

MESOAMERICAN TERRITORIAL FUND

by the Mesoamerican Alliance
of Peoples and Forests



FTM
Fondo Territorial
Mesoamericano



Alianza
Mesoamericana
de Pueblos y Bosques
Mesoamerican Alliance of People and Forests



The FTM focuses its work in Mesoamerica, working closely with the membership of the AMPB and other Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities organizations (IPLCs).



AMPB Members



FTM
Fondo Territorial
Mesoamericano

The Mesoamerican Territorial Fund (FTM) is an alternative financial mechanism designed by the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB), by and for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

Our objective is to promote rights-based, efficient and effective direct investment in key Mesoamerican territories while ensuring lower transaction costs and management of funds according to clear protocols and accountability.



Rationale

According to a study conducted by Rainforest Foundation Norway¹, by 2021, less than 1% of global climate finance has reached Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in the global south over the last ten year.

In response to this situation, the **FTM** was created with the objective of facilitating and promoting direct territorial investment in favor of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

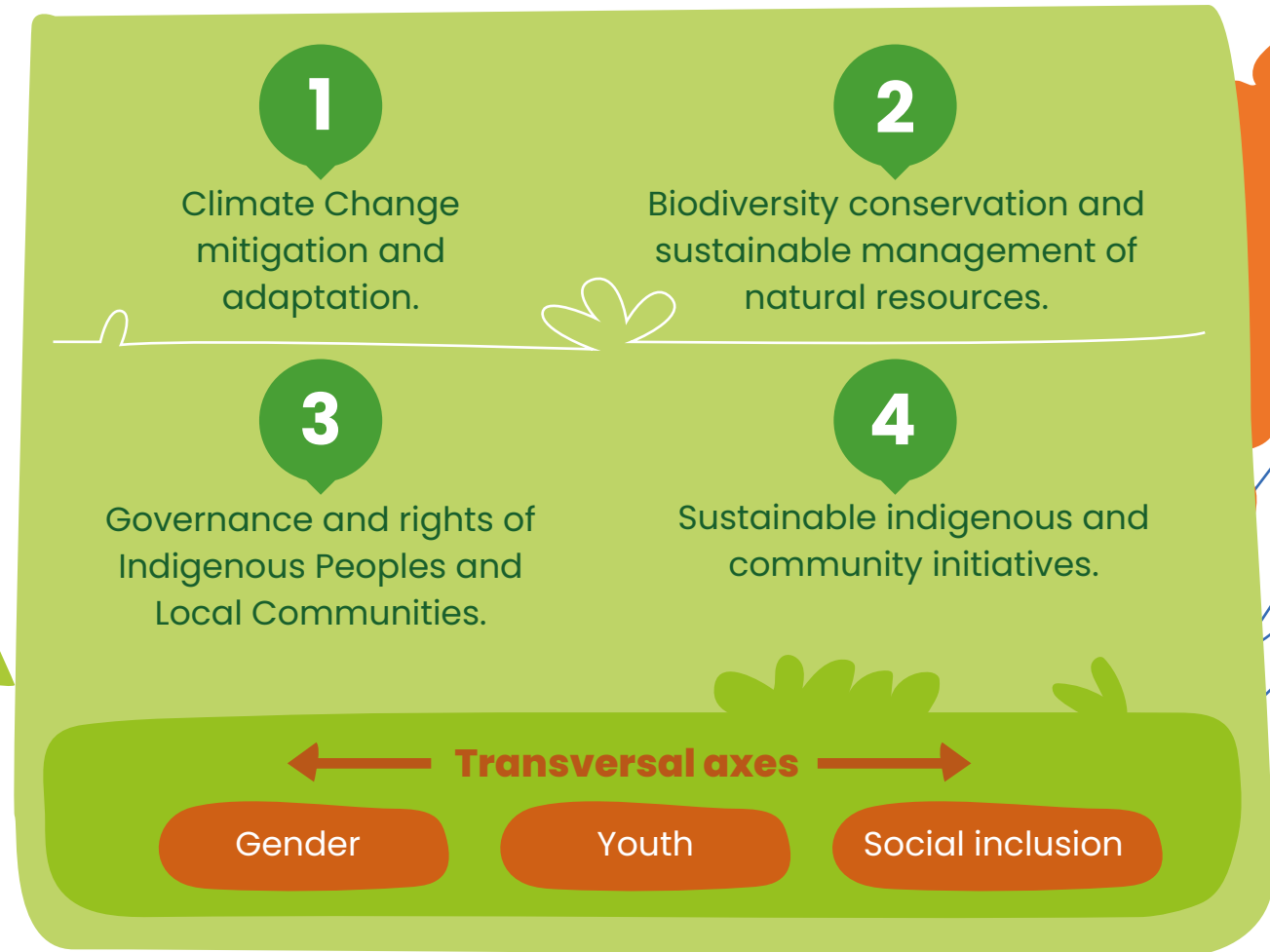
Likewise, the FTM seeks to accompany the organizations in a culturally adapted manner, through **the creation and strengthening of capacities, promoting sustainability and positive impacts on the investment.**

1. 2021. Rainforest Foundation Norway. Falling Short: Donor funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to secure tenure rights and manage forests in tropical countries (2011–2020).



What do we finance?

The FTM supports strategic initiatives defined by the communities with the potential to be replicable, scalable or to become public policy.



By 2028 the FTM aims to:



Increase direct funding to an annual average of 30 to 40 donations with amounts starting at USD 50 thousand.



Extend the geographical areas and territories prioritized by the FTM, involving more partners and strategic allies and expanding its support to other organizations beyond the AMPB membership.

A process that has already begun:

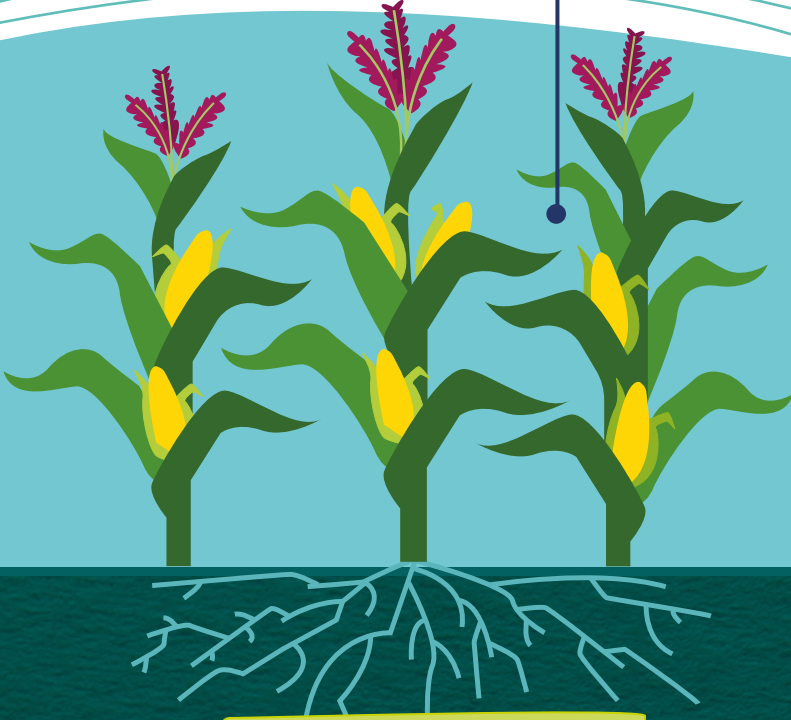
CONSOLIDATION



2023-2025

Diversification of funding sources, consolidation of the application system, monitoring and evaluation of donations.

SCALING



2026 onwards

Capitalization, diversification of FTM activities and services.

How we work?

FTM is governed by a 7-person Board of Directors*, composed of:



4 members of the AMPB.

3 independent persons (approved by the Board of Directors of the AMPB).



Our Executive Management reports to the Board of Directors.



*At least 3 women must be members.

Three Grant Financing Instruments are adapted to the different investment realities in our territories:



Small grant (USD 10k to USD 50K)



Large grant (Starting at USD 51K)



Agile, rapid-response grants for emergencies.

FTM Organizational Chart



Technical Secretary of the

- Alianza** Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques
Mesoamerican Alliance of People and Forests
- ESCUELA MESOAMERICANA DE LIDERAZGO**
- COORDINADORA DE MUJERES LÍDERES TERRITORIALES DE Mesoamérica**

Financed initiatives

Women-driven forest garden entrepreneurship in Honduras.



Establishment of a community biointensive garden in Moskitia, Honduras.



Marketing of products at fairs of the Agroecological Farmers Network in Texcoco, Mexico.



Direct territorial financing:

Empowering Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, protecting forests and biodiversity.

Less than 1% of global climate finance goes directly to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), despite the fact that they are decisive actors for the protection of forests and biodiversity.

Increasing direct territorial financing is key to strengthening IPLC rights and territory-anchored strategies to combat climate change.

The Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB) manages 24% of the region's forests, which holds 26% of the total carbon stored.

In Mesoamerica, to speak about forests and biodiversity implies speaking about the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Results

First cycle of projects up to 2022:



- 10 projects supported
- 6 countries
- 7 Indigenous Peoples' organizations
- 2 Local Community organizations
- 1 mixed organization: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities



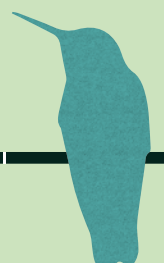
- USD 600 000 invested
- 80% direct investment in the territory
- 20% administration, operation and accompaniment
- USD 47 000 average investment per project



- 16 952 people supported
- 6 728 women supported (39,7%)
- 10 224 men supported (60,3%)
- 228 communities supported



- 9 audits conducted
- 1 overall external evaluation of the pilot.



GOVERNANCE AND LAW

ACOFOP in Petén, Guatemala was supported to develop its advocacy process and achieved the renewal of 9 forestry concessions and the granting of two new concessions for 25 more years, respectively.

RIBCA in Costa Rica promoted the executive decree of the general consultation mechanism, a legal instrument for institutions to carry out consultations under the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).



ENTREPRENEURSHIPS

25 entrepreneurial ventures supported on food self-sufficiency

4 ventures supported on value-added timber products

6 enterprises supported on alternative tourism

8 community forestry initiatives supported.



Challenges



Limited access to resources for development cooperation.




Most of the funds intended for Indigenous Peoples are channeled through intermediaries and, currently, there are no mechanisms to monitor the level of funding that effectively reaches Indigenous Peoples' organizations and communities.



Poor flexibility and knowledge of the context in terms of implementation.

Opportunities



Territorial positioning through AMPB membership.

Tailored monitoring mechanism.

Capacity building and sustainability.

Territorial investment with less transaction costs.



Grievance Mechanism:

FTM offers a Grievance Mechanism, with the purpose of establishing a continuous communication channel to provide timely responses to interested parties, such as individuals, groups or communities, who may experience an unfavorable impact on the implementation of grants, or have concerns regarding compliance with social safeguards. To express your concerns or discomfort, or to provide feedback and/or request information, please contact:

info@fondomesoamericano.org

Contact:

www.alianzamesoamericana.org

www.fondomesoamericano.org