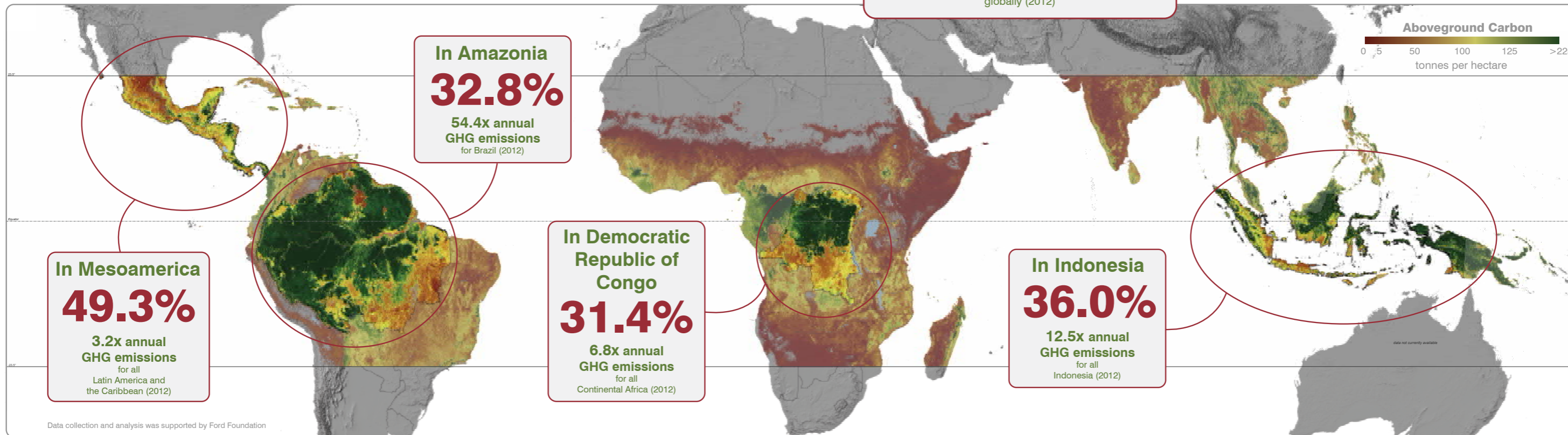


Tropical Forest Carbon in Indigenous Territories: A Global Analysis

Tropical Total
20.1%

3.2x annual GHG emissions globally (2012)



Data collection and analysis was supported by Ford Foundation

Global Analysis (MtC)					
Region	Indigenous Territories (ITs) [†]	Protected Natural Areas (PNAs) [†]	IT/PNA Overlap [†]	All Other Land [†]	Total Carbon (TC) ^{†§}
Mesoamerica	2,910 (35.8%)	1,256 (15.4%)	1,097 (13.5%)	2,871 (35.3%)	8,135 (100.0%)
Amazonia ^{§§}	23,380 (27.1%)	19,116 (22.2%)	4,867 (5.7%)	38,758 (5.7%)	86,121 (100.0%)
D.R. Congo	5,687 (25.7%)	1,527 (6.9%)	1,261 (5.7%)	13,653 (5.7%)	22,128 (100.0%)
Indonesia	6,783 (36.8%)	N/A	N/A	12,068 (64.0%)	18,851 (100.0%)
Regional Total	38,760 (28.7%)	21,899 (16.2%)	7,226 (5.3%)	67,350 (49.8%)	135,235 (100.0%)
Tropical Total	(16.9%)	(9.6%)	(3.2%)	(29.4%)	228,712 (100.0%)

Indigenous Territories in Detail					
Total ITs (ITs+Overlap) (MtC) [†]	Total Recognized (MtC) ^{††}	Total Not Recognized (MtC) ^{††}	Total Not Recognized (% of TC)	Total Not Recognized (Gt CO ₂)	Total Not Recognized (x US CO ₂ E) ^{§§§}
4,008 (49.3%)	3,138 (78.3%)	870 (21.7%)	10.7	3.2	0.5
28,247 (32.8%)	21,976 (77.8%)	6,271 (22.2%)	7.3	23.0	3.4
6,948 (31.4%)	0 (0%)	6,948 (100.0%)	31.4	25.4	3.8
6,783 (36.0%)	0 (0%)	6,783 (100.0%)	36.0	24.8	3.7
45,986 (34.0%)	25,144 (54.6%)	20,872 (45.4%)	9.1	76.4	11.5
(20.1%)					

Summary

Indigenous territories and inhabited protected areas are global cornerstones of tropical forest conservation, providing multiple social, cultural, and ecological co-benefits. Carbon storage is one widely valued function of these vital landscapes; however, until recently, the information required to assess the carbon storage capacity of indigenous territories (ITs) and protected natural areas (PNAs) at the global scale remained either lacking or out of reach.

The results of a new analysis reveal that indigenous territories located in the Amazon Basin, the Mesoamerican region, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Indonesia contain 20.1% of the carbon stored aboveground in the planet's tropical forests. This number is conservative in global terms as it does not yet consider indigenous territories outside of these regions, most notably from tropical Asia outside of Indonesia or the Congo Basin outside of the DRC.

When considering only the tropical forests in the Amazon Basin, Mesoamerica, the DRC, and Indonesia, the percentage of forest carbon stored aboveground in indigenous territories increases to 34.0%. The amount of

were lost to deforestation or other anthropogenic threats is approximately 168.3 Gt/CO₂—more than three times the CO₂ emitted globally in 2014 (52.7 Gt CO₂).

In order to continue conserving tropical forest carbon, which is essential to maintaining not only climate stability but also cultural identity and ecosystem integrity, indigenous organizations need:

1. **Titling of their territories as well as recognition of their rights to the vast natural resources and wealth of services they provide;**
2. **Relief from the persecution of indigenous leaders who speak out in defense of their rights and territories;**
3. **Recognition and inclusion of Indigenous peoples' contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation in governments' Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs);**
4. **Implementation of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC);**
5. **Direct access to climate financing.**

† Values in parentheses reflect the percentage of total carbon in each category relative to the total carbon (TC) for the region/globe.
 †† Values in parentheses reflect the percentage of total carbon in each category relative to the total carbon in Indigenous Territories (ITs).
 § After Baccini et al. 2012, Nature Climate Change, except for Amazonia.
 §§ Data for Amazonia based on Walker et al. 2013, Carbon Management.
 §§§ After U.S. EPA 2015. Value expressed as a multiple of U.S. anthropogenic CO₂ emissions in 2013 (i.e., 6.67 Gt).

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