



Land is Life

2026-2029

STRATEGIC PLAN



Executive Summary

For 34 years, Land is Life has served as a global coalition advancing Indigenous Peoples' territorial rights and self-determination. This 2026-2029 Strategic Plan marks our strategic evolution from responsive programming to systemic transformation, positioning Indigenous-led solutions as essential rather than alternative approaches to climate, conservation, and development challenges.

Developed through a 2025 Partner Survey engaging 107 coalition members representing 86 Indigenous Peoples across 27 countries in Asia, Africa, Mesoamerica, South America, and the Pacific, this plan reflects the priorities Indigenous Peoples themselves identified: territorial protection and defender security, strengthened governance and collective leadership (particularly for

Indigenous women and youth), and direct influence over climate finance and resource allocation decisions.

Our restructured approach integrates three strategic pillars: 1. Territorial Defense & Crisis Response; 2. Governance & Leadership Support, and 3. Advocacy & Policy Influence, as a reinforcing system. Crisis response generates advocacy evidence and urgency. Advocacy victories create political space for organizational development. And strengthened Indigenous Peoples' institutions sustain both policy pressure and territorial defense - shifting power dynamics from emergency response cycles to Indigenous Peoples' controlled governance systems with enforceable rights and independent resources.

Our Unique Position

Land is Life's work prioritizes community-based, underserved Indigenous Peoples' organizations by providing organizational stability and sustained capacity that many struggle to maintain under short-term, restricted funding models.

Land is Life provides sustained, flexible support for Indigenous-led initiatives and enables community-based Indigenous Peoples' organizations to engage international decision-making spaces, access technical expertise, and elevate their advocacy in ways that would otherwise require infrastructure beyond their reach, amplifying their impact while firmly centering Indigenous Peoples' leadership.



Our Two Strategic Goals

Our 2026-2029 strategy pursues two complementary goals that leverage Land is Life's unique positioning:

GOAL 1 | Strengthen Indigenous Peoples' Collective Action and Strategic Advocacy

Build coalition capacity and coordination mechanisms that enable Indigenous Peoples across seven socio-cultural regions to act collectively with greater strategic impact, by sharing successful approaches, coordinating crisis responses, developing unified advocacy positions, and amplifying their power to achieve policy change at local, national, and international levels.

GOAL 2 | Enhance Indigenous Peoples' strategic positioning to shape local, regional, and global agendas

Transform rhetorical recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights into enforceable implementation by building strategic alliances across regional courts, climate institutions, human rights mechanisms, development banks, and research organizations, while ensuring Indigenous Peoples participate effectively in decision-making with coordinated agendas and sustained advocacy capacity.

These goals create a reinforcing cycle that multiplies impact over time. Strengthened collective action and coordination (Goal 1) builds the internal architecture of collective power - trust networks, shared knowledge, and coordinated voices across the seven socio-cultural regions - enabling Indigenous Peoples to engage climate, conservation, human rights and development institutions with unified positions and sustained pressure. This coordinated strength is the prerequisite for transforming rhetorical commitments into binding obligations (Goal 2). Simultaneously, as Indigenous Peoples secure enforceable rights and direct participation in decision-making processes (Goal 2), they gain both the standing and resources needed to strengthen their own organizations and coordination mechanisms, building the independent capacity that sustains and deepens collective action (Goal 1).

GOAL 1
Collective action and coordination

- Builds trust networks
- Strengthens shared knowledge
- Unifies voices across regions



GOAL 2
Rights and participation

- Turns commitments into obligations
- Secures direct decision-making power
- Expands access to resources

This dynamic shifts power relations: coordinated advocacy forces institutional accountability, while institutional victories provide the political space and resources for Indigenous Peoples to advance territorial rights, strengthen governance systems, and maintain advocacy pressure without relying on external gatekeepers. At the heart of both goals is a single animating principle: that self-determination is not a concession granted by states or institutions, but a right exercised by Indigenous Peoples who are organized, strategic, and present in every arena where their futures are being decided.

Who We Are, Mission, Vision, & Values

Land is Life is a global coalition of Indigenous Peoples working to advance self-determination and collective rights across the world's seven socio-cultural regions. We began in 1992, when nearly 1,000 Indigenous Peoples' leaders from every region met in a forested valley outside Rio de Janeiro during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, or Earth Summit. We came to organize and assert our rights, making clear to the world that the goals of the Earth Summit would be impossible to achieve without Indigenous Peoples, that any conversation about the environment, biodiversity, and the planet's future must begin with Indigenous Peoples' voices and respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights.

From our collective ceremonies and exchanges emerged the foundational belief that still defines Land is Life: that Indigenous Peoples are not stakeholders but rights-holders, guardians of land, language, and knowledge whose leadership is essential to advancing climate justice, human rights, and sustainable futures. This historic gathering gave birth to a global movement built on mutual trust and international solidarity, centered on sustained relationships rather than transient projects, self-determination over imposed agendas, and direct response to ongoing violence, colonization, and ecological collapse.





Mission

To advance a process of dialogue and strategic action to achieve legal recognition of, and respect for—at the local, national and international levels—Indigenous Peoples’ rights to self-determination and collective ownership of their territories, lands, resources and knowledge.



Vision

We live for the day when Indigenous Peoples around the world are able to practice self-determination; when our human, economic, social, cultural, political, and territorial rights are recognized and respected; when we are free to speak our languages, maintain our sacred traditions and continue the work of caring for our ancestral homelands.

We work towards the day when Indigenous Peoples are recognized as valued members of the international community, and we are allowed to assume our rightful roles as partners in the search for a more equitable, just, and suitable world.

Our vision is global

From the Arctic to the Amazon, from Siberia to South Africa, from West Papua to Rwanda, we envision genuinely democratic and autonomous Indigenous Peoples’ territories, where we can live according to our own economic, social and political institutions, maintain and develop our cultures, and pursue our own models of development. This, we believe, is necessary not only for our survival and continuity as distinct cultures but also to maintain the ecological, hydrological and climatic stability of the entire planet.

Our Values



Intergenerational Responsibility

Land is Life carries out this work by centering Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems as authoritative frameworks for decision-making, honoring the wisdom and guidance of elders, and empowering youth as leaders who will sustain territorial defense and self-determined governance for generations to come.



Indigenous Peoples' Leadership and Cultural Respect

Our work is led by Indigenous Peoples' communities, with deep respect for each other's spiritual and cultural contexts, including protocols, knowledge systems, and cosmovisions.



Solidarity and Trust-Based Support

We maintain long-term accompaniment, staying present "when no one else appears in the territories," providing non-bureaucratic, responsive support based on community priorities rather than donor-driven agendas, building relationships on trust through crises and beyond project cycles.



Integrity & Accountability

We act with transparency, responsibility, and authenticity in all relationships and commitments.



Visionary & Transformative

We work toward systemic change with a long-term vision for Indigenous Peoples' rights and planetary well-being.

"What Land is Life stands for is what our community and organization stand for."

What Our Partners Say

In a 2025 survey, our partners emphasized that what makes Land is Life unique is not only the kind of support we provide, but how we work: building trust-based relationships, respecting coalition members' priorities, and staying true to shared values.



Our partners highlighted:



Shared Principles: Deep respect for self-determination, sovereignty, collective leadership, ancestral knowledge, land rights, cultural integrity, and ecological integrity. Alignment with justice, decolonization, solidarity, human rights, and protection of defenders.



Trust-Based Partnership: Flexible, responsive support with minimal bureaucracy. Community-led approaches grounded in Indigenous Peoples' governance and ancestral principles. Close, respectful, honest communication with approachable staff.



Long-Term Commitment: Relationships built on solidarity, *hermandad* (kinship), and mutual respect, sustained through physical presence in territories and deepened over years of shared struggle. We remain committed to Indigenous Peoples and their organizations across the long arc of their work — especially when the attention of the broader world has shifted elsewhere.



Holistic Support: Financial support including emergency rapid response, fellowships, and direct aid during persecution or displacement. Technical assistance with capacity building, organizational strengthening, and resource mobilization. Advocacy presence in UN and international forums. Moral solidarity during threats, attacks, and political persecution.



Meaningful Impact: Amplifying Indigenous voices at national and international levels; providing strategic accompaniment that strengthens territorial defense and autonomy and facilitating networking and knowledge-sharing exchanges. The support of Indigenous women's leadership and the protection of defenders and political prisoners through documentation, advocacy, and well-being support were also highlighted.



A True Ally: Seen as reliable, accessible, and responsive. A relationship rooted in collective action and shared struggle to defend Mother Earth. A bond of transparency, trust, and long-term commitment.

Our Work

Land is Life's work operates through three integrated strategic pillars that reinforce one another in a continuous cycle: Crisis response exposes the systemic gaps and power imbalances that must be addressed through advocacy. Successful advocacy opens political space and creates enabling conditions for Indigenous Peoples to strengthen their organizations and institutions. And stronger Indigenous Peoples' organizations in turn build the capacity needed to respond more effectively to crises and sustain long-term policy transformation.



Our Three Strategic Pillars



1. Territorial Defense & Crisis Response

- » Provide rapid responses through financial assistance and individualized support to Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders and communities facing immediate threats from extractive industries, non-state armed groups, and government actors (including relocation, legal defense, medical assistance, resource connections, and ongoing coordination as needed).
- » Provide emergency rapid responses through financial assistance and technical support to Indigenous Peoples impacted by climate-related environmental disasters and extreme weather events (including recovery planning, resource connections, and coordination support as needed).

- » Provide financial support and technical assistance to Indigenous Peoples to strengthen food sovereignty in response to climate change, industrial agriculture, and extractive industry impacts.
- » Provide emergency assistance and coordination support to Indigenous Peoples protecting territories inhabited by Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI), including monitoring equipment, legal advocacy, and resources to prevent territorial encroachment by illegal activities.





2. Governance & Leadership Support

- » Indigenous Women's Fellowship and Leadership Training Program to strengthen political leadership, advocacy skills, and movement-building capacity.
- » Provide flexible seed funding to advance Indigenous women-led initiatives that strengthen territorial defense, governance, economy, conservation, and community resilience.
- » Provide technical, political and financial support to Indigenous Peoples to develop and implement Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols as foundations of territorial governance and self-determination.
- » Partner with universities and research institutions to deliver to Indigenous participants certificate programs on Indigenous Peoples' rights, leadership, governance, and policy advocacy.
- » Convene participatory workshops for coalition members, allies, and funders to enhance collaboration and deepen understanding of Indigenous Peoples' rights, priorities, and leadership.
- » Support Indigenous-led research initiatives as tools for leadership development, political education, and organizational strengthening.
- » Provide tailored mentorship and accompaniment for Indigenous Peoples' leaders navigating urgent policy, legal, and advocacy processes.
- » Facilitate the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples' representatives in national, regional, and international forums, including UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), UN Business and Human Rights processes, Universal Periodic Reviews, treaty bodies and COPs.
- » Organize regional Indigenous Peoples' leadership summits to advance collective strategies on key political, territorial, and climate justice issues.
- » Provide financial, fiscal sponsorship, programmatic, and technical support to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' grassroots organizations' governance, sustainability, and impact.



3. Advocacy & Policy Influence

- » Submit timely reports and communications to the UNPFII, EMRIP, UN Special Rapporteurs, the Universal Periodic Review, and treaty bodies to elevate urgent Indigenous Peoples' concerns.
- » Co-create and disseminate advocacy and educational materials with Indigenous Peoples' leaders for funders, policymakers, government officials, Indigenous Peoples, and UN entities.
- » Organize and engage in strategic discussions at international events to elevate Indigenous Peoples' leadership and priorities on rights, climate, conservation, and territorial defense.
- » Plan, lead, and track strategic dialogues with bilateral donor governments to promote policy frameworks that recognize Indigenous Peoples as full partners in development.

- » Convene and facilitate structured dialogues between Indigenous Peoples and governments to advance the development and implementation of national Indigenous Peoples' policies.
- » Design and implement targeted advocacy campaigns to respond to urgent and emerging threats facing Indigenous Peoples and their territories.
- » Prepare and submit legal cases and amicus curiae on Indigenous Peoples' rights before national, regional, and international judicial bodies.
- » Cultivate and strengthen relationships with current and prospective funders to build understanding and mobilize investment in Indigenous-led solutions.



Our Theory of Change: Each Strategic Pillar Integrating for Long-term Impact

Land is Life occupies a distinctive niche in the Indigenous Peoples' rights space. Through our integration of territorial defense and crisis response, governance and leadership support, and advocacy, we create pathways from emergency protection to systemic change. We do this by leveraging our position as both a grassroots coalition and a global policy actor.





Territorial Defense & Crisis Response

From Protection to Power. When Indigenous Peoples face immediate threats (including violence, climate disasters, food insecurity, and incursions into PIACI territories), they need rapid, flexible, technical, and Indigenous-led support. With this support, they are able to survive immediate crises while simultaneously strengthening long-term territorial defense capacity. Our crisis response addresses urgent needs while simultaneously documenting human rights violations and environmental harms. We identify systemic patterns and surface both the ways Indigenous Peoples are actively confronting the climate crisis and the advocacy opportunities and capacity gaps that require longer-term attention. In this way, emergency aid becomes a strategic intervention. It builds independent defense capacity at the local level while contributing to broader global movements for Indigenous rights and climate justice.



Governance & Leadership Support

Leadership as Infrastructure for Rights Defense. Indigenous Peoples' ability to defend their territories and influence policy depends on strong governance systems and skilled leaders who can navigate complex political environments. When

Indigenous Peoples' leaders and organizations receive targeted training and technical support for self-determination processes and facilitated access to decision-making forums, they develop the institutional strength and leadership networks necessary to coordinate crisis responses. They help sustain advocacy at local, regional, and global levels, and advance self-determined development.



Advocacy & Policy Influence

Strategic Pressure Across Multiple Systems. Structural barriers preventing Indigenous Peoples' self-determination manifest simultaneously across international forums, national governments, legal systems, and funding institutions, requiring coordinated, multi-level advocacy rather than isolated interventions. That is why we use Land is Life's unique position and expertise to combine insider strategies (legal advocacy, direct policy dialogue, funder education) with outsider strategies (targeted campaigns, media pressure, coalition mobilization). In doing so, we also convert crisis cases into advocacy opportunities while ensuring the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples' leaders in decision-making spaces as rights-holders. This, in turn, generates sustained pressure across all these systems. It helps create the conditions for institutional transformation, where Indigenous Peoples' rights are enforceable rather than aspirational.

Our strategic pillars' integration creates resilience against the complex challenges we face: escalating threats, coordination complexity across seven socio-cultural regions, and institutional funders whose compliance systems often conflict with Indigenous Peoples' governance protocols.

Through the integration of our three strategic pillars, we advance:

Territorial Security & Self-Determination:

- » Indigenous Peoples exercising sustained territorial control with independent protection capacity across all 7 sociocultural regions.
- » Self-determined governance systems operating through formalized FPIC protocols, strengthened decision-making structures, and recognized territorial authority.

Enforceable Rights & Legal Power:

- » Transformed international policy architecture where Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems, rights, and priorities carry binding weight in institutional decisions rather than advisory input.
- » Regional court precedents establishing enforceable legal frameworks that protect Indigenous Peoples' collective rights across multiple jurisdictions.

Economic Independence & Resource Access:

- » Sustained Indigenous women's leadership in economic, political, and cultural institutions.
- » Indigenous Peoples'-controlled enterprises and cooperatives operating sustainable economies based on traditional knowledge and territorial resources, creating livelihoods that strengthen rather than compromise territorial integrity.
- » Intergenerational economic planning that integrates traditional livelihood practices with contemporary market engagement, ensuring cultural continuity while building financial resilience.

Collective Advocacy Power:

- » Indigenous-led advocacy networks coordinating regional strategies, sustaining pressure on governments and institutions, and achieving policy victories through independent advocacy capacity.
- » Narrative transformation replacing "Indigenous partnership" frameworks with recognition of Indigenous Peoples' primary legal authority over their territories and inherent rights to self-determined governance.

The Need We Address

Indigenous Peoples face interconnected crises that systematically threaten their survival and undermine global environmental stability. Despite stewarding 54% of the world's remaining intact forests and over 40% of key biodiversity areas, Indigenous Peoples confront escalating violence, climate disasters, and structural exclusion from the decisions determining their futures.



What Our Partners Tell Us

In our 2025 partner survey, Indigenous Peoples from our coalition identified urgent priorities that shape our strategic direction:

Lethal Violence Against Defenders: Partners report militarization of territories linked to extractive projects, criminalization through anti-terror laws, forced disappearances, and systematic impunity. Industries most responsible include mining, agribusiness, logging, and hydropower. In 2024, Indigenous defenders comprised 17.9% of the 324 human rights defenders killed globally, despite representing only 6% of the world's population.

Climate Crisis and "Green Colonization": Partners report disproportionate impacts from climate disasters (hurricanes, droughts, floods, extreme weather), destroying traditional food systems and forcing displacement. Simultaneously, they face new threats from conservation schemes: expansion of protected areas, carbon markets, and the 30x30 biodiversity target imposed without Free, Prior and Informed Consent, creating "green colonization" through land grabbing disguised as biodiversity protection and climate solutions.

Systematic Exclusion from Power: Partners describe being excluded from conservation and development planning despite bearing the consequences. Governments replace FPIC with weaker "institutional consultation" mechanisms. Requirements for ECOSOC consultative status, language barriers,

and chronic lack of funding prevent Indigenous Peoples' voices from influencing climate negotiations, biodiversity policy, and human rights mechanisms where decisions about their lands are made.

Severe Funding Disparities and Geographic Exclusion: Chronic underfunding and shrinking support undermine organizations, with intermediaries blocking direct access to resources. Climate finance remains highly technical and inaccessible. According to the Center for Effective Philanthropy, Indigenous Peoples receive only 0.6% of global philanthropic funding, and only 33% of that reaches Indigenous Peoples' organizations directly. This crisis is compounded by funders' increasing focus on tropical forest regions, effectively abandoning Indigenous Peoples in boreal forests, grasslands, deserts, coastal areas, and Arctic territories who face equally urgent threats to their territories and rights.

Intergenerational and Cultural Threats: Partners report erosion of languages, food systems, governance systems, and ancestral knowledge as youth migrate due to lack of opportunities, Indigenous women healers lack land to cultivate medicinal plants, and displacement prevents elders from passing knowledge to future generations.



Our Strategic Response



The crises confronting Indigenous Peoples today — including violence against defenders, systematic exclusion from decision-making, chronic underfunding of Indigenous-led solutions, and escalating climate disasters — are not separate problems. They are interlocking expressions of the same failure to recognize and uphold Indigenous Peoples’ rights. Isolated interventions cannot resolve what are fundamentally structural injustices. Land is Life’s 2026-2029 strategic plan addresses this reality through two mutually reinforcing goals: building the collective action and coordination capacity that enables Indigenous Peoples across seven socio-cultural regions to act with unified strategic force, while simultaneously expanding their ability to shape the institutional agendas and legal frameworks that must be transformed if rights are to move from rhetoric to reality.

GOAL 1 | Strengthen Indigenous Peoples' Collective Action and Strategic Advocacy

How This Goal Reflects Our Partners' Priorities

In our 2025 partner survey, Indigenous Peoples' organizations identified three interconnected strategic priorities that directly inform this goal:

Protection of Indigenous Peoples and Territories: Partners emphasized urgent need for rapid crisis response, legal accompaniment, and community-led protection systems, particularly against extractive industries, narco-ranching, and climate displacement. They called for expanded emergency funds reaching more territories across Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

Strengthening Indigenous Peoples' Leadership and Governance: Partners called for sustained investment in capacity building for Indigenous youth, women, and grassroots leaders on rights, FPIC, advocacy, legal tools, and climate change. They emphasized supporting traditional authorities, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and Indigenous-led schools and women's leadership programs with dedicated, flexible funding streams.

Advancing Advocacy and Climate Justice: Partners highlighted the importance of amplifying Indigenous Peoples' voices in UN forums, COP processes, and multilateral institutions, while promoting Indigenous-led climate solutions, including food sovereignty and agroecology. They emphasized strengthening alliances to defend territorial rights and ensuring Indigenous Peoples' access to global climate finance.

Rationale

Land is Life's unique strength lies in connecting Indigenous Peoples' movements across seven socio-cultural regions, creating a horizontal solidarity network that enables peer learning, coordinated crisis response, and collective advocacy power. Goal 1 centers coordinated action through coalition governance structures that ensure Indigenous Peoples collectively determine strategic priorities and organizational direction.

Outcomes by Strategic Pillar

Outcome 1.1: Territorial Defense & Crisis Response

Indigenous Peoples receive coordinated, cross-regional emergency support that converts crisis response into advocacy evidence.

- » By 2029, 90% of climate-related environmental crises responses are systematically documented.
- » By 2029, 90% of Indigenous rights violation responses are systematically documented.
- » By 2029, Land is Life coordinates 300+ climate-related environmental crisis responses.
- » By 2029, Land is Life coordinates 500+ Indigenous rights violation responses.
- » By 2029, 4 regions developed and implemented shared environmental and human rights violations early warning indicators and response protocols.
- » By 2029, 50% of supported Indigenous Peoples report increased capacity to manage future crises, measured through post-response assessments and follow-up conversations.

Outcome 1.2: Governance & Leadership Support

Indigenous Peoples' leaders develop advocacy capacity through peer learning and knowledge exchange that strengthens participation in regional and global forums.

- » By 2029, 80% of Indigenous Peoples' leaders supported to participate in UN forums receive pre-session training on advocacy strategies.
- » By 2029, Land is Life will develop a guide on digital security for Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders.
- » By 2029, Indigenous Peoples' leaders trained by Land is Life programs hold formal advisory or decision-making roles in at least 20 local, national, regional, or global institutions.
- » By 2029, 50 Indigenous Peoples' organizations strengthen governance and financial management systems through Land is Life's fiscal sponsorship and/or technical support.
- » By 2029, 120 Indigenous Peoples' leaders (minimum 60% Indigenous women) complete leadership fellowships, mentorships, or certificate programs.
- » By 2029, 5 Indigenous-led research initiatives directly inform leadership development, political education, and organizational strengthening across the coalition.

Outcome 1.3: Advocacy & Policy Influence

Indigenous Peoples' movements collectively influence global policy through coordinated advocacy strategies that replicate successful approaches across regions.

- » By 2029, Land is Life produces 50+ joint advocacy campaigns aimed at promoting, protecting, and defending the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- » By 2029, Land is Life submits 40+ joint interventions to UN entities and international policy spaces.
- » By 2029, Land is Life submits 30+ joint interventions to regional human rights mechanisms in support of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- » By 2029, 3 UN entities adopt improved Indigenous Peoples' consultation procedures influenced by Land is Life recommendations.
- » By 2029, Land is Life coordinates joint legal strategies resulting in 10+ court submissions.
- » By 2029, Land is Life advocacy campaigns achieve media coverage in international outlets 20+ times.
- » By 2029, Land is Life funder-learning exchanges result in 3+ foundations adopting Indigenous-responsive grantmaking practices (e.g., longer grant cycles, flexible reporting, overhead support).
- » By 2029, 500+ Indigenous Peoples' representatives participate in decision making processes with Land is Life coordination.



GOAL 2 | Enhance Indigenous Peoples' strategic positioning to shape local, regional, and global agendas

How This Goal Reflects Our Partners' Priorities

Our 2025 partner survey revealed that partners face barriers across multiple systems simultaneously, requiring coordinated pressure rather than isolated interventions:

For Protection Work: Partners called for legal accompaniment, access to regional courts and human rights mechanisms, and engagement with bilateral donors and multilateral institutions that fund or enable extractive projects on their territories. They emphasized the need for allies who can amplify Indigenous Peoples' voices when governments ignore violations.

For Leadership and Governance: Partners highlighted the need for technical expertise, from universities providing curriculum design, to lawyers offering pro-bono support, to institutions recognizing FPIC protocols. They emphasized that strengthening governance requires more than funding; it requires institutional actors who respect Indigenous Peoples' decision-making systems.

For Advocacy and Climate Justice: Partners emphasized the importance of ensuring Indigenous Peoples' access to climate finance, positioning Indigenous-led solutions in environmental platforms, and strengthening alliances across public and private sectors. They called for shifting narratives, so Indigenous Peoples are recognized as essential partners - right holders in climate action, Blue Economy development, and biodiversity conservation, not as stakeholders to consult.

Partners consistently emphasized that advancing rights requires transforming how diverse institutions engage with Indigenous Peoples, creating a broad ecosystem of support rather than dependence on traditional Indigenous Peoples' rights funders alone.

Rationale

Indigenous Peoples' rights are persistently treated as peripheral concerns rather than foundational to addressing humanity's most urgent challenges. This forces Indigenous Peoples movement into a perpetual defensive posture. They spend limited resources on battles that should have been resolved decades ago, rather than confronting escalating threats from

climate breakdown, biodiversity collapse, and authoritarian resurgence. The goal is therefore not merely inclusion but fundamental reorientation. It positions Indigenous Peoples' self-determination as the baseline from which global agendas must be constructed. When regional courts establish binding precedents, climate institutions center Indigenous-led solutions, and development banks operationalize FPIC as non-negotiable, Indigenous Peoples' movement gain mutually reinforcing leverage points that create sustained pressure for systemic change.

Outcomes by Strategic Pillar

Outcome 2.1: Territorial Defense & Crisis Response

Coordinated emergency response protects Indigenous Peoples' territories while generating evidence and strategic intelligence that informs systemic advocacy.

- » By 2029, climate-related environmental crises and Indigenous rights violation responses inform at least 30% of Land is Life's global strategic advocacy campaigns.
- » By 2029, Indigenous rights violation response database tracks rights violations across Asia, Africa, Mesoamerica and South America, powering pattern analysis to detect recurring threats and drive targeted advocacy addressing root causes.

- » By 2029, threat monitoring in partnership with 100+ Indigenous Peoples.

Outcome 2.2: Governance & Leadership Support

Technical partnerships across sectors provide expertise and institutional recognition that strengthen Indigenous Peoples' organizations' capacity and legitimacy.

- » By 2029, 4 partnerships with universities established to provide technical expertise and internship placements supporting advocacy and leadership programs.
- » By 2029, Indigenous women leaders supported by the program influence 10+ national or international decision-making processes related to Indigenous Peoples' rights.
- » By 2029, Land is Life's leadership programs generate 15+ policy briefs, research products, or governance tools.
- » By 2029, 500+ Indigenous crisis responders in 4 regions receive training in legal documentation, security protocols, and media engagement, with emergency response protocols integrated into leadership development programs to strengthen next-generation capacity.
- » By 2029, Land is Life provides specialized training to 400+ Indigenous Peoples' organizations representatives on project and budget proposal development.

Outcome 2.3: Advocacy & Policy Influence

Advocacy and policy engagement positions Indigenous Peoples' rights as central across multiple institutional mandates, creating systemic change and direct resource access.

- » By 2029, Land is Life establishes active advocacy engagement with 30 institutions across climate finance, development banks, courts, research bodies, and donor governments.
- » By 2029, Land is Life's advocacy contributes to 10 binding court decisions, international standards, or major institutional reforms strengthening Indigenous Peoples' rights.
- » By 2029, Land is Life facilitates 5+ platforms where Indigenous Peoples organizations engage directly with institutional decision-makers (courts, banks, UN entities), removing intermediaries from power conversations.





Land is Life