



# Annual Report

2022



# Annual Report 2022

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## Letter from the President

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Dear Friends,

I am delighted to share with you RRI's 2022 annual report—a brief snapshot of our achievements from this past year.

Globally, we saw significant developments in 2022, marked by a continued increase in recognition for the role played by Indigenous Peoples (IPs), local communities (LCs) and Afro-descendant Peoples (ADPs) in climate and conservation action. Donors and philanthropies formalized new funding commitments for these groups and proponents of voluntary carbon markets created “high integrity” frameworks to safeguard human rights.

However, the translation of these commitments into clearly defined actions remains an ongoing challenge. Despite growing calls for rural and forest communities' involvement in decisions that

affect them, their voices remain peripheral to these decisions' design and implementation. For example, market-based approaches to climate action are mired in unclear costs and benefits for communities or the environment. Few countries have adequate legal frameworks to support the recognition of communities' rights to carbon in their territories, and large multilateral initiatives have yet to meaningfully support their proposed solutions. In addition, most of climate funding committed for communities has yet to reach their initiatives. By the end of 2022, their projects had received just [7 percent](#) of the USD 1.7 billion pledged for IPs and LCs at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (CoP26). In fact, most of current climate and conservation finance fails to reach IPs and LCs—as found in our [Funding with Purpose](#) study published in 2022.

In parallel, the global food crisis fueled by climate shocks, the war in Ukraine, and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continued to put communities across the global South at risk of starvation and climate-induced droughts ravaging food systems in the Horn of Africa and other ecologically sensitive pockets. At CoP27, which focused on climate loss and damage, Indigenous and community delegates joined photo ops but were largely excluded from summit negotiations. Indigenous representatives were less than 1% of the 40,000 delegates in attendance. This exclusion from dialogues that remain dominated by the fossil fuel industry limited their impact in climate adaptation and mitigation planning.

Despite repeated public and private sector commitments to involve local peoples in protecting the world's remaining intact landscapes, fortress conservation continued to thrive. This was clearly illustrated in [a published declaration](#) by IPs and LCs at the Africa Protected Areas Congress in Kigali in July. At the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Montréal in December, IP and LC delegates called for the integration of their rights, knowledge, and financing to

achieve the global 30x30 target. But while the language around their rights in the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework text formalized at CoP15 mentioned community rights-based conservation, the exact role of these groups was contested.

Notwithstanding these roadblocks, RRI found much to celebrate in 2022. Within the vastly different cultural and political contexts in our coalition, we continued to find common ground in our struggles against land grabbing, dismantlement of environmental and human rights safeguards, shrinking democratic spaces, and women's underrepresentation. We found that our most powerful tools remain coordinated civil society action backed by legal and policy research cultivated by RRI over the years.

This report gives a snapshot of just some of our coalition's pivotal successes that give us hope and vigor, particularly as we embark upon our new [5-year Strategic Program](#). These achievements reinforce our promise to radically accelerate progress toward a more just, equitable, and sustainable future.

**I remain deeply grateful for your continued support and faith in our mission.**

## – In solidarity



**Dr. Solange Bandiaky-Badji**  
President, Rights and  
Resources Group



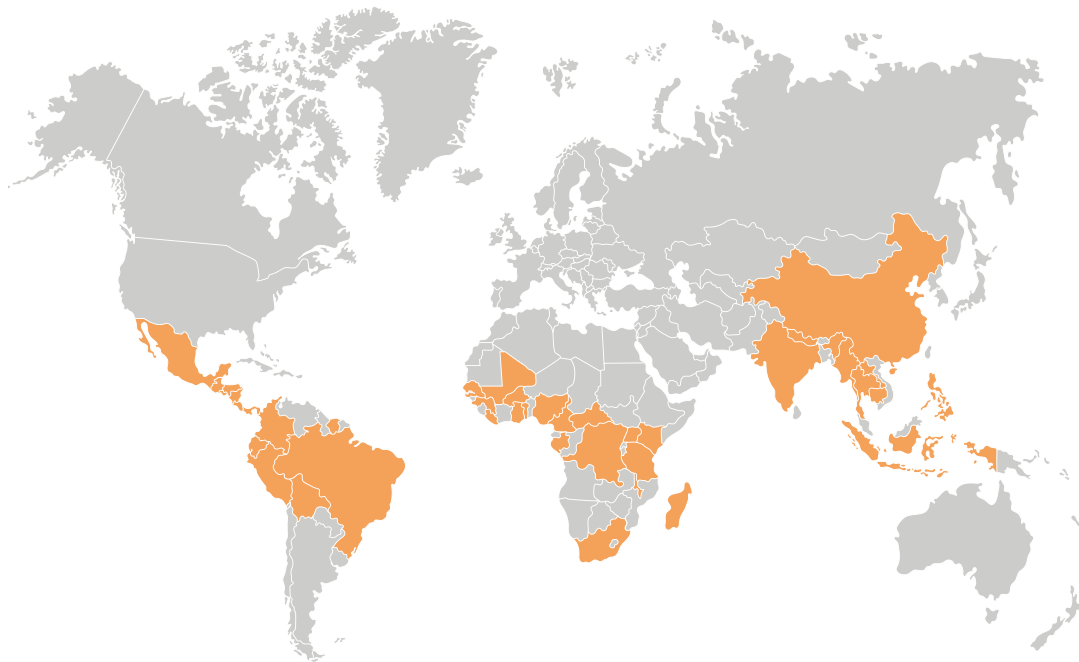


Ayu, an Indigenous Talang Mamak youth from Riau province in Sumatra, Indonesia. | Credit: Jacob Maentz



# How We Deliver

## Current & Past Project Locations



### Africa

Burkina Faso	Ghana	Nigeria
Cameroon	Guinea	Senegal
Central African Republic	Kenya	South Africa
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Liberia	Tanzania
Gabon	Madagascar	Togo
	Malawi	Uganda
	Mali	

### Asia

Cambodia	Myanmar
China	Nepal
India	Philippines
Indonesia	Thailand
Lao PDR	

### Latin America

Belize	Honduras
Bolivia	Mexico
Brazil	Nicaragua
Colombia	Panama
Costa Rica	Peru
Ecuador	Suriname
Guatemala	

### Partnerships

**40** countries\*

**21** partners

**150+** collaborators

**17** donors

### Rights and Resources Group (RRG) Staff

**38** total staff worldwide

**25** women

**13** men

**5** facilitators in developing countries

### Knowledge

**22** publications

**8** languages

**20.1k** downloads

**21** projects funded through the Strategic Response Mechanism, worth US \$971,959

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

# Our Programs



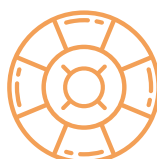
## Building the Evidence Base

RRI makes the case for rights recognition and provides a global baseline from which to measure and instigate progress.



## Innovation and Incubation

RRI creates institutions, initiatives, and tools that fill gaps in the ecosystem of existing efforts to recognize community land rights. These include: MegaFlorestais, The Interlaken Group, the Tenure Facility, Land Rights Now, and Landmark.



## Rapid Response Funding

RRI provides rapid response financial support for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities to engage with key stakeholders, push for key reforms, and/or pilot innovative ideas.



## Connecting and Convening Unlikely Allies

By creating spaces and opportunities for stakeholders to come together, RRI creates credible pathways for diverse constituents to agree on and implement sustainable development solutions that fully respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities.



## Country-level Engagement

RRI helps create an enabling environment for tenure reform by responding to priorities identified annually by Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendant Peoples, enhancing collaboration around crucial reform processes; providing the latest research in accessible formats for advocates; and linking local-level work to key national and international development and climate processes.





Liberia | Credit: Isabel Albee

BLUE SKIES



## From Darkness to Blue Skies: A Coalition Listening Exercise

Over the course of 2022, RRI commissioned in-depth interviews with one hundred leaders of grassroots networks in 22 countries—men, women, and youth among Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples—about their hopes, dreams, and fears for the future. The interviews used the “Blue Skies” thinking approach, which is a freeform space for brainstorming and new ideas. We encouraged participants to be open-minded and to think beyond day-to-day concerns. We sought clarity on what they want the world to be like in 2030 and beyond, how such a world could be brought into being, and their worries about their paths to get there. The leaders we interviewed

expressed diverse views but shared at least one universal vision. In a “blue skies” world, their communities would have secure rights to their communal lands, forests, and territories; including the rights to govern these areas and exercise control over who lives there and uses their resources. Four key themes emerged in these conversations:

- The need for a new generation of foundational leaders
- The freedom to live with dignity and rights
- Embracing technology to create new narratives
- The creation of a new Indigenous model of economy

**Read the full Blue Skies report and accompanying interviews on [our website](#).**



# Regional Achievements

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# Africa

*As the continent with the world's largest youth population, Africa stands as the principal destination for major land-based investments, but most Africans remain disenfranchised and afflicted by climate change, poverty, and aggressive government strategies to exploit natural resources for economic development. In 2022, we saw many African governments strategizing to deliver on their international climate and biodiversity commitments by continuing to limit communities' access to land and natural resources. But our coalition members also celebrated major breakthroughs.*


*The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) passed its first-ever law recognizing the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples following a decade-long movement. In Kenya, Indigenous Peoples won multiple landmark court rulings to protect their land rights and the RRI-supported network Community Land Action Now! (CLAN) helped communities register their customary lands and follow up on historical land injustice claims from the colonial era. We also supported the implementation of Togo's 2018 Land Law and Liberia's National Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan, a framework that aims to use the country's most important tree crops as a strategic engine for inclusive rural and national progress.*

In Togo, we trained 25 customary chiefs and community leaders, including women, on the provisions of the country's Land and Federal Property Code, which presents

a framework for government and the private sector to respect community land rights. The trainings helped customary chiefs, including in the Bato community, begin the delimitation, mapping, and registration of community lands. We also led the collection of data on community lands in 20 villages which is helping communities meet the legal requirements for securing their lands. A database on land use and related conflicts in the Game

Community meeting, Liberia | Credit: Isabel Albee





Canton, for example, documents the number of affected households and their existing traditional tenure governance systems, and will guide the community's local advocacy and land-use planning in the future.

■

In the DRC, our partner, Dynamic of the Groups of Indigenous Peoples (DGPA)'s efforts contributed to [the signing of a long-awaited law](#) on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples, the first law in the country to recognize and safeguard these rights. With the law's signing, our coalition members promptly launched an information sharing campaign to educate communities on using it to assert their rights. This included translating the law into Indigenous and local languages and adding community members as advisory experts to the Senate Commission tasked with ensuring implementation, to ensure that the senators fully understood the law's spirit. They also produced comics, illustrations, explainer videos, and posters to communicate what the law tangibly means for the communities.

■

**"The new law on the promotion and protection of the rights of the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples in the DRC is a victory that has just consecrated more than 10 years of struggle and advocacy by civil society organizations at the parliamentary level."**

”

*– Patrick Saidi Hemedi, Coordinator  
of the Dynamique des Groupes des  
Peuples Autochtones (DGPA).*

Also in the DRC, our long-time collaborator, the Coalition of Women Leaders for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CFLEDD), helped draft a provincial decree for women's land rights by the provincial parliament in North Kivu province. CFLEDD gathered data to assess women's access to land in the province, organized multi-stakeholder dialogues to share and discuss the data, and trained 10 women leaders on





Amboseli, Kenya | Credit: Anthony Ochieng Onyango, TonyWild


advocating for women's inclusion in forest governance. In a culture that tends to suppress women's voices, this project has provided women with tools to defend their rights before traditional chiefs and government authorities. At the end of the project, an Indigenous woman was appointed as Street Chief, and several customary chiefs recognized women's land rights within their communities. Once the provincial decree process concludes, the adopted decree is expected to be a game changer for securing women's access to their lands across the province.



In Kenya, our collaborator Chepkitale Indigenous People Development Project (CIPDP) organized an inter-community assembly in Chepkitale to collectively develop a community vision statement, which was presented at the IUCN's Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in Kigali, Rwanda in July. This assembly offered seven Indigenous groups across East Africa, the Ogiek, Maasai, Batwa, Aweer, Benet, Sengwer, and Yaaku, to share their knowledge and learn from each other's advocacy and conflict experiences. Their [Laboot Declaration](#) called upon conservation organizations and governments to redress and halt past and ongoing injustices in the pursuit of conservation goals. The IUCN welcomed the [recommendations](#) made in the Declaration, and the final APAC outcome document incorporated several of its key demands related to the promotion of rights, participation, traditional conservation knowledge and practices, capacity building, gender rights, and access to funding.



Across the DRC, RRI trained 390 community representatives, customary chiefs, and local authorities on community forestry concession laws, regulations, the role of key actors, and proper procedures to apply for and obtain a community forest concession. These trainings generated support



**“Communities should benefit, not suffer, from the richness of their lands. Land is everything for a community member in Liberia.”**

– Mina Beyan, leader of RRI collaborator SESDev

for local public officials and customary chiefs to support communities’ demands to secure their traditional lands and bolstered the relationship and collaboration between these officials and the communities they serve. These trainings included the Kingwaya village, where our support helped secure 1,753 hectares of the village community’s lands by strengthening its governance of the community forest concession. There, we helped local public administration officials, customary chiefs, and community members understand how to perform their respective roles in the community forestry process, which would ultimately help them secure legal recognition for their lands.

■

In Cross River State, Nigeria, our Strategic Response Mechanism (SRM) supported trainings for 625 local community members in the Ekuri village, educating them on their inalienable rights to challenge the local government on their land and forest rights abuses. They were trained on how to petition the government, carry out non-violent protests, and create online forums to document and protest deforestation and illegal logging by government officials. This project has helped the community fight discrimination and harassment from local authorities. It recently brought a lawsuit against the government on allowing a private company to log the community’s forest without its free, prior and informed consent.

■

In Kenya, our collaborators in the Ogiek community, particularly youth, created a development and marketing plan to take advantage of the region’s eco-tourism industry. The community also developed a conservation plan to guide eco-tourism activities in the Mau Forest. These plans promote the Ogiek culture and traditions in natural resources management using Indigenous knowledge. The community’s youth are also documenting and promoting the knowledge of land injustices against their people through social media campaigns and art.

■



Mina Beyan, Liberia | Credit: SESDev and RRI

In Liberia, our collaborator Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development (SESDev) supported the government's nationwide awareness-building campaign for the Ministry of Agriculture's new National Oil Palm Strategy and Action Plan, which helps smallholder farmers to get involved with oil palm farming and advocate for their land rights. The Plan also provides livelihood opportunities for smallholder oil palm farmers. This project shared communications about the Plan through radio segments, theater skits, and speeches broadcast in nine counties that are at the center of oil palm development.







# Asia

*Vibrant social movements have been the primary drivers of collective tenure reforms in democracies across Asia. These movements have brought increasing attention to Indigenous and local community rights as a development, climate, and conservation priority. But despite positive developments, the region's governments continue to promote land-intensive, extractive investment by the private sector. In 2022, we saw environmental safeguards and human rights protections circumvented at the cost of community well-being across all of Asia, coupled with rising authoritarianism in democracies such as Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand. But despite these challenges, our coalition members achieved significant breakthroughs by gathering and promoting scientific evidence, generating political will for reforms, monitoring conflicts, preventing criminalization of local peoples, and creating new spaces for advocacy.*

***Here are some of their achievements.***

RRI brought together Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP), CIPRED (Nepal), and 18 other rightsholder organizations throughout Asia to produce our first-ever [regional analysis](#) of rights-based approaches to conservation in Asia in the context of the global 30x30 target. Available in English, Nepali,

and Bahasa Indonesia, the report benefitted from a collaborative approach that prioritized co-ownership of its data and analysis. Its data continue to be used by coalition members in regional, national, and global advocacy for community land rights in protected areas as well as at various international conferences, including the UN's Biodiversity CoP15.

Our longstanding investments in evidence-based advocacy on the implementation of the Forest Rights Act in India saw some major wins this

A view of the Tsum Nubri community land in Gorkha district, Nepal | Credit: CIPRED





year. Since 2015, RRI has supported extensive spatial analysis of the 2006 law's unrealized potential and implementation. The state of Odisha has allocated INR 34 crore (about USD 4.5 million) for the Act's implementation in 34,000 villages, a first in India for state-level allocation of resources for the law. In Gujarat, new applications of the Act for pastoralist grazing lands expanded the law's ambit. Data from collaborative analyses of the law continue to open national dialogue on the Act and sets the stage for its further exploration through the lenses of gender, climate, and conservation.



**"No forests, no life. When the forests are destroyed, it's the end of everything."**

”

– Gam Shimray, Secretary-General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)

Our partner in Nepal, the Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN), secured the national government's commitment to halt the expansion of national parks in line with the 30x30 target, and to review and amend the National Park Act. FECOFUN further worked to empower communities affected by the expansion of protected areas to exercise their collective agency. Until the government convenes the review of the Act, it is continuing to actively monitor and respond to local-level conflicts while leveraging political opportunities to promote rights-based conservation. For example, when an Indigenous woman from Bardiya National Park was killed in a tiger attack last year, FECOFUN's local response cells helped affected communities to raise the issue before federal legislative bodies, resulting in a state commitment for installing protective fencing for inhabited areas.



In Indonesia, RRI collaborators carried out emergency responses to the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples and local communities arising from the growing number of land

conflicts in the country. Their timely advocacy and monitoring led to legal recourse for farmers and fishers from Indigenous and local communities who have been harassed or arrested in conflicts related to palm oil plantations, mining, and defense projects. Over the past few years, RRI has accompanied a highly effective emergency response system by our collaborator, the National Consortium on Agrarian Reform, to prevent, monitor, and address agrarian conflicts.

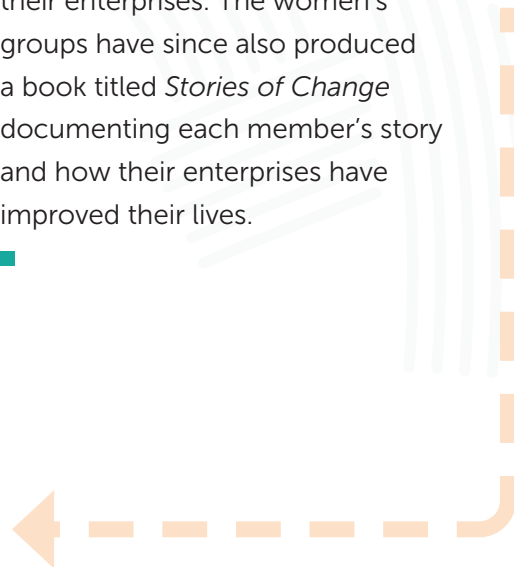


Throughout 2022, we supported livelihood initiatives for Indigenous women in India and Indonesia. In Indonesia, we supported local women to launch non-timber forest product enterprises in a protected area and organize cooperatives to collectively access livelihood trainings and marketing support from local organizations. Our collaborators Walestra and LiVE helped four women's groups organize into a cooperative in the Kerinci Seblat National Park. A first in Indonesia, the cooperative secured a permit from the park authorities to pursue a range of forest-based enterprises. They then successfully obtained technical and marketing support from

Members of Indonesia's Talang Mamak community in Riau province collect forest produce. | Credit: Jacob Maentz



the local university to launch their enterprises. The women's groups have since also produced a book titled *Stories of Change* documenting each member's story and how their enterprises have improved their lives.







# Latin America

*As a region, Latin America boasts the highest level of progress on legal frameworks recognizing collective tenure rights. But despite crucial advances, we continued to see persistent challenges in consolidating communities' collective land titles and protecting their lands from increasing pressure by extractive, agribusiness, and development projects. 2022 was a pivotal year for Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women's movements across Latin America. RRI's member organizations increased women's representation and participation in national and regional organizations and discourses on rights and reforms, and women led robust grassroots efforts to drive implementation of existing legal frameworks.*

*Our coalition members also used strategic litigation in both national and international courts to force government compliance with constitutional and legal rights of IPs, LCs, and ADPs. The year saw major momentum for major regional alliances in our coalition, such as AMPB, COICA, and the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, who strengthened their capacity to influence national, regional, and international policy makers, the private sector, and donors.*

***Here are a few highlights of our achievements in Latin America.***

Colombia | Credit: William Martinez



RRI supported the creation of a unique regional plan by the Coordinator of Territorial Women Leaders of Mesoamerica (CMLTM), a semiautonomous wing of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests, to help Indigenous and local women gain access to international spaces on climate, particularly at the United Nations, with clear advocacy messages and agendas. This project also strengthened the organization's presence in Mesoamerica, increasing its connection with regional and national authorities and giving its members a seat at the

**“We must move beyond lip service around gender equity to ensure that gender justice and women’s collective land and water tenure rights are a key part of the climate finance ecosystem.”**

– Solange Bandiaky-Badji,  
RRI Coordinator

table in climate discussions, particularly those on women’s role in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In Latin America, RRI worked with CMLTM to channel direct funding for Indigenous and local community women from the Fund for the Development of Political and Entrepreneurial Capacities for Indigenous Women and Local Communities (FOMUJER). The Fund sponsored five projects in Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico to jump-start women-led economies, including through the production of artisanal goods and institutional strengthening of local women’s organizations. We also helped publish a Book of Mesoamerican Recipes in Spanish that documents, for the first time, women’s use of traditional medicinal knowledge and recipes as a strategy for treating illness and pandemics.

In Colombia, the Afro-descendant Women’s Association of Northern Cauca (ASOM) and the Process of Black Communities (PCN) helped establish 15 community-defined protected areas in eight community councils, totaling over 10,000 hectares. These protected areas contribute to local, national, and international goals related to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation while improving the overall quality of life of the communities, their livelihoods, and food security. RRI supported training for over 150 women, men, and youth in Colombia, teaching them how community councils work and how to advocate for rights-based environmental management strategies.

RRI published a report on September 29 identifying the status and future of rights-based conservation in the Amazon of Colombia and Peru. The launch of the study in Bogotá was strategically chosen to influence Colombia President Gustavo Petro’s administration in the new government’s National Development Plan and to advocate for rights-based approaches to conservation in the country. The report was covered by 19 regional and international news outlets and its findings have since become a key resource for actors involved in the consultation process of the Plan, which is set to be finalized this year.



Credit: Rafael Martins



Our region-wide initiative to assess and secure the collective tenure rights of Afro-descendant Peoples led to the launch of the first-ever cartographic mapping tool that shows Afro-descendant Peoples' territorial presence in 16 countries. This is an ongoing collective effort between 20 Afro-descendant grassroots organizations, led by PCN and the National Coordinator of Quilombola communities, with technical GIS support from the Pontifical Universidad Javeriana's Observatory of Ethnic and Campesino Territories. The cartographic tool is a breakthrough for the Afro-descendant movement's national and global advocacy, with data showing significant overlap of their inhabited lands and territories with areas of ecological importance for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The tool has also helped identify at least 1,271 protected areas in the region that overlap with Afro-descendant Peoples' territories and shows that they have legal rights to only 5 percent of their 205 million hectares of land.

RRI also helped strengthen the Afro-descendant movement by supporting a coalition of 19 organizations with a common agenda to promote the recognition and protection of ADP rights and self-determined development. The coalition's recent "Declaration of Chota" called for the defense,



conservation, and protection of Afro-descendant territories and their environments and brought attention to the impacts of climate change in these territories in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Guatemala | Credit: Unsplash

In Guatemala, RRI's SRM fueled a legal effort by the Indian Law Resource Center to bring the case of the Maya Q'eqchi' Agua Caliente community to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR). After struggling to legally secure its lands for over 40 years and fighting violations by the state and private mining companies, we helped the community present three expert witnesses and one of its leaders to testify before the Court, and file four amici briefs. The Court also permitted a testimony by land titling expert, Roberto Morales, in favor of the community. A dynamic media strategy using radio and

social media further helped put pressure on the government, including through news coverage by over 40 national and international news outlets. The campaign led to a decision by the IACHR to overrule the state's objections in favor of the community. While a final ruling is awaited, the welcome decision has instilled new energy to the community's struggle.



A landscape photograph of a rice field in Sumatra, Indonesia. The foreground is filled with lush green rice plants. In the middle ground, there are rows of young rice seedlings supported by wooden stakes. Behind the field, a line of palm trees and other tropical vegetation is visible. In the background, a range of mountains is silhouetted against a hazy, golden sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall scene is peaceful and rural.

# Thematic Work





THEMATIC  
WORK

01

December 2, 2017. Cabaña Puerto Caiman, Resguardo Curare Los Ingleses (Port Caiman Cabin, Curare Los Ingleses Reservation). Jonatan Andres Perea (25) park ranger from the indigenous community of Borikada patrol parts of the area designated for conservation and protection of the isolated tribes. Part of their duties are to look out for loggers, illegal miners and people who are not allowed to enter the reservation, as well as, keep a log of the animals they encounter along their patrols. These efforts are financed by the reservation in conjunction with Amazon Conservation Team. | Credit: Juan Arredondo for Scientific American

## Charting a Path to Scale

*The Path to Scale initiative, established by RRI and co-chaired with the Tenure Facility, is an informal network of public and private donors, intermediaries, and rightsholders committed to scaling up funding, coordination, and innovation to recognize local tenure and ensure Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples are empowered to meaningfully contribute to the achievement of the 2030 climate and conservation goals. Its members work together to:*

- 1. Support the recognition of an additional 400 million hectares of tropical forests for IPs, LCs, and ADPs*
- 2. Contribute to mobilizing at least USD 10 billion to directly support these efforts by 2030*

*The Path to Scale has previously contributed to the historic donor pledge at CoP26 to contribute USD 1.7 billion by 2025 to support IP and LC rights to their lands and forests. In 2022, it catalyzed new coordination and innovation among public and private donors and key intermediary non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to scale up global ambition and funding to recognize local tenure.*

***Here are a few highlights of what we achieved.***





In 2022, the Path to Scale reimagined the parameters of the new structure of donor financing and administration systems to ensure that more resources directly reach rightsholders to support their own initiatives to protect the world's forests and biodiversity. This included a new study, [Funding with Purpose](#) in collaboration with Rainforest Foundation Norway, that showed how donors can make their funding more *fit for purpose*. This means that climate, conservation, and rights funding is channelled in ways that are relevant and appropriate for the needs of IPs and LCs. The report was launched during the UN Climate Week in New York and was covered by 19 media outlets in 13 countries across four continents.



**"History tells us [that since] time immemorial we have been here. The biodiversity of this land is who we are. We want to maintain the integrity of our land. We do not want to be rich. We want to be kind to our animals. We want to be respectful of our vegetation. The environment is the pride of our people."**

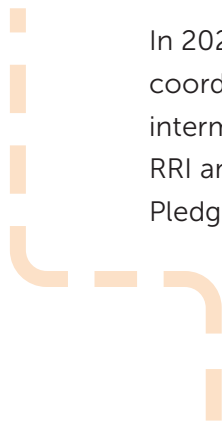
”

*– Cosmas Murunga, an Ogiek elder from Mt. Elgon, Kenya.*

We followed this analysis with the publication of [Building Bridges](#) using inputs from Path to Scale members. This report was launched in Montréal on the eve of CoP15, and set forth clear, actionable best practices and concrete ways for the donor community to engage with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples and channel support directly to their local initiatives for climate and conservation action.



In 2022, the Path to Scale evolved into a key platform for coordination and information sharing between donors, intermediary NGOs, and rightsholder networks. In September, RRI and the Donor Working Group of the Forest Tenure Pledge co-hosted a [virtual discussion](#) between Indigenous



Peoples, local communities, and donors on the historic USD 1.7 billion Pledge made in 2021 at CoP26 to support these groups. Attended by 805 people and broadcast in seven languages, this unprecedented dialogue was a rare opportunity for Indigenous and local community members to connect directly with donors and receive updates and answers to their questions about the historic commitment. It was also RRI's largest-ever virtual event for Indigenous and community rightsholders.



Credit: Jason Leem, Unsplash

The Path to Scale concluded 2022 with a [global convening](#) in Montréal just ahead of the UN CBD CoP15. The meeting assessed collective progress against the [Path to Scale targets](#) and historic 2021 Forest Tenure Pledge by donors to secure and defend IPs' and LCs' rights to their lands and forests. Over 40 leaders from the public and private donor community, rightsholder networks and funds, and intermediary NGOs joined the discussion, and yielded [an ambitious 2023 workplan and agenda](#) for donors to scale up their efforts to increase funding for rightsholders' initiatives.





Nepal village building | Credit: Igor-Ovsyannykov, Unsplash

THEMATIC  
WORK

02

## Linking Rights with Climate and Conservation Action

*The importance of rights in the context of global climate action and conservation reached new heights in 2022. Due in no small part to years of evidence-based advocacy by our coalition members, we saw strong acknowledgements of the essential contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the targets laid out by the new Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework. These affirmations were also central to emerging climate financing priorities, and influential in the design of the Core Carbon Principles developed by the Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets.*

*But issues surrounding the social and environmental integrity of market-based projects and jurisdictional emission reduction schemes persist, as do the unexamined consequences of land-based removals committed to by UNFCCC parties in their Nationally Determined Contributions. Here are some highlights of our efforts to ensure that the rapidly growing efforts to restore and conserve the world's natural resources recognize and respect the rights of IPs, LCs, and ADPs.*



At CoP27 in Egypt, RRI launched the [Land Rights Standard](#) in collaboration with the Global Landscapes Forum. The Standard sets a new precedent for Indigenous, community, and Afro-descendent rights, and those of women and youth within these groups. It was developed by Indigenous and community leaders through a robust bottom-up collaboration jointly steered by RRI and the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group for Sustainable Development. The Standard's launch was supported and endorsed by the Forest Stewardship Council and over 75 rightsholder organizations and their allies. We are now seeking endorsements for the principles from climate, conservation, and development institutions, private companies, and investors.



**“We have scientific proof that communities at the local level conserve biodiversity better than governments and NGOs combined. Why? Because conservation for communities is not a separate activity. For communities, conservation is life.”**

”

– Patrick Kipalu, RRI's Africa Program Director

Vegetable harvest from a community garden in Deman District, Bengkulu, Sumatra, Indonesia. | Credit: Jacob Maentz



Since the Glasgow Donor Pledge of USD 1.7 billion to advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, actors and rightsholders in the global arena have paid increasing attention to the appropriateness of existing channels and mechanisms to deliver resources where they are most needed. Together with Rainforest Foundation Norway, RRI conducted an assessment of donor pledges from the past decade to see how funding effectiveness could be improved going forward, leading

**“For too long, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have received shockingly little climate funding. We are excited about the hope and promise CLARIFI brings to channel long overdue recognition and resources directly to the Earth’s most effective stewards.”**

– Stanley Kimaren ole Riamit,  
Maasai leader and Founder-  
Director of Kenya’s Indigenous  
Livelihoods Enhancement Partners

to the development of [a fit for purpose criteria](#) that call for channeling funding for climate, conservation, and rights action in ways that are supportive of local peoples’ leadership, gender-inclusive, and aligned in terms of flexibility, long-term needs, timeliness, accessibility, and mutual accountability.

This and other emerging opportunities at the global and regional levels were prominently featured in a side event at CoP27, which highlighted critical developments in this arena spearheaded by RRI’s CLARIFI mechanism and other local Indigenous and community-led funds.



Following the official launch of RRI’s Community Land Rights and Conservation Finance Initiative ([CLARIFI](#)) in January 2022, we inaugurated a series of pilot projects in the Amazon Basin, East Africa, and Indonesia throughout the year. CLARIFI is led by RRI and Campaign for Nature and will contribute to raising up to USD 10 billion by 2030 to scale up the formal recognition of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community land rights, conservation, and sustainable management of their territories. The mechanism secured substantial new public and private funding by the end of 2022 to support its projects.



On December 6, RRI helped organize a first-of-its-kind gathering of Indigenous and local community rights-holders from North America and the global South ahead of the UN CBD CoP15 in Montréal, Canada. The dialogue kicked off an unprecedented North-South dialogue around Indigenous and community-led conservation, women’s leadership in these efforts, and coordination among global Indigenous rights movements. Co-organized with Canada-based Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership (CRP) and the ICCA Consortium, the event brought together over 350 participants in person and online representing Indigenous and local community organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, funders, academics, and governments.







Women of the Indigenous Ogiek of Mt. Elgon in Kenya perform a welcome song and dance | Credit: Tony Wild

THEMATIC  
WORK

03

## Advancing Justice for Women

*The year 2022 was one of action and mobilization for the powerful women in RRI's coalition. We mobilized over 75 Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community organizations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, amplifying their voices and reach in international spaces and consolidating their networks and movements to jointly address challenges and opportunities facing women's land and forest tenure rights. We held five [cross-regional virtual workshops](#) to identify common women's rights advocacy agendas on subjects ranging from women's intergenerational leadership, economic initiatives, tenure rights policy reforms, contributions toward food security, conservation action, and climate change mitigation.*

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



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**“Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women and girls should be leaders of climate action, not victims of climate policies.”**

– Archana Soreng, youth climate activist from the Kharia Tribe in India and member of the UN Secretary General’s Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change

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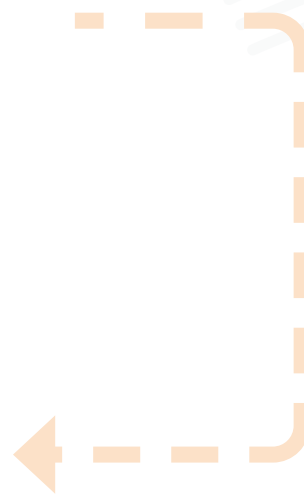
The common challenge of lack of access to direct climate funding across all three of our focus regions led to the creation of a new advocacy tool for the women members of our coalition. [Our Call to Action](#), developed by Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women across Asia, Africa, and Latin America and launched on International Women’s Day, calls upon donors, governments, and their allies to scale up direct funding for grassroots initiatives led by women to address climate change in their lands and forests.



At CoP27, the Call to Action catalyzed the creation of the [Women in Global South Alliance for Tenure and Climate](#), a first-of-its-kind initiative to enhance women’s strategic advocacy at the National and International levels. The Alliance’s launch was termed as one of the most key outcomes of the global climate conference by [international media](#).



The Maju Bersama KPPL, a women’s group in Pal VIII village, Bengkulu, Sumatra, Indonesia is the first women’s group in Indonesia to partner with a major national park’s conservation effort. Kerinci Seblat National Park is one of Indonesia’s largest national parks. The women conduct patrols in the park to prevent illegal logging and land grabs and plant ginger flowers for their livelihoods. | Credit: Jacob Maentz







Walk through an oil palm plantation, Liberia | Credit: Isabel Albee

THEMATIC  
WORK

04

## Linking Rights with Community Livelihoods

*RRI's Rights and Livelihoods Program works to empower Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples with the evidence, capacity, interactions, and advocacy they need to engage with investors who impact their rights, and to advance their self-determined strategies to manage and govern their lands and forests.*

***Here are a few highlights of what the program achieved in 2022.***

In 2022, RRI's Rights and Livelihoods Program leveraged global and regional networks among rightsholders, the private sector, and governments in the Global South to mainstream community monitoring of supply chains, investments, and policies. Community monitoring is a tool and pathway to link the lived experiences of communities with corporate and investor practices, and drive improvements in local livelihoods and the recognition of collective land tenure. Grassroots data on the social and environmental impacts of operations and investments are critical to comply with [Forest Positive](#) corporate policies and the new [EU deforestation and corporate sustainability](#) legislation.



Credit: Pablo Merchan-Montes, Unsplash

At the global level, the [Interlaken Group](#) developed a new flagship document that elaborates principles and emerging practice for progressive companies and investors to integrate community monitoring into their human rights and environmental due diligence systems (HREDD). The document was guided by a multi-stakeholder steering committee, comprised of leaders from Unilever, Nestlé, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Earthworm Foundation, Proforest, Oxfam, AsM Law Office, SESDev, and Yayasan Masyarakat Kehutanan Lestari. The Interlaken Group [met in London in September](#) to review and finalize the

document. The document will be launched in May 2023.



RRI also engaged bilaterally with companies and industry associations to socialize and advance the concept of community monitoring and strong community rights. Notably, Nestlé [committed](#) within its IPLC Land Rights Action Plan to leverage community monitoring to mainstream community rights in the company's governance structure, policies, and control systems. It is notable that Nestlé concretely links



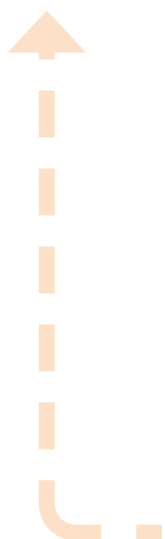
IP and LC land tenure to the achievement of other salient issue areas including the right to food, gender equity, and livelihoods, among others. This is a key move from a leading company to proactively address insecure collective rights in its supply chains, which should be leveraged to encourage similar approaches from other companies and investors.



**“It’s important to note that when local communities are vulnerable and at risk, companies’ investments are also at risk. When the communities get their due benefits from the land, everybody wins.”**

”

– Renee N. Gibson, Rural Integrated Center  
for Community Empowerment, Liberia



In Indonesia, our collaborator AsM Law Office, a law firm dedicated to protecting Indigenous and local community rights, supported the Talang Mamak community to develop and implement a community-based monitoring framework in its customary territories. Much of the community’s customary area has been cleared for oil palm development to feed mills that are linked to the supply chains of major global brands making Forest Positive commitments. The findings from the monitoring effort resulted in the [first meeting](#) between the community and leadership from the local company in over 25 years. The findings from the monitoring initiative have also supported an ongoing [complaint](#) to the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and direct advocacy against S&G Biofuels, a subsidiary of Samsung and the majority shareholder of the local producer company. In November, after meeting with AsM Law Office and the Talang Mamak leaders in Kuala Lumpur, the RSPO took the unprecedented step of procuring an independent investigator to review the history and the case.



In Liberia, we brought together community leaders and other collaborators from AsM Law Office, SESDev, and the

Civil Society Oil Palm Working Group (CSOPWG) to [a cross-regional exchange](#) to support knowledge sharing, develop collective monitoring strategies across the RRI coalition in Liberia and Indonesia, and to set the stage for a new pilot project in Liberia in collaboration with the private and public sectors. The companies engaged in the palm oil sector in Liberia are the same as those being monitored in Indonesia and/or are linked with the Interlaken Group. The exchange yielded strong [interest from the Liberian government](#) to integrate community monitoring into its forthcoming national review of the oil palm sector and its contribution to Liberia's development goals. SESDev and the CSOPWG subsequently held two meetings with Liberian legislators, agency leaders, and palm oil companies, resulting in commitments from government and companies to develop a joint monitoring framework with communities in 2023.



Indigenous women in the DRC | Credit: If Not Us Then Who

***A key lesson we learned in 2022 was that community monitoring is a pathway to leveraging private sector influence to realize stronger community rights and livelihoods. Monitoring frameworks, when agreed and accepted by all parties, can act as a bridge to communicate the communities' challenges into language and data that companies can respond to. This concrete connection has historically been missing from community-company engagement. In the cases of Indonesia and Liberia, the communities' ask is for recognition of land rights and opportunities to participate economically in investments in their territories. We see community monitoring as a vital vehicle to link commitments from companies like Nestlé to local peoples' economic aspirations and livelihoods.***





Colombian Amazon | Credit: Juan Arredondo for Amazon Conservation Team (ACT) Colombia

THEMATIC  
WORK

05

## Building the Evidence Base

*RRI's Tenure Tracking Program tracks the progress on the recognition of Indigenous, community, and Afro-descendant land rights worldwide, and examines key links between secure land tenure and climate and development goals. These analyses underpin advocacy by communities, legislators, and policy experts, and strengthen the evidence base on the importance of securing Indigenous, community, and Afro-descendant land rights.*

*All of our analytical work is supported and verified by national experts and developed with Indigenous and community leaders from around the world. We conduct research on Land and Forest Tenure; Gender Justice; Climate and Conservation; Tenure risk assessment; and Livelihoods. We also capture qualitative information on community-based freshwater tenure rights. Our quantitative and qualitative databases cumulatively cover over 75 countries.*

***Here are a few highlights of our key achievements in 2022.***



In October, we launched a new [online Tenure Tool](#), an interactive platform in three languages that gives rightsholders, researchers, activists, policy makers, and the public free and easy access to the largest and most comprehensive dataset to date on the forest tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples,

Afro-descendant Peoples, local communities, and the women within these groups. The tool contains national, regional, and country-level data on the distribution of statutory forest tenure across 58 countries spanning 15 years, and on the depth of communities' forest tenure rights and the gender sensitivity of legal frameworks for 30 core countries. By increasing the accessibility of this data, especially country-level data, the tool equips frontline advocates and defenders of land and resource rights across the world.



Andiko, a senior lawyer for Indonesia's AsM Law which provides legal support to Indigenous and tenure activists, addresses members of the Jogbahn clan in Grand Bassa County, Liberia. | Credit: Isabel Albee

We completed groundwork for the five-year update and expansion of our Depth of Rights and Gender Database, to be published in 2023. Last published in 2017, the updated analyses will assess changes in national laws impacting the tenure rights of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women since 2016. RRI is also in the process of developing new indicators that speak to priority issues identified by the coalition, such as women's livelihood rights and the interconnectedness of their rights across sectors.

The program routinely conducts trainings to provide coalition members with tools for conducting effective research-based advocacy on national and global platforms. In 2022, it trained Afro-descendant networks supported by RRI in Latin America. The trainings equipped Afro-descendant leaders from 11 countries in the region with research methodology skills, and also included a review of previous analyses produced by our partners and collaborators in Latin America.

# Metrics

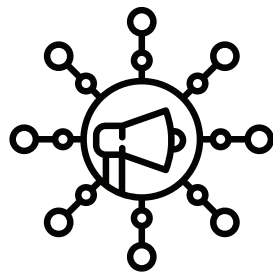
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# Metrics

## Communications and Outreach



**30** Products  
in Numbers



**22**

Publications

**20.1k** Total Downloads

**8** Languages



**6**

Videos

**19,918** Total Viewership

**4** Languages



**5**

Op-Eds



**14**

Newsletters



**59**

Blog Posts

**58k** Total Readership

▲ 66%

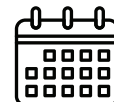
**3** Languages



**12**

Press Releases

**4** Languages

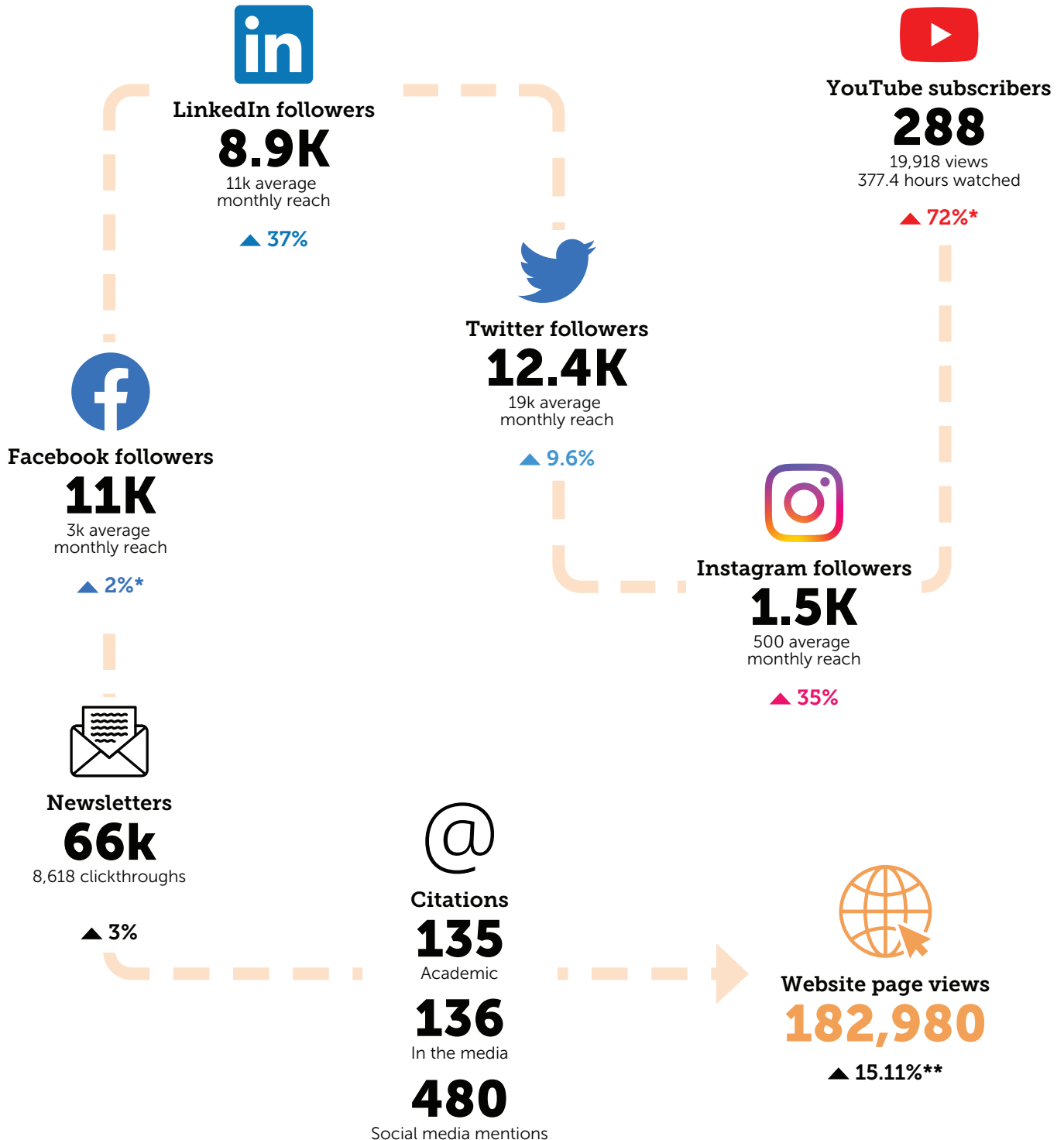


**12**

Events



# Social Media and Web



\*Includes USD \$200 paid promotion.

\*\* In 2021, we conducted a paid promotional campaign for the publication *Whose Water?* which drew an additional 45,064 people to the website. Without a similar paid campaign in 2022, the website saw a net decrease of 5.23% in traffic. If this paid campaign is excluded from the data, total organic traffic to RRI's website in 2022 increased by 15.11%.

# Highest Reaching Content

<b>Publications: Most Read</b>	<b>20,107</b> Total Downloads
<b>Most downloaded publications</b>	<b>Number of downloads</b>
Who Owns the Land in Africa?	2,250
Rights-Based Conservation: The Path to Preserving Earth's Biological and Cultural Diversity?	1,502
Reconciling Conservation and Global Biodiversity Goals with Community Land Rights in Asia	1,432
Funding with Purpose: A Study to Inform Donor Support for Indigenous and Local Community Rights, Climate, and Conservation	1,041
Report: Status of Legal Recognition of Indigenous Peoples', Local Communities' and Afro-descendant Peoples' Rights to Carbon Stored in Tropical Lands and Forests	784
<b>Blogs and Press Releases: Most Read</b>	<b>57,917</b> Total Views
<b>Most viewed blogs and press releases</b>	<b>Views</b>
Governance Governing Government	7,708
RRI and Campaign for Nature Launch CLARIFI: A New International Mechanism to Finance Community-led Action for Climate Change and Conservation	1,146
Why Indigenous-led Conservation is Crucial for Canada's Climate Goals	1,047
DRC Senate Adopts New Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Indigenous Pygmy Peoples	772
Indigenous Community in Indonesia Meets with Leadership of Palm Oil Company for First Time in 25 Years	767
<b>Events and Initiatives: Most Popular</b>	<b>40,658</b> Total Hits
<b>Most viewed content of this section</b>	<b>Views</b>
[News] Tenure Tracking and RRI's New Tenure Tool	4,029
[News] Community Land Rights and Conservation Finance Initiative (CLARIFI)	2,838
[News] Strategic Response Mechanism	2,410
[News] The Land Rights Standard	1,195
[Event] Dialogue on Indigenous and Community Leadership in Conservation: Enhancing North-South Collaboration	854
<b>Videos: Most Watched</b>	<b>19,918</b> Total Views
<b>Most watched videos</b>	<b>Views</b>
The Ogiek Story: Community-led Conservation in Mount Elgon, Kenya	18,120
Que sont devenus les philosophes qui n'enseignent pas la philosophie?	507
RRI's Tenure Tool	269

# Financial Highlights

## Donor Information

### Over \$10 million

Bezos Earth Fund, Tropical Andes  
Chicago Community Foundation  
Bezos Earth Fund, Congo Basin

### \$1 million – \$9.99 million

Swedish International Development Cooperation  
Agency (SIDA)  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and  
Development (BMZ)  
Ford Foundation  
Quadrature  
Yellow Chair Foundation  
Skoll Foundation

### \$20,000 – \$999,999

The Sobrato Organization  
The Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA)  
Milkywire  
The SED Fund  
The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)  
Montréal International  
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund  
Christensen Fund  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation





**“Our value, relevance, and importance to humankind is greater than any amount of money or bank account. We bring to the table tangible assets—forests, wildlife, rivers, and fruits, as well as our intangible assets—culture, language, and knowledge. We do not need to transform these assets into money for them to serve their purpose. We need them to be alive as we are as Peoples. And we need our rights to those assets to be fully acknowledged.”**

”

*– Margarita Antonio, a Miskitu woman from Nicaragua and Program Coordinator of the AYNÍ Indigenous Women’s Fund at the International Forum on Indigenous Women*

