

## + A Global Challenge, a Global Opportunity

Forests cover close to 30 percent of the world's land area, and more than a billion people rely on forests to a significant extent for their food, fuel and income.

An estimated 350 million indigenous and tribal peoples are at least partly dependent on forests, including some 60 million who are substantially dependent on forests for their subsistence and livelihoods.

Forests are also particularly important to poor women, who shoulder much of the burden for hauling wood and collecting and marketing forest products.

Predominant models of forest industry and conservation have often exacerbated poverty and social conflicts and precluded pro-poor economic growth. The lack of clear rights to own and use forest land, develop enterprises, and trade in forest products has driven millions of forest dwellers to poverty and encouraged widespread illegal logging and forest loss.

The world will not meet national and global goals to reduce poverty and protect the environment unless poor peoples' rights to land and resources are strengthened. Neither will the world effectively mitigate nor adapt to climate change without clarifying local tenure and governance. The next two decades are critical—both for the poor and for the forests.

There are reasons for optimism. Indigenous and community organizations are gaining voice and opportunity, and after decades of limited action, many countries are beginning to consider far-reaching legal and policy reforms.

There is a major global opportunity to advance the rights and livelihoods of forest peoples by establishing the institutional foundations for sustained conservation and forest-based economic development.

### Partners:



### Supporters:



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The Rights and Resources Initiative is coordinated by the Rights and Resources Group, a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC.

# Rights and Resources Initiative

A global coalition to advance forest tenure, policy and market reforms

RIGHTS + RESOURCES  
 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



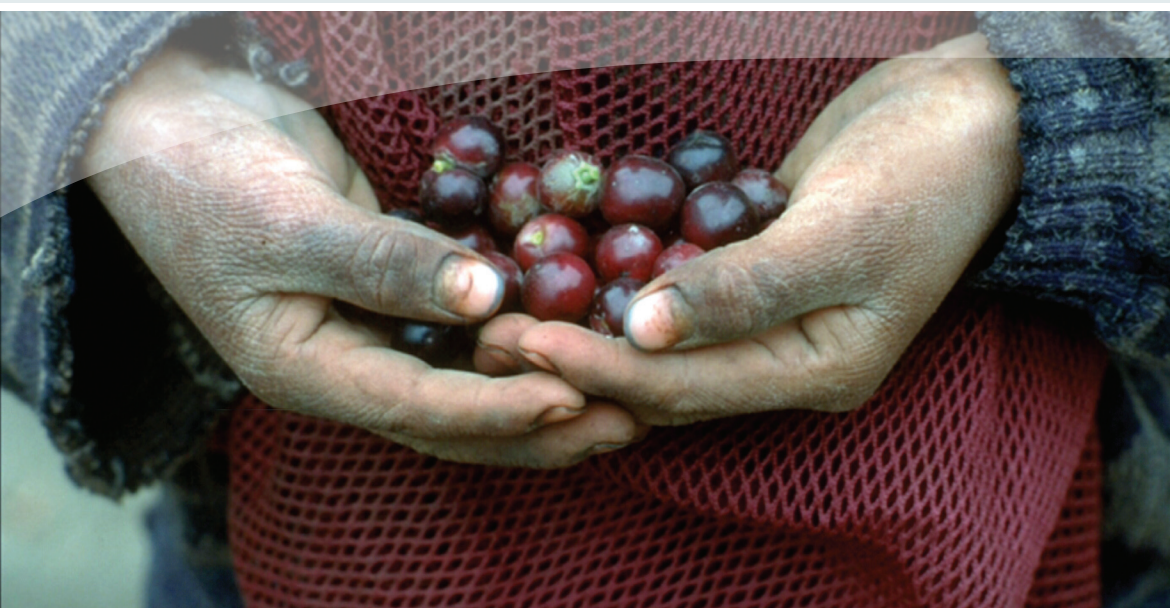
## + Mission

To support local communities' and Indigenous Peoples' struggles against poverty and marginalization by promoting greater global commitment and action towards policy, market and legal reforms that secure their rights to own, control and benefit from natural resources, especially land and forests.

## + Goals

The Rights and Resources Initiative encourages communities, governments, donors and international institutions to combine efforts to advance two global goals:

1. Dramatically reduce the number of people living in poverty in forested areas of the world.
2. Substantially increase the forest areas that are locally owned and administered, including secure rights for use and trade of forest products and services.



## + An Innovative Approach for Change

The Rights and Resources Initiative is a coalition of international, regional and community organizations engaged in development, research and conservation. Together we encourage greater global commitment and action on pro-poor tenure, policy and market reforms through four key activities:

- Engaging in country-level analysis and action to strengthen support for tenure and regulatory reforms in priority countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.
- Generating new, global-level strategic analysis to inspire and support tenure, policy and market reforms and options to achieve them.
- Catalyzing networks of strategic actors and strengthening key constituencies to accelerate cross-learning and action at multiple levels.
- Communicating and mobilizing global awareness and action, making knowledge on forest tenure and policy reform accessible and visible.

## + Examples of current and ongoing activities



- In **China, Nepal, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines** the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), FPP, ICRAF, FPCD, Forest Trends, FECOFUN, Samdhana Institute, and Tebtebba are conducting research and policy dialogues on tenure and market reforms.
- In **Central and West Africa**, ICRAF, Civic Response, FPP, Intercooperation, CED and Forest Trends are collaborating to identify alternative tenure and business models to advance rights and governance.
- In **Mesoamerica and the Amazon Basin**, ACICAFOC, Intercooperation, FPP, Forest Trends, and PRISMA are working to support local and indigenous peoples' territorial rights and advancing community forest management and enterprises.