENURE



Community Land Rights and Conservation Finance Initiative (CLARIFI)

Current projects that promote the natural resource rights and governance of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples receive less than 1 percent of global climate finance. CLARIFI is a funding mechanism that seeks to bridge this gap by providing direct financing to rightsholders' organizations to strengthen communities' rights, livelihoods, and climate and conservation activities.

In 2023, we made important strides in scaling up the number of CLARIFI projects as well as the amount of funding reaching communities on the ground. We also launched a new website that now serves as a crucial communications tool to document and share our impact.

Here are some of our achievements in 2023.

01 In 2023, CLARIFI mobilized additional funding from the Home Planet Fund and BMZ (the first bilateral to support CLARIFI). Fifty-two active projects in 21 countries have been implemented, with an average grant size of US\$136,000. Additional projects are being developed and a pipeline built.

02 We partnered with the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund (MTF) and Indonesia's Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN) to implement two national and regional-level projects. In Indonesia, AMAN's project will increase the capacity of 131 territorial administrators and more than 5,400 cadres from the country's Indigenous communities in organizational and financial management. In Latin America, the MTF project will strengthen at least 15 rightsholder organizations in six countries.

03 We [strengthened CLARIFI's leadership and governance](#) by appointing Deborah Sanchez, an Indigenous leader from the Miskitu community in Honduras, as director



In the community of Pucara in Junin, Peru, a Quechua Indigenous woman grows vegetables.
Credit: CAO/CIAP.

to work in coordination with an Indigenous- and local community-led steering committee. With experience working in various capacities with Indigenous Peoples and local communities on land titling and governance, forest certification, climate change, and economic development projects,

Deborah brings a wealth of knowledge to the role and is poised to lead CLARIFI into its next phase of piloting in 2024 and beyond.

04 We launched [a new CLARIFI website](#) to showcase community success stories, news articles, achievements, and key project milestones. The website offers CLARIFI's partners, allied organizations, and donors a space to read and watch first-hand accounts from the field of how our funding is making a difference on the ground.

“CLARIFI addresses a need long felt by Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community organizations for a vehicle that mobilizes funding directly to them for activities not yet supported adequately by any donor.”

Pasang Dolma Sherpa, CLARIFI Steering Committee member and Executive Director of Nepal's Center for Indigenous Peoples' Research and Development (CIPRED)

METRICS



Communications and Advocacy

16 Events

20 Newsletters

27 Publications
23.3k downloads | 5 languages

28 Blog Posts
47.5k total readership | 3 languages

19 Videos
60.3k total viewership | 3 languages

400k Social Media
Impressions

17 Press Releases
4 languages

2 Op-eds

Social Media and Web



YouTube Subscribers

364

60.3k views
2,932.85 hours watched
▲303%*



Instagram Followers

1.7k

450 average monthly reach
▼9%



Twitter Followers

12.7k

14k average monthly reach
▼35%



LinkedIn Followers

11.8k

15.5k average monthly reach
▲41%



Facebook Followers

11.1k

2k average monthly reach
▼33%



Website Page Views

185,768

▲1.5%



Newsletters

80.5k

7,974 clickthroughs
▼13%



Citations

74

academic

127

in the media



*Includes 51,945 views of Our Land, Our Life video of the Maji Moto group ranch as part of the #SolutionsInsideOut project with the Video Consortium and Skoll Foundation.

Highest Reaching Content

Publications: Most Read

23,300
Total Downloads

Most downloaded publications

Number of downloads

<i>Who Owns the World's Land?</i> Second Edition	2,345
Who Owns the Land in Africa?	1,198
Derechos Colectivos Vulnerados: Sistematización y análisis de casos de violación de derechos colectivos de Pueblos Indígenas, Afrodescendientes y comunidades locales de América Latina vinculados a proyectos extractivos e infraestructura en el periodo 2017 a 2019	1,144
Rights-Based Conservation: The Path to Preserving Earth's Biological and Cultural Diversity?	747
Funding with Purpose: A Study to Inform Donor Support for Indigenous and Local Community Rights, Climate, and Conservation	692

Blogs and Press Releases: Most Read

47,490
Total Views

Most viewed blogs and press releases

Views

Governance Governing Government	3,601
New Research Says 44% of Earth's Land Area—Inhabited by 1.8 Billion People—Needs Conservation to Save Biodiversity	992
African Communities Formalize Regional Alliance for Community Conservation	803
Indigenous and Local Community Women From Central Africa and the Congo Basin Call for Direct Access to Funding to Help Their Efforts To Achieve 30x30 Goals	630
Why Indigenous-Led Conservation is Crucial for Canada's Climate Goals	564

Events and Initiatives: Most Popular

38,634
Total Hits

Most viewed content of this section

Views

[News] Tenure Tracking and RRI's Tenure Tool	3,514
[News] <i>Who Owns the World's Land?</i> Second Edition	3,121
[News] Community Land Rights and Conservation Finance Initiative (CLARIFI)	2,023
[News] Strategic Response Mechanism	1,151
[Event] Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Conservation Congress in Africa	1,068

Videos: Most Watched

60,279
Total Views

Most watched videos

Views

Our Land, Our Life	51,945
The Ogiek Story: Community-led Conservation in Mont Elgon, Kenya	4,992
Dialogue on Rights-Based Conservation and Climate Approaches in 2023 and Beyond	406
Community Monitoring of Land-Based Investments and Supply Chains: An Explainer	369
The Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Conservation Congress	310

Blog Highlights

2023 Highlights from the RRI Blog



January 11, 2023

Q&A with Indigenous leader Gam Shimray on how rights, biodiversity, and the global future are intertwined

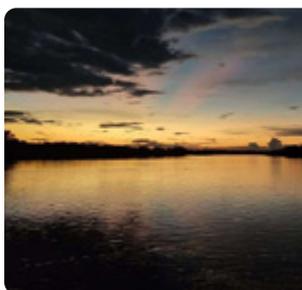
[Read More](#)



March 1, 2023

Indigenous community in Nepal wins recognition for customary practice to protect nature and biodiversity

[Read More](#)



April 14, 2023

Irreparable damage to the environment caused by the Ombú oil block in the Amazon foothills of Colombia

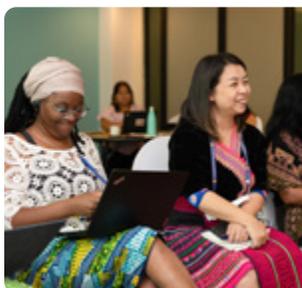
[Read More](#)



July 19, 2023

How carbon market pirates are threatening the territories of more than 200 families in the Ecuadorian Andes

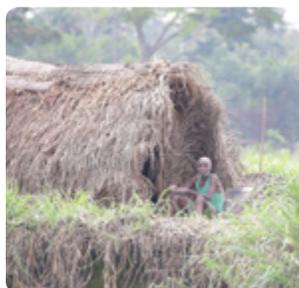
[Read More](#)



September 6, 2023

Rights and Resources Group acquires LandWise, key legal database on women's land rights

[Read More](#)



October 11, 2023

DRC National Assembly adopts landmark bill on land-use planning

[Read More](#)



November 27, 2023

Two big wins for Indonesia's agrarian reform movement

[Read More](#)



December 7, 2023

Who owns the world's land? Scaling up communities' land rights for people and the planet

[Read More](#)

Read more stories on [The Land Writes Blog](#) >

Media Highlights

Check out some of our top media mentions in 2023!



Indigenous and local communities see big gains in land rights, study shows

A new RRI study shows that land legally designated for or owned by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities increased by more than 100 million hectares between 2015 and 2020—an area larger than the size of Egypt. These groups now own more than 11% of Earth's terrestrial land.

Mongabay

[Read the Article](#)

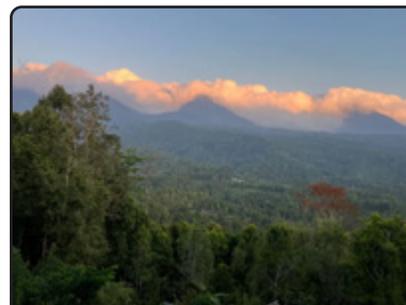


Restoring the Congo Basin: Indigenous women leading the charge

In May, RRI helped gather 200 participants from 20 countries in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo to strengthen the role of the region's Indigenous and local community women and girls in climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. Read an interview with Dr. Solange Bandiaky-Badji, RRI Coordinator, on the event's significance.

Fair Planet Magazine

[Read the Article](#)



In Bali, 'sea-sun-sand' tourists threaten ancient rainforest

The Adat Dalem Tamblingan Indigenous community, who have lived in northcentral Bali, Indonesia since at least the 9th century, are fighting for their land rights to help curb tourism and protect the Alas Mertajati Forest and Lake Tamblingan areas. This piece is a result of a media site visit organized by Badan Registrasi Wilaya Adat (BRWA), Wisnu Foundation, and RRI.

Thomson Reuters Foundation

[Read the Article](#)



Building relationships with Indigenous Peoples: A 5-step guide for companies

Ever since the Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted at CoP15 in Montréal, Canada in 2022, companies have been wondering about their role in engaging Indigenous and local communities and how can they become better allies. This piece summarizes key recommendations on how companies can rethink corporate-community partnerships to protect biodiversity and the climate.

Green Biz

[Read the Article](#)



Climate activism is becoming more dangerous for land defenders around the world

According to an RRI study, Mexico has the highest percentage of land collectively owned by Indigenous Peoples and local communities of any country in the Americas. Yet mounting effects from climate change and political and economic pressures are forcing some of the country's Indigenous communities to pick up arms to defend their ecosystems and way of life.

Vox

[Read the Article](#)



Africa's first-ever Community-led Conservation Congress ends on an impressive note

Over 300 participants gathered in Windhoek, Namibia in October 2023 under the banner "we are nature and nature is us." The congress is considered a starting point for the continent to define its own conservation policy framework that is people-centered.

EnviroNews Nigeria

[Read the Article](#)

Financial Highlights



We secured nearly US\$10.5 million in new and renewed funding for 2024–2027. This funding will be used to scale up direct support to Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities—especially the women and youth within these groups—in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.



After an extensive recruitment process, we hired two new members of RRG’s Executive Team. Makaria Reynolds joins us as Chief Operating Officer with years of experience leading human resources activities, financial operations, contracts and grants management, and donor relations. Keith Slack joins RRI as Senior Director, Programs to help guide our regional and global programs for long-term, strategic, and meaningful impact.



We concluded our 2022 annual audit, obtaining an unmodified opinion with minimal management comments.





Iranyishuye Mariam from REPALÉAC Burundi-ASSEJÉBA and Jenifer Lasimbang from Malaysia-Borneo laugh together during the reception of the first-ever Forum for Indigenous and Local Community Women in Central Africa and the Congo Basin in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo in May 2023.
Credit: Victoire Douniama.



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