



September 2024

FSC INDIGENOUS FOUNDATION DELIVERING IMPACT



Our numbers

Indigenous governance strengthening



243 women **332** men **> 575** total

Governance is one of the main challenges Indigenous communities face. FSC-IF's IPARD Program strengthened Indigenous governance in Panama and Guatemala through supporting traditional congresses and community representatives to co-create internal by-laws or organic charters in 4 Indigenous territories in Panama and 1 Indigenous municipality in Guatemala using a rights-based approach. More than 500 Indigenous Peoples participated of a series of workshops to validate the by-laws. As a result, 3 women's congresses and 1 youth congress were established. In addition, 4 policies were promoted in benefit of Indigenous Peoples including FPIC promotion, and measures to promote the Indigenous Peoples' development.

Indigenous leaders at global forums



> 35 total

FSC-IF recognizes the importance of addressing climate change issues related to Indigenous communities and promote Indigenous Peoples' active participation on international forums, climate weeks and COPs. FSC-IF has supported the participation of more than 35 Indigenous leaders from different organizations to participate in these global forums.

Indigenous economic capacity enhancement

412 women **561** men **> 973** total

FSC-IF has identified the need to provide training for Indigenous Peoples merging ancestral knowledge with economic tools and mechanisms related to forest management. More than 900 Indigenous Peoples have received training on value chains, sales, business, improvements in crop production and fertilization techniques for basic grains, coffee, and plantains.

Ogiek women's economic empowerment in Kenya



> 973 women

In Kenya, Indigenous women from the Ogiek community will receive small grants and training on business management in a train-the-trainers program.

Indigenous entrepreneur capacity enhancement



16 women **7** men **> 23** total

The FSC-IF is working with Indigenous entrepreneurs. We have provided tailored mentoring to 23 Indigenous businesses in Panama with the support of Venture 2 Impact, who facilitated an intensive training program offered by professional volunteers from Google, Netflix, Apple, and Salesforce for a two-way learning process. Volunteers exchanged knowledge with Indigenous business and supported Indigenous business to be fully incorporated into economic niches.

Indigenous agro and sustainable forest management training

276 women **562** men **> 834** total

About 800 Indigenous Peoples have benefited from FSC-IF training programs on topics related to agriculture and sustainable forest management, in particular: 1) Selection of land for agroforestry systems; 2) Land preparation and layout for agroforestry systems; 3) Alternatives for fertilization; 6) Weed management; 4) Agronomic management; and 5) Harvest management.

Co-creation and project approval with Indigenous women

> 355 women

The Process of Dialogue and Project Approval is a key component of our work with Indigenous women, as this process ensures they design and lead projects to benefit them and their communities. About 355 Indigenous women leaders have participated in these processes in Guatemala and Honduras.

More than numbers: stories to tell

Strengthening Indigenous business and private sector partnerships in Panama

In the Gunayala Indigenous territory of Panama, low coconut prices offered by Colombian boats threatened the community's livelihood. With the leadership of Pablo Nieto, the community of Mamitupu established Guna Ogob, a coconut oil company, to increase income. However, the company struggled with growth due to issues like lack of registration and market access. After Gunayala traditional authorities approached the FSC Indigenous

Foundation, we collaborated to strengthen the company by co-developing a strategic plan, offering entrepreneurship training, and supporting strategic partnerships. FSC-IF facilitated a mentoring program with Sofitel Legend Casco Viejo Hotel, where Guna Ogob members connected with hotel professionals in a six-month business mentoring program in sales, marketing, accounting, and how to effectively support Indigenous communities.

This innovative shared-value partnership supported Guna Ogob to boost business skills and expand their market reach. Sofitel sees this project as a pilot to scale up and expand to other countries, supporting Indigenous businesses around the world with the FSC-IF.



Watch the video

"This is the first time I see another company that is working with us, and that's going to be part of the story that we always tell,"

said Guna Ogob Manager Gabriel Garrido.

Ogiek women building sustainable livelihoods in the Mau Forest of Kenya

The Ogiek People of the Mau Forest in Kenya, especially Ogiek women, face discrimination and marginalization due to historic evictions. Despite these challenges, Ogiek women have formed groups to engage in economic activities to overcome these hardships. With the Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP), we launched a project for Ogiek women's socioeconomic empowerment. The Gender Departments of both the national government and county government pledged support for the project, building impactful partnerships of trust. Sixteen women's including agroforestry, beekeeping, and tree planting to

help rehabilitate the Mau Forest. Additionally, 32 trainers are participating in a train-the-trainers program on business opportunities and management to maximize the impact of the grants, ultimately reaching 1,020 women. This initiative will boost economic independence, improve social and economic conditions, and support the Ogiek People in their vital role as forest stewards.

"When a woman is empowered, the whole community is empowered."

Ogiek woman project participant.



Watch the video

Pech communities driving sustainable forest management in Honduras

The Pech Indigenous Peoples of Honduras live in harmony with and protect the forest. The FSC-IF, with USAID, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and Docusign support, is promoting the economic development of four Pech communities. Using FSC's Economic Viability Tool, which helps communities evaluate the socioeconomic benefits of forest management alongside other local economic activities, these communities have conducted a participatory assessment and designed economic plans. Three plans will focus on sustainable forest management and one will support a rural bank. Through economic-driven projects, communities are leading toward self-reliance of their peoples and sustainable management of their forests.

"Knowledge remains in the communities. The people became empowered, the men and women leaders now speak with ownership about what they want, what they have, and how they see the future. Often development agencies arrive and they bring projects to the communities. In this case, with the FSC-IF and the FSC, it was the opposite. The communities created their projects, and the communities became empowered about what they have and about what they want to do."

*Dagoberto Lobo,
President of PETRIPH/CONPAH*



Watch the video

"It was a very important experience for me because as women, sometimes we do not have the ability to go to workshops and seminars, but in these three days I was able to learn a lot,"

*Isabel Hernández,
Vallecito community.*



Indigenous women's leadership, identity, and cosmovision in Guatemala

As part of our collaborative efforts with Indigenous women's organizations in Quetzaltenango and Totonicapán, Guatemala, we recognized a need to strengthen the leadership, identity, and empowerment of Indigenous women. In partnership with the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests' Leadership School, we are developing and implementing a holistic empowerment

model tailored to the worldview, values, and knowledge of these women. This model embraces an inclusive and transformative educational approach, designed to address the unique needs and perspectives of Indigenous communities while fostering healing and personal growth.

"I found the knowledge very good because it also helps us to be able to talk. Sometimes we are afraid, right? I liked the dynamics that took place today very much and we are going to multiply this knowledge, we are going to keep carrying out a healing process, with other people."

*Angélica López, ASIMAM,
San Miguel Siguila.*

