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Sustaining Resilient Pathways

A Thematic Analysis of Funding to Secure Collective Tenure
Rights

Report and underlying research prepared by Michael Owen, Sam Allnutt, and Jeffrey Hatcher, Sandstone Strategies

Project Team at Rainforest Foundation Norway: Torbjørn Gjefsen, Julia Naime, Ane Schjolden

Project Team at Rights and Resources Initiative: Bryson Ogden, Tim Derr

Report Editor: Kristin Rødland Buick, Nicole Harris



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1. Introduction

Secure tenure for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples (IPs, LCs, and ADPs) requires more than legal rights on paper. While legal recognition of collective tenure rights is a critical milestone, recognition alone does not ensure that rightsholders can exercise, defend, and benefit from these rights in practice. Legally recognized rights to land and forests often remain contested, and rightsholders may continue to face competing claims and political resistance long after recognition by national governments.ⁱ

Durable tenure security depends on a broader set of mutually reinforcing conditions. Effective governance and representation—whether through formal organizations, territorial funds, customary institutions, or other rightsholder-led structures—enable communities to govern territories, mobilize resources, and advocate, negotiate, and defend their rights. Sustainable livelihoods and the ability to manage resources provide an economic foundation to sustain territorial stewardship. Supportive policies and legal frameworks create the enabling environment through which rights are recognized, protected, implemented, and expanded.ⁱⁱ

This report is the first thematic analysis on the current state of funding to secure IP, LC, and ADP tenure rights, considering that recognition alone is not enough to ensure durable tenure rights.

Previous editions of the [Path to Scale Funding Dashboard](#) and [State of Funding reports](#) have tracked the quantity, channels, and geographies of international funding to IPs, LCs, and ADPs tenure rights—documenting a growing, but still insufficient funding base, averaging \$728 million per year since the 2021 COP26 Forest Tenure Pledge.ⁱⁱⁱ The 2022 report [Funding with Purpose](#) added a quality lens, examining whether funding is timely, flexible, long-term, gender-inclusive, and directly accessible. The current analysis adds a thematic lens, asking whether the composition of funding reflects the full set of activities needed to turn customary rights into formal recognition, territorial governance, defense, and durable tenure security.^{iv}

This thematic analysis provides donors, rightsholders, and allies a clearer portfolio-level picture of what is being funded and creates a shared baseline for identifying funding gaps. As implementation of the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership's (FCLP) [Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment](#) (ILTC) and the [COP30 Forest and Land Tenure Pledge](#) advances, this baseline also provides a reference point against which to track how funding priorities evolve alongside international commitments.

2. Methods

Drawing on a typology adapted from Forging Resilient Pathways (2023), we classify funding into five thematic categories based on the primary objective of each funded activity (**Table 1**). These categories provide the structure for this first thematic analysis of funding for IP, LC, and ADP tenure rights using the Path to Scale dataset (2011–2024).

Table 1: Thematic Objectives

Thematic Objective	Definition
Theme A: Supporting livelihoods and local economies	Enabling IP, LC, and ADP communities and their members to benefit economically from their lands and resources.
Theme B: Strengthening IP, LC, and ADP organizations and movements	Building the institutional, governance, or operational capacity of IP, LC, and ADP organizations, or to support coalition-building and network formation among these groups.
Theme C1: New territorial recognition	Establishing first-time formal recognition of IP, LC, and ADP tenure claims.
Theme C2: Strengthened implementation of existing rights	Operationalizing, defending, or extending territorial recognition that is already legally in place.
Theme D: Reforming policies and institutions	Changing laws, policies, or institutional arrangements to create a more enabling environment for IP, LC, and ADP tenure and forest guardianship.

For a more detailed description of the taxonomy including example activity^v types, see [Annex 1](#) and [Annex 2](#).

The underlying data are drawn from the Path to Scale dashboard, which builds on the methodology established in *Falling Short* (2021) and successive State of Funding reports. Disbursement data originate primarily from donor-reported microdata submitted to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), supplemented by grant databases and public reporting from donors and intermediaries that do not report to IATI.^{vi} The [full methodology](#) is available via the Path to Scale dashboard website.

We conducted the thematic classification of activities into the five objectives listed in **Table 1** through a combined automated and human review process. Activity titles, descriptions, and associated documents were reviewed in context by a large language model to assess fit with each theme. This automated classification was followed by manual validation by the research team. For the largest activities accounting for 50 percent of total disbursements, as well as activities reported by Global Environment

Facility, the review included manual examination of available budget documentation to allocate activity value across themes in proportion to stated expenditures.^{vii} For all other activities, 100 percent of the activity value was attributed to the primary theme identified in the review, unless the review identified an even split between two or more themes—where funding was allocated proportionally.

Establishing and sustaining durable tenure security and resource governance involves a complex, interdependent system; the proposed framework translates this complexity into discrete objectives. While this framework is a refinement of the established typology adapted from Forging Resilient Pathways, the boundaries between objectives remain imperfect, and should be interpreted as a close proxy for what is happening on the ground.

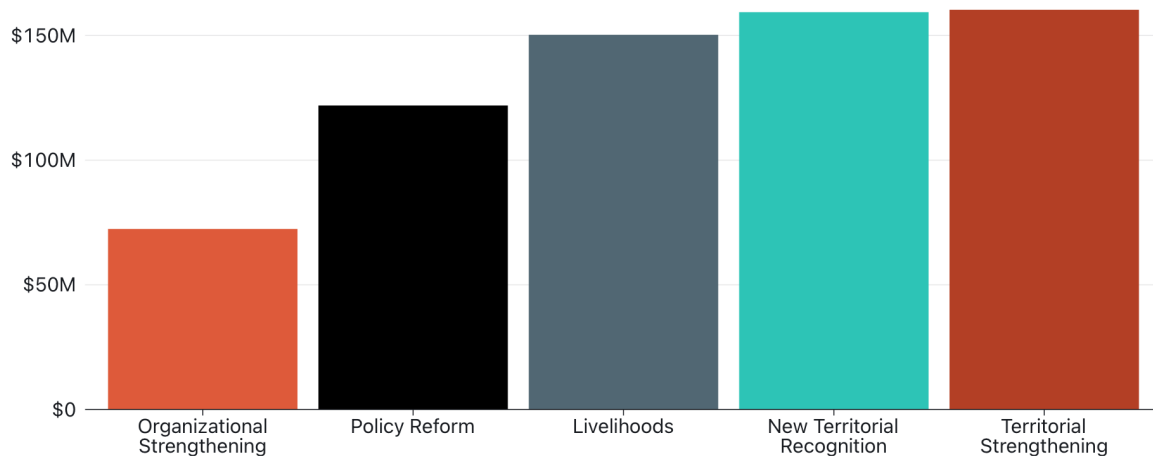
3. Analysis Findings

Thematic Trends

Between 2021 and 2024, disbursements were distributed relatively broadly across the five thematic objectives. Funding to strengthen implementation of existing tenure rights (C2) was the largest single category, averaging \$160 million per year, followed closely by funding for new territorial recognition (C1) at \$159 million. Support for community livelihoods and local economies (A) averaged \$150 million annually, while policy and institutional reform (D) averaged \$122 million. Funding to strengthen IP, LC, and ADP organizations and movements (B) received the least of any theme at \$72 million per year (less than half the level of Theme C2).

Figure 1: Annual Average Funding by Theme, 2021–2024

↑ (\$US) Disbursements



Across all five themes, disbursements grew substantially between 2011 and 2024, following the broader expansion of international funding for IP, LC, and ADP tenure rights over this period. Funding was modest across all themes in the early part of the 2010s, with

most themes receiving between \$10 million and \$50 million annually through 2013. From 2014 onward, disbursements climbed steadily, with a pronounced step-change visible around 2019–2021 across nearly every theme.

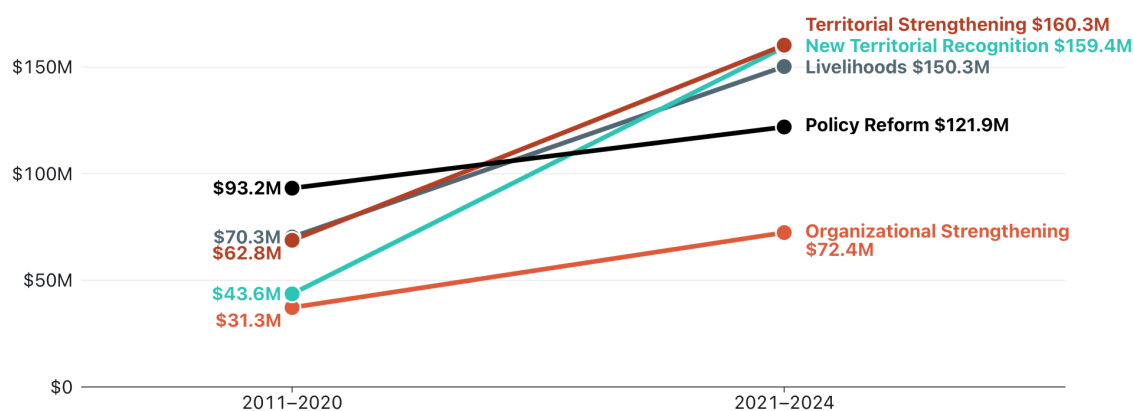
This welcome growth should be seen in light of ongoing cuts in bilateral and multilateral funding, and in particular the closure of USAID in 2025 (the impact of which was explored in the State of Tenure Rights 2025 report). These impacts are not fully captured in the data assessed for this report but are expected to be clearly visible when data from 2025 are updated to the Path to Scale Funding Dashboard later this year.

Figure 2 shows the growth across two periods, before and after the COP26 Forest Tenure Pledge in 2021. Almost every theme doubled between the pre-pledge decade (2011–2020) and the post-pledge period (2021–2024). Funding for new territorial recognition (C1) grew particularly quickly after 2020, from an annual average of \$44 million in 2011–2020 to \$159 million in 2021–2024, the largest proportional increase (265 percent).

This growth in funding for new territorial recognition (C1) is split along two distinct activity types. A large portion is driven by large, multilateral land-administration programs—primarily World Bank agrarian reform and individual titling efforts in Indonesia, the Philippines, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Cambodia, which include pilots or sub-components on collective tenure.^{viii} The remainder flowed through dedicated territorial recognition programs where collective rights are the primary purpose, including a pair of Bezos Earth Fund grants supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the [Congo Basin](#) and [Tropical Andes](#), and philanthropic and bilateral funding channeled through the International Land and Forest Tenure Facility. Despite the growth in territorial recognition (C1) funding, activities remain concentrated in a small number of large programs. Meeting the scale of ambition set out in the ILTC will require this funding base to diversify, particularly amid continued bilateral and multilateral funding cuts.^{ix}

Figure 2: Shift in Average Annual Funding by Theme, 2011-2020 vs. 2021-2024

↑ (\$US) Disbursements



As donor priorities have shifted from policy reform (D) towards new territorial recognition (C1) and implementation of existing tenure rights (C2), organizational strengthening (B)

has remained the lowest-funded theme.^x This support for organizational strengthening has not remained stagnant, as funding more than doubled relative to the pre-2021 baseline. In the [2025 State of Funding](#) report, we found that funding through locally led channels has increased in absolute terms. However, a meaningful share of this growth comes from organizational strengthening components embedded as secondary objectives within larger projects, rather than purpose-built organizational strengthening initiatives.

Regional Trends

Regional funding patterns also show considerable variation in thematic emphasis, reflecting differences in the state of formal tenure recognition across the three regions. In both Africa and Asia, securing first-time formal tenure claims is the dominant thematic objective—particularly in Asia, where this funding accounted for approximately half of all regional disbursements since 2021.^{xi} This finding tracks closely with the scale of unrecognized customary land in both regions. Excluding China, Asia has the lowest proportion of community-owned land of any region, just 0.8 percent despite IPs and LCs holding customary tenure rights to over 37 percent of the region’s land area.^{xii} In Sub-Saharan Africa, only 9.6 percent of land was formally recognized as owned by Indigenous Peoples and local communities as of 2020, with gains heavily concentrated in Kenya and Liberia.^{xiii}

Figure 3: Average Annual Funding by Theme and Region, 2021-2024

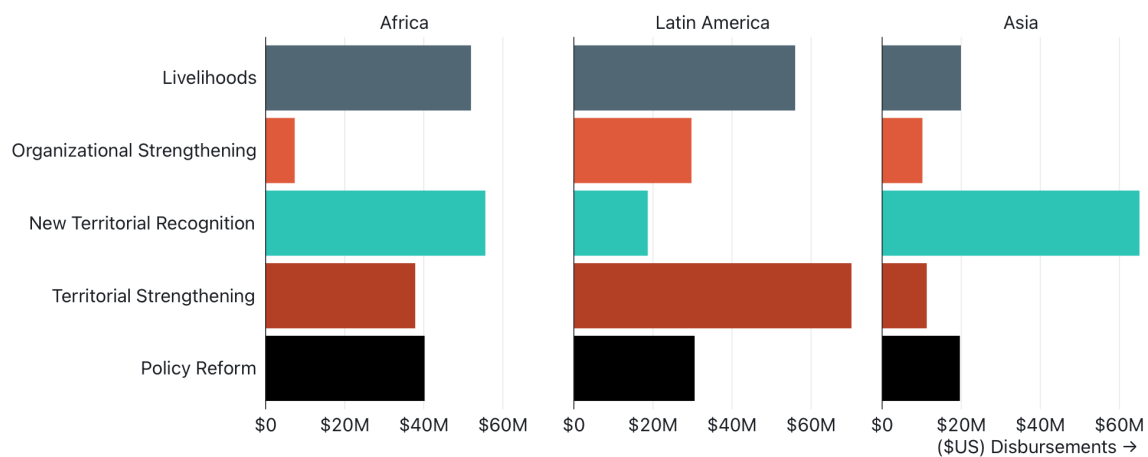


Figure 3 shows how regional funding trends vary across different contexts. Notable patterns include:

- Funding in Latin America has recently focused more on implementation than new recognition.** In Latin America, new territorial recognition (C1) received the least funding of any theme, while strengthened implementation of existing tenure rights (C2) was by far the dominant category (\$70 million per year), followed by livelihoods support. This finding reflects the comparatively advanced state of formal tenure recognition across much of Latin America (where frameworks such

as Mexico's ejido system and Brazil's demarcated Indigenous territories have been in place for decades).^{xiv}

- **Livelihoods support is growing and mostly concentrated in Latin America and Africa.** In both regions, annual livelihoods funding (A) now exceeds \$50 million and ranks as the second-largest thematic category. In Asia, funding for livelihoods has remained relatively stable in recent years at \$20 million per year during the 2021-2024 period—approximately the same volume as the funds assigned for policy reform (D) in the continent.
- **Organizational strengthening funding remains low in Africa and Asia.** The regional distribution of organizational strengthening (B) funding also shows a notable pattern. Funding is lowest as a share of regional disbursements in Asia and Africa, where organizational strengthening (B) makes up just 8 and 4 percent of the regional total, respectively. The higher share in Latin America (14 percent) may reflect a comparatively mature organizational ecosystem, including more established representative networks, donor relationships, and organizations positioned to receive this type of support.^{xv}

Funding Pathways

Funding for IP, LC, and ADP tenure rights reaches the ground through a diverse range of institutional arrangements. Disbursements for an activity may pass through several institutions before reaching a community-level implementation partner, or may flow directly from a bilateral donor to a national civil society organization. We define a funding “pathway” as the combination of three observable dimensions in the data—the donor originating the funding, the type of organization primarily responsible for implementation (as described in the donor-reported data), and the thematic category of the funded activity.

It should be noted that this represents a simplified view of how funding moves through the system, as publicly reported funding data often does not capture every layer of intermediation.^{xvi} The donor-implementer-theme combination, seen in **Figure 5**, represents the best available public picture of how funding flows and for what purpose.^{xvii}

Figure 4: Share of Funding by Theme and Donor Type, 2021-2024

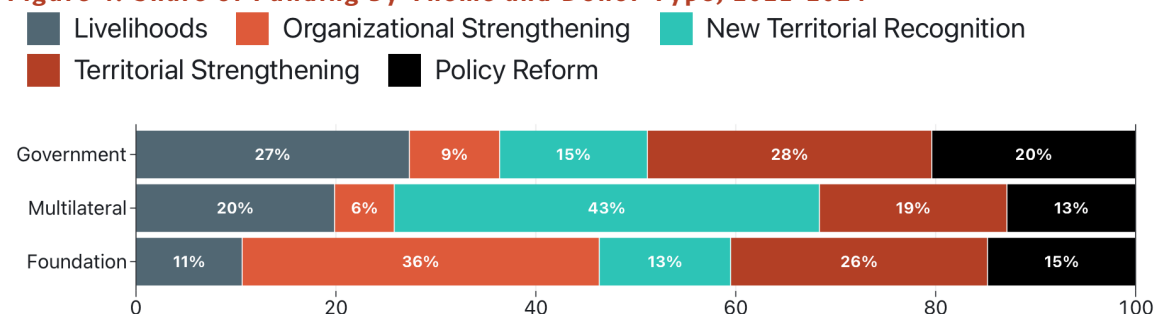
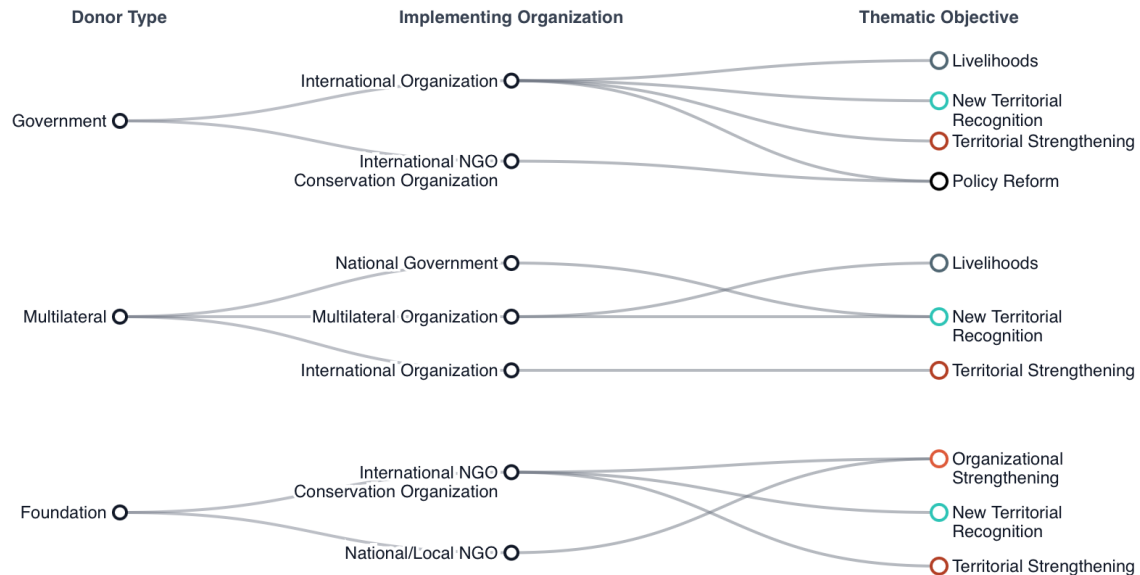


Figure 5: Top Funding Pathways for IP, LC, and ADP Tenure Rights

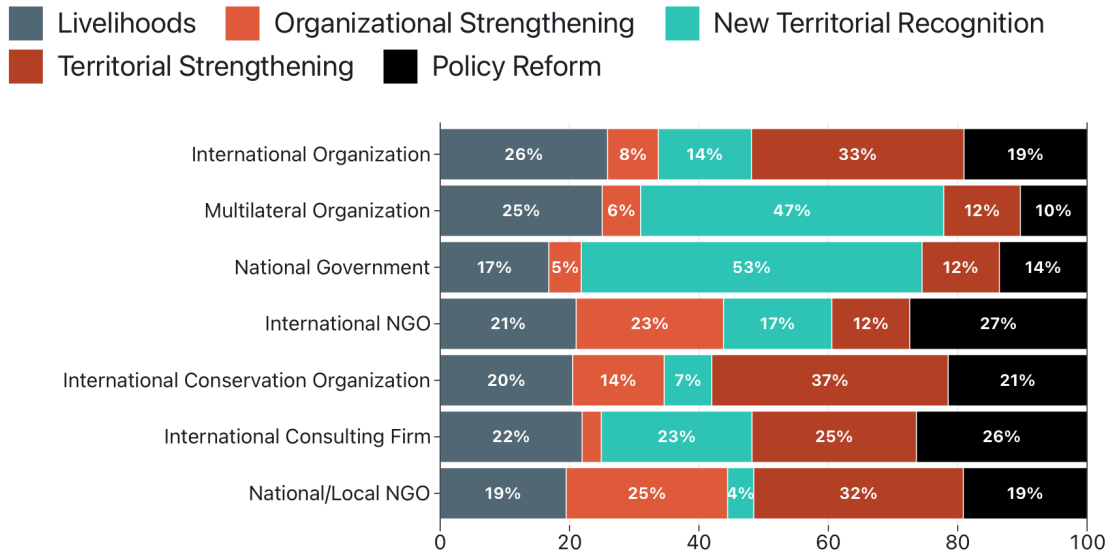


Note: The figure above presents indicative funding pathways, the vertical order of implementing organization type and theme is for illustration purposes only. The pathways above represent the top four pathways for each donor type, which collectively represent 62 percent of all reported disbursements.

Across donor types, funding patterns point to their distinct strategic orientations (**Figure 4**). Multilaterals placed the greatest emphasis on new territorial recognition (C1) from 2021 to 2024 (43 percent), nearly three times the foundation share. Foundations directed larger shares to territorial strengthening (C2, 26 percent) and organizational strengthening (B, 36 percent), with organizational strengthening funded at six times the multilateral share. Bilateral funding was more evenly distributed, with policy reform, livelihoods, and territorial strengthening each receiving roughly a quarter of disbursements. This reflects both strategic priorities and funding structures available to each donor type, with each playing complementary roles in the broader ecosystem.

Figure 6 shows the thematic distribution of disbursements across implementing organization types. The most distinctive pattern is among multilaterals and national governments, both of which direct the largest share of their disbursements to new territorial recognition (C1), 47 percent and 53 percent respectively, compared to shares of 4 to 23 percent for all other implementer types. National and local NGOs show the reverse pattern, as their C1 share is the lowest of any implementer at 4 percent, while organizational strengthening (B) accounts for 25 percent of their disbursements, the highest share for this theme across all implementer types.

Figure 6: Share of Funding by Theme and Implementing Organization Type, 2021-2024



Broadly, this analysis shows that thematic priorities are shaped by the delivery channels available to each actor. Several patterns stand out:

- The pathway distribution is concentrated.** Eight out of the 71 observed funding pathway combinations carry half of all funding for IP, LC, and ADP tenure rights.^{xviii} Across all themes, the highest-volume pathways are largely bilateral or multilateral donor channels, most often implemented by national governments, international organizations or international NGOs. National and local NGOs play a secondary role and are most relevant for organizational strengthening (B) and territorial strengthening (C2). Despite apparent diversity across donors, implementers, and themes, the funding ecosystem rests on a small number of dominant channels.
- New territorial recognition is overwhelmingly state-implemented.** Almost 70 percent of all funding for new territorial recognition (C1) flows through, or in partnership with, national or local governments, reflecting the institutional reality that first-time tenure recognition nearly always requires government action on titling, demarcation, and registration.
- New territorial recognition is facilitated through different channels across regions.** In Asia and Africa, where new recognition (C1) funding is largest, the majority flows through government and multilateral implementers (89 percent in Asia and 67 percent in Africa). In Latin America, where new territorial recognition is no longer at the same scale of state-led reform, funding is both smaller (\$19 million per year) and structured differently—only 15 percent is implemented by national and state government, with international organizations and NGOs playing the primary implementation role.

The distinction between pathways reflects the institutional profiles and capabilities of each donor type, where structural reforms are anchored at scale by multilaterals and bilaterals working through government-to-government channels, and the support to national and local organizations led by foundations. However, these patterns are not only the result of institutional constraints. They also reflect historical practices, risk assumptions, and biases around the absorptive capacity of local, national organizations, and rightsholder-led organizations. Donors should increasingly recognize the importance of funding and investing in IP, LC, and ADP-led territorial governance mechanisms, rightsholder-led organizations, and their funding mechanisms, so that these self-determined channels can play a more central role in establishing and sustaining IP, LC, and ADP tenure rights.

4. Conclusions

The first phase of the COP26 Forest Tenure Pledge succeeded in mobilizing greater funding across all thematic areas, with the largest increases towards supporting new territorial recognition, strengthening of existing territorial rights, and livelihoods. This is a positive development that should continue in the coming years. With shrinking aid budgets across most bilateral donors, this will require a sustained effort to maintain donor prioritization of IP, LC, and ADP tenure rights as part of addressing the climate and nature crises, and to make sure the available funding is spent in the best possible way to achieve outcomes across the spectrum of thematic objectives.

This thematic baseline offers three additional observations for the donor community as implementation of the COP30 Pledge and the ILTC continues:

1. Thematic priorities track the state of tenure recognition and should shift as it advances.

Regional patterns in this brief show that thematic emphasis differs with the maturity of formal tenure recognition. Funding in Asia and Africa concentrates on new territorial recognition, where unrecognized customary land remains extensive, while funding in Latin America concentrates on implementation and livelihoods support, where formal recognition is comparatively advanced.

As recognition advances in other regions, a similar shift toward implementation, institutional support, and livelihoods may be expected to follow. That trajectory, however, depends on the resilience of the funding architecture itself. Overreliance on a narrow set of donors or funding pathways creates fragility across the funding ecosystem, as illustrated by the closure of USAID and tightening of other bilateral aid budgets. As implementation of the COP30 Pledge, ILTC, and other commitments advances, strengthening the diversity, resilience, and complementarity of funding pathways may be as important as increasing overall funding levels.

2. Treat organizational strengthening as an investment in a broader set of outcomes.

Organizational capacity of rightsholder organizations is a foundational enabling condition for tenure recognition and defense, collective livelihoods, legislative engagement, and the mobilization of direct finance. This thematic analysis shows that dedicated, purpose-built investment in IP, LC, and ADP organizational capacity remains a small share of total funding.

As COP30 commitments move to implementation, community-based organizations and movements will need stronger organizational infrastructure to turn those resources into a broad set of durable outcomes. With increasing ambitions to fund communities directly, exemplified with the Tropical Forest Forever Facility's (TFFF) 20 percent minimum allocation to IPs, LCs, and ADPs, this is the moment to invest in the governance systems, financial management capacity, and institutional resilience that will enable resources to reach communities effectively.^{xix} This should be done by strengthening and resourcing rightsholder-led structures (including territorial funds and IP, LC, and ADP-led mechanisms) through which communities can access and control resources on their own terms, not by imposing external organizational models. Scaling direct finance without investing in local capacity to effectively absorb, manage, and deploy those resources could create new bottlenecks rather than solve old ones.

3. The sector needs shared ways to track funding impacts.

As commitments advance, progress should be measured not only by disbursement volume, but by thematic distribution, funding pathways, impact, and whether resources are reaching the actors and enabling conditions needed to translate rights recognition into rights realization. The thematic objective and funding pathways analysis presented in this brief provides a new tool for assessing whether funding is addressing critical gaps and identifying bottlenecks to enable better results across the spectrum of themes needed to advance tenure rights.

Reporting should clearly distinguish committed from disbursed funds and provide project-level progress updates, so rightsholder communities and their allies can monitor progress against actual resources rather than headline figures. More broadly, future monitoring should track the share reaching local organizations and communities, both directly and indirectly, and investments across the full rights realization ecosystem, not just aggregate totals.

Annex 1: Thematic Typology

This typology was applied to existing grants within the Path to Scale Dashboard dataset and did not result in expansion of existing data.

Category	Description	Example project types
Theme A: Supporting livelihoods and local economies	Activities whose primary stated objective is to enable IP, LC, and ADP communities and their members to benefit economically from their lands and resources.	Community forestry enterprises and NTFP value chains; agroforestry and sustainable agriculture projects; community-based ecotourism; PES or carbon-credit schemes where payments flow to communities; livelihood diversification and food security programs linked to forest or land management. Activity Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DE-1-202101129-6272 • XI-BRIDGE-6385676864-10241 • 44000-P164661 • GB-GOV-13-ICF-0018-P4F • NL-KVK-41210820-FGG3
Theme B: Strengthening IP, LC, and ADP organizations and movements	Activities whose primary objective is to build the institutional, governance, or operational capacity of IP, LC, and ADP organizations, or to support coalition-building and network formation among these groups.	Organizational governance and strategic planning support; financial management and reporting training for IPOs; leadership academies and exchange programs; network coordination and coalition-building convenings; communications and fundraising capacity support; grants to IP, LC, and ADP women's funds for institutional development. Activity Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ford_141861 • ford_116058 • XM-DAC-41108-1100001597 • US-GOV-1-AID-514-A-11-00004
Theme C: Implementing rights, tenure, and legal recognition	Activities whose primary objective is to secure, implement, or strengthen legal recognition of IP, LC, and ADP land and resource rights within existing legal frameworks. Carries a sub-split:	(See C1 and C2 below)

<p>— C1: New territorial recognition</p>	<p>Establishing first-time formal recognition of IP, LC, and ADP tenure claims.</p>	<p>Participatory mapping and boundary demarcation; land titling and registration of community territories; documentation of customary claims for submission to government agencies; territorial baseline studies.</p> <p>Activity Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DE-1-201332782 • 44000-P160661 • DE-1-201332782
<p>— C2: Strengthened implementation of existing rights</p>	<p>Operationalizing, defending, or extending recognition that is already legally in place.</p>	<p>Land administration and cadaster systems; enforcement of existing tenure protections; conflict resolution and mediation over recognized lands; joint management of protected areas overlapping community territories; landscape-level conservation implementation; connecting IP, LC, and ADP producers to markets within recognized territories.</p> <p>Activity Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DE-1-202136919 • NO-BRC-971277882-KLD-NICFI-47 • gef_sgp_19727
<p>Theme D: Reforming policies and institutions</p>	<p>Activities whose primary objective is to change laws, policies, or institutional arrangements to create a more enabling environment for IP, LC, and ADP tenure and forest guardianship.</p>	<p>Legislative and regulatory reform campaigns; strategic litigation and legal challenges; IP, LC, and ADP participation in national and international policy fora (e.g., UNFCCC, CBD); research and policy briefs targeting decision-makers; awareness campaigns and strategic communications aimed at institutional change; support for IP/LC representation within governance bodies of major donor-funded programs.</p> <p>Activity Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XM-DAC-41108-2000000850 • ford_121346 • ford_130782 • ford_130782 • 44000-P147984 • 44000-P146981

Annex 2: Sensitivity Analysis and Methodological Notes

This analysis aims to classify a diverse set of funding activities across five themes. Activity data, including titles, descriptions, geographies, participating organizations, and budget documentation varies in quality and specificity. We have observed a general improvement in reporting quality in more recent years, but the underlying data still has clear limitations, especially for older and more complex activities.

Given these limitations, we have taken several steps to ensure that reported findings are supported by multiple sources of evidence. Where we report disaggregated results, we focus on segments of the data with a sufficient number of observations to support our interpretation.

Sensitivity Tests

Thematic classification was performed through a multi-stage process beginning with an automated review of available activity information. Activity metadata and supporting documents were passed through a structured classification prompt, which mapped each activity to the five themes on a percentage basis and returned supporting reasoning and confidence-related attributes. These outputs were then reviewed and adjusted through the processes described below.

Our dataset includes three review tiers:

- **Activity Manual review:** For the largest activities accounting for 50 percent of total disbursements, we manually adjusted classifications based on supporting evidence (project appraisal documents, completion reports, evaluations, etc.). Activities in this set were also the most likely to have reliable budget detail, such as component or workstream budgets. Manual review was conducted using an internal tool that allowed the research team to cross-check model outputs, annotate budget documentation, and adjust proportional allocations. This review primarily covered large multilateral projects, including World Bank and Green Climate Fund activities, as well as large bilateral and philanthropic grants.
- **Component Manual Review (GEF):** For all Global Environment Facility activities, including those outside the largest activities accounting for 50 percent of disbursements, we extracted GEF component budget tables into a standardized data structure and analyzed them alongside other project metadata. Because component-level budget information was systematically available for GEF projects, we were able to apply a more disaggregated review approach than was possible for many other activities.
- **Automated review:** For all remaining activities, representing less than 50 percent of total flows (approximately 49 percent of 2021-2024 flows), we used the same

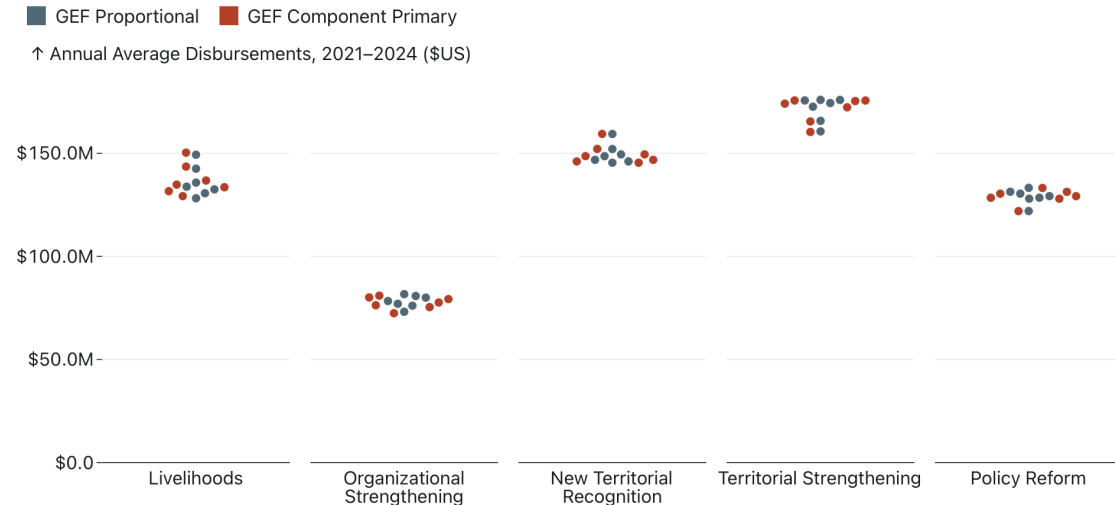
model process to estimate percentage allocations across the five categories. For many of these activities, descriptions and metadata are limited, meaning that manual review would not necessarily introduce substantially more evidence than was already available to the model.

Given the differing confidence levels across review tiers, we tested the sensitivity of our findings to allocation methodology. Manual review allocations are held constant across all scenarios because they represent our highest-confidence estimates. We varied the treatment of GEF component allocations and automated-review allocations.

For GEF activities, we tested both full component-level proportional allocation and a component-level primary thematic objective adjustment. For automated-review activities, we tested the three approaches below. We also tested these adjustment methods using activity disbursement thresholds, applying them only to activities below selected total funding cutoffs, such as \$5 million and \$10 million.

Scenario	Adjustment Method	Purpose
Full Proportional Adjustment	No adjustment, uses the percentage allocation returned by the model	Baseline
Automated Primary Thematic Objective	Assigns each activity to its primary thematic objective only; where there is an even split between multiple thematic objectives the activity is allocated evenly between those objectives	Tests whether results depend on proportional model estimates
Threshold Marginal Automated Allocations	Removes automated thematic objective shares below 20 percent and re-normalizes the remaining share	Test whether findings are driven by low-confidence category assignments

S1: Annual Average by Theme Across Allocation Strategies (2021–2024)



Note: Each dot corresponds to the total for a given thematic objective based on a scenario run, with fourteen permutations in total.

Scenario sensitivity is modest across themes, with total ranges from \$9.2 to \$22.1 million per theme per year. The widest band is for Livelihoods, which increases by up to \$22.1 million under the maximum scenario, while the largest downward adjustment is for territorial strengthening (C2, \$15.5 million).

Non-grant instruments

Although only a portion of activities include explicit metadata on the type of finance deployed, we are able to combine available IATI finance metadata with contextual information on the source and structure of activities to classify 63 percent of activities as grant or non-grant finance.^{xx} This includes activities with reported finance type codes, as well as activities from sources that are known to primarily or exclusively deploy grant instruments, including philanthropic donors and grant-based multilateral mechanisms.

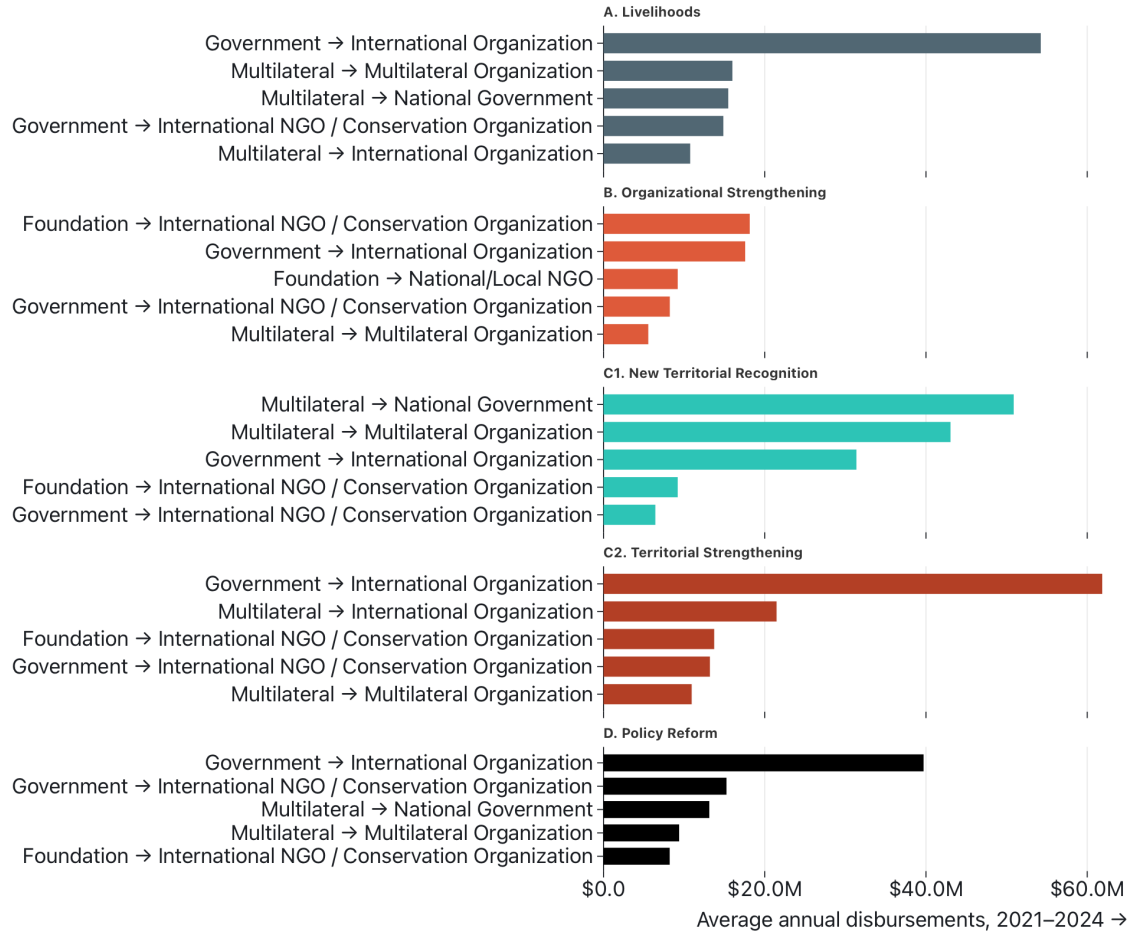
Explicit non-grant instruments were identified using IATI finance type codes and supporting documentation. Activities coded as 410 or 421 were treated as loans and excluded from core grant estimates, while 110 was treated as a standard grant. Ambiguous activities were retained unless documentation clearly indicated a loan, guarantee, equity investment, or other non-grant instrument.

Donor reporting quality on finance type is uneven. Overall, 15.9 percent of activities included explicit finance-type metadata. Among activities with this metadata, 91.4 percent were reported as standard grants, 2.2 percent were explicit loans, and 6.4 percent were ambiguous or “other.” Across the full dataset, this means 0.3 percent of activities were explicit loans and 1.0 percent were ambiguous or “other.” We can derive that a

further 46.9 percent of activities are grants or grant-like instruments based on the reporting organization (e.g., organizations that only provide grant funding). After review, we estimate that 1.6 to 3.0 percent of total funding was delivered through confirmed non-grant instruments. Non-grant finance remained limited across all themes, accounting for less than 2 percent of funding in each category. It was more concentrated by donor than by theme, with 66.8 percent of confirmed non-grant funding associated with World Bank activities.

Annex 3: Supplemental Figures

S2: Average Annual Funding for the Top Funding Pathways of each Theme, 2021-2024



Endnotes

ⁱ Larson, A. M., & Springer, J. (2016). *Recognition and respect for tenure rights*. IUCN, CEESP, and CIFOR. https://www.cifor-icraf.org/publications/pdf_files/Papers/PLarson1601.pdf

ⁱⁱ Indufor North America. (2023). Forging resilient pathways: Scaling up funding in support of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' tenure and forest guardianship in the Global South. Prepared for the Ford Foundation on behalf of the Forest Tenure Funders Group. <https://www.synchronicityearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Indufor-Report-Forging-Resilient-Pathways.pdf>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Rights and Resources Initiative & Rainforest Foundation Norway. State of Funding for Tenure Rights: Donor Funding for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-Descendant Peoples (2011–2024). https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-State-of-Funding_v5.pdf

^{iv} Indufor North America. (2023). Forging resilient pathways: Scaling up funding in support of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' tenure and forest guardianship in the Global South. Prepared for the Ford Foundation on behalf of the Forest Tenure Funders Group. <https://landportal.org/library/resources/forging-resilient-pathways>

Larson, A. M., & Springer, J. (2016). *Recognition and respect for tenure rights*. IUCN, CEESP, and CIFOR. https://www.cifor-icraf.org/publications/pdf_files/Papers/PLarson1601.pdf

^v The unit of analysis is an "activity," as defined by the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). Reporting organizations self-define these activities, which can range from multiple projects or work streams grouped under a single activity to single one-time grants. For more details see our broader methodology: <https://dashboard.pathtoscale.org/methodology>.

^{vi} The source data reflected in the Path to Scale Funding Dashboard, specifically focuses on international donor funding for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples concerning tenure, rights, conservation, climate, and development in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. While our research primarily targets tropical forest areas, the dataset also includes activities outside these regions, such as institutional strengthening of Indigenous Peoples Organizations and land rights mapping.

^{vii} Activities reported by the Global Environment Facility have readily accessible component-level budgets with clear descriptions, outputs, and outcomes. In the future we hope to expand this disaggregated analysis as donor transparency increases.

^{viii} Together these World Bank projects far exceed our estimates for annual funding on new territorial recognition, as only the relevant budget components are included in our estimate of disbursements for IP, LC, and ADP tenure rights. A notable example is Mozambique's MozLand/Terra Segura (P164551), which targets the delimitation of 764 local communities alongside the issuance of nearly 500,000 individual land-use titles; estimates of the community delimitation component imply several million hectares of collectively recognized land.

^{ix} Rights and Resources Initiative & Rainforest Foundation Norway. State of Funding for Tenure Rights: Donor Funding for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-Descendant Peoples (2011–2024). https://rightsandresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-State-of-Funding_v5.pdf

^x Organizational strengthening may also have a different cost profile than other objectives. Without precise estimates of need the relative positioning of each theme does not imply underfunding by donors.

^{xi} Much of this trend is driven by two major World Bank land administration and titling in Indonesia and the Philippines.

^{xii} This underscores the importance of Indonesia's pledge to recognize 1.4 million hectares of customary forests by 2029 under the ILTC process. Ensuring that these pathways are trusted by donors, will help enable disbursements to achieve this goal.

Rights and Resources Initiative. (2023). Who owns the world's land? The second edition.

<https://rightsandresources.org/publication/who-owns-the-worlds-land-2nd-ed/>

^{xiii} Ibid.

^{xiv} There is still important work underway in Latin America to secure and title unrecognized land tenure; however, the large, World Bank-style projects are less common as the remaining opportunities are more incremental in nature.

^{xv} However, because project descriptions provide limited detail, we cannot determine whether this reflects greater organizational strength, stronger donor relationships, or simply more visible channels for funding.

^{xvi} For more detailed findings on donor specialization and examples of funding pathways, see Forging Resilient Pathways (2023).

^{xvii} Donor-reported implementing organizations do not always capture why a specific organization was selected or reported. In some cases, organizations or movements may choose to work through fiscal sponsors, or may not want to formalize as an NGO in order to receive support.

^{xviii} Funding is highly concentrated in a small number of pathways, with the top eight accounting for roughly half of reported disbursements. The distribution then tapers quickly, the next four pathways bring the total to 62 percent, after which funding is spread across a long tail of less common pathways.

^{xix} Tropical Forest Forever Facility. (2026). About TFFF. <https://tfff.earth/about-tfff/>

^{xx} The remaining gap is primarily bilateral donors that are likely deploying grants in this dataset. These same bilateral donors also deploy loans, guarantees, or blended finance, so without activity-level evidence, we leave them unclassified.



*Coordinated by the
Rights and Resources Group*



The Path to Scale (P2S) is an informal initiative that aims to scale-up global ambition to legally recognize the land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendant Peoples — particularly women — at least to a level necessary to achieve the 2030 global climate and biodiversity targets.