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DGIS contact

Kaj van de Vorstenbosch, Policy Officer Climate - IGG Ministry of Foreign Affairs

kaj-vande.vorstenbosch@minbuza.nl

Consortium contact

Eva Duarte Davidson, Senior Programme Coordinator GLA

evadd@milieudefensie.nl

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Andrés Gómez Giraldo

Leticia, Colombian Amazon. 09/2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the 2023 annual report of the **Forests for a Just Future (FfJF) programme** (2021-25), implemented by the **Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA)**. The programme aims to ensure that tropical forests and forest landscapes are sustainably and inclusively governed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, fulfil human rights and safeguard local livelihoods. The programme's [Theory of Change](#) (ToC) takes an intersectional and gender transformative approach and revolves around three mutually reinforcing pathways of change. The GLA collaborates with over 70 civil society organisations (CSOs), indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LCs) and social movements in 11 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia, as well as internationally.

2023 has been a very productive year. It marks the halfway point of the programme period and partners in all countries and partners continued working at full speed in a world increasingly affected by the climate and biodiversity crises. This annual report presents a selection of key results and outcomes from the programme's activities in 2023.

Also this year, the programme conducted a midterm review (MTR) that was submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands in December 2023. Overall, the MTR shows that the programme is well on track and it includes many useful recommendations. Based on these, the alliance developed a management response for the final two years of the programme (2024-25) that will be integrated into our planning going forward.

CONTEXT AND RISKS

All GLA countries are affected by the climate and related water and biodiversity crises. In 2023, this was exacerbated by it being the hottest year on record. Bolivia is suffering from severe droughts and wildfires, Colombia has linked the climate and water crisis to increasing public health issues such as respiratory diseases, dengue and malaria and the Philippines partners invest more and more time in direct relief assistance due to extreme weather events. Tropical forest landscapes continue to be threatened in the name of economic development. This year saw the continued endorsement of large projects that are highly destructive to forest landscapes such as S'on La Hydropower Dam in Viet Nam; further expansion of the agricultural frontier and extractive industries in the indigenous forest territories (Bolivia); and the creation of new regulations that allow for mining in forest reserves and globally significant biodiversity areas when it is in the national interest (Ghana). Deforestation continued at rapid speed amid growing concerns that the Amazon is reaching a crucial tipping point. The severity and rapid progression of the climate crisis is particularly devastating for communities who have done the least to cause it.

On the positive side, 2023 showed an increase in the number of signatories of the Glasgow Statement developing fossil phase out policies to end international public fossil finance, and to the forest pledges. There was also an increased recognition of the importance of tropical forests to combat the climate, water, food security and biodiversity crises. Additionally, the follow-up to the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework saw a significant mention of Indigenous peoples rights, roles, contributions and participation.

In terms of civic space, safety and security issues around (women) environmental human rights defenders ((W) EHRDs) continued to be highly problematic in many countries. Several GLA countries are included in 2023 list of 'top 10' most dangerous States for environmental and human rights defenders according to the Global Witness (Colombia, Philippines, DRC). In a context of global geopolitical power shifts, GLA's tireless efforts to demand and respect human rights and protect the progress that have been made over the past decades are of crucial value.

PROGRESS WITHIN OUR TOC

Pathway A: Strengthening IP&LC governance over increased areas of forest

In 2023, IP&LCs in GLA landscapes made crucial steps towards inclusive and sustainable land governance by registering and legalising their community governance structures and/or acquiring formal land rights. Also, through locally-led strategic advocacy and collaboration, CSO partners and IP&LCs influenced many policies and laws that support IP&LC rights and governance, and effectively monitored and reported illegal activities and rights violations on their land. With the support of the GLA programme, numerous sustainable community-based enterprises, often women-led, have been established. The report highlights many examples and concludes with a story of change from The Philippines on how Indigenous women have championed the call to save Palawan's forests.

Pathway B: Government and key sectors no longer drive deforestation

In a globalised world, effectively addressing the key drivers of deforestation often requires international collaboration - which is one of the big added values of the GLA. Through the local-to-global-to-local work, local struggles have been connected to international developments and policy arenas ensuring the voices of IP&LCs cannot be ignored. In addition, GLA partners achieved important successes at local and national level, stopping destructive industries and holding governments accountable. Examples of the work of the GLA in 2023 are followed by a story of change of how Avebe communities in Cameroon have mobilised to protect their land.

Pathway C: Citizens enjoy human and women's rights and safely participate in social movements

Under this pathway, GLA partners supported CSOs and IP&LCs in a variety of ways to protect themselves against threats and in dealing with repression. This helped to keep people safe and also got some people out of prison. Partners also lobbied against laws that would further restrict civic space in their countries. This section concludes highlighting the struggle of reclaiming customary land in Dua Nagari (Indonesia) and safeguarding the people's governance.

Inclusion, gender and youth involvement

Promoting inclusivity, gender equality and youth involvement are core strategies that are woven into all parts of the programme. At organisational level, the MTR showed that 92% of the partners made considerable to great progress in implementing their organisational gender action plans (OGAPs). In addition, all countries invested in capacity strengthening and worked towards equal representation of women in activities and structures and promoted more inclusive spaces with decision makers to make the voices of underrepresented and most affected groups heard. It closes with a story of our work with youth in Colombia "Young Gazes of the Amazon".

CONCLUSION

The 2023 progress report shows the fruits of many years of capacity strengthening, exchanges, learning, building collaborations and trust and lobby and advocacy efforts of GLA partners. As the life sustaining systems in our planet and frontline communities are under increasing pressure, the relevance of this international partnership is greater than ever. This was also highlighted in the IP&LC forest tenure pledge annual report 2022-23 published in November 2023: "(...) the NGOs which implement the Netherlands-funded Forests for a Just Future programme channel the majority of their budget to local CSO partners in the respective countries and at the regional level. These partners either directly represent IP&LC target groups or have thorough knowledge, local project experience and regular contact with target groups." This recognition, together with the valuable results and insights from the MTR suggest that at the end of its third year of implementation, the programme is making substantial progress towards its Theory of Change and contributing positively to forests, peoples and locally-led sustainable development.

Photo by Stephanie Broekarts | Sumatra-Sumpur Kudus village forest



SECTION I

Annual report narrative

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the 2023 annual report of the **Forests for a Just Future (FfJF) programme** (January 2021 - December 2025), implemented by the **Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA)** which consists of Milieudefensie (Alliance lead), Gaia Amazonas, IUCN national committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL), Non-timber forest products-exchange programme Asia (NFTP-EP Asia), Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), Tropenbos International (TBI) and two technical partners: (i) Fern and (ii) Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), working in partnership with the Global Forest Coalition (GFC). The Alliance collaborates with over 70 civil society organisations (CSOs), indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LC) and social movements in 11 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia, as well as internationally.

The programme has the long-term goal of ensuring tropical forests and forest landscapes are sustainably and inclusively governed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, fulfil human rights and safeguard local livelihoods. The programme makes a significant contribution to the IP&LC forest tenure pledge (UNFCCC COP26, 2021). The programme's [Theory of Change](#) takes an intersectional and gender transformative approach and revolves around three mutually reinforcing pathways of change:

☒ **Pathway A:** Strengthening IP&LC governance over increased areas of forest.

☒ **Pathway B:** Government and agro-commodities, extractives, energy and infrastructure sectors no longer drive deforestation.

☒ **Pathway C:** Citizens enjoy human and women's rights and safely participate in social movements.

[Annex B](#) includes a complete overview of GLA partners and landscapes in 2023.

2023 has been a very productive year. It marks the halfway point of the programme period and partners in all countries and partners are moving at full speed in a world increasingly affected by the climate and biodiversity crises. While frontline defenders and international civil society are steadfast in their efforts to steer us away from the worst impacts of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, we still face continual setbacks and resistance from well-organised and resourced actors (including profit-motivated corporations and unfriendly authorities) who continue to pour fuel on the fire. This highlights how imperative it is for civil society to be both well resourced and coordinated. In this light, the FfJF programme is as relevant as ever, working with partners around the globe on the intersection of forests, water, biodiversity, climate and IP&LC rights.

Aim and scope of this report

This report provides an overview of the progress made by the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) in 2023. We aim to provide a representative oversight of how we are operationalising our ToC, as well as programme progress in general, and particularly in relation to our 2023 annual plan. As input for this report we used information from:

☒ 11 country annual reports, one report focusing on activities in and from the Netherlands and two reports from the technical partners.

☒ Five local-to-global-to-local (LGL) annual reports addressing work that connects the local context to international (policy) processes and vice versa. This work is captured in two thematic programmes of Milieudefensie/SDI: 1) Just energy transition (JET) and 2) Community rights and deforestation drivers

(CRDD); and three international policy dossiers¹: 1) Convention on biological diversity (CBD); 2) UNFCCC; 3) EU deforestation legislation.

The MTR results, conclusions and recommendations are beyond the scope of this annual report as these were presented in the MTR report submitted to the Ministry in December 2023. Similarly, the management response to the MTR recommendations is also out of scope as it was presented as an annex to our annual plan 2024

Inclusivity

Gender justice and inclusion are important aspects of the GLA programme. We aim to use inclusive language in our interventions and reports, recognising that communities and other groups are not homogeneous but consist of people of all genders, ethnicities, ages, varying abilities and different socio-economic and cultural status. However, for reasons of readability and to limit the length of this report, it is not always possible to use inclusive language throughout the text. We remind the reader that where we refer to communities, groups or villages, we understand and recognise their local diversity.

Sections and chapters

This annual report is structured as follows.

Section I

Gives a general overview of our progress in 2023. The section covers contextual developments and progress on the three reinforcing pathways of change, as well as overarching issues such as gender and inclusion. The information presented is complemented by a series of annexes, including an overview of progress in annually collected indicators ([annex C](#)) and an overview of risks and mitigation measures, updated for the current period ([annex G](#)). Annexes [D](#), [E](#) and [F](#) provide brief summaries of the country reports and LGL thematic programmes and policy dossiers.

Section II

Presents a summary of the 2023 financial report and provides a brief narrative financial overview of the main trends. The complete financial report is included as [annex A](#).

1. This aligns with the management decision taken on recommendations from the MTR (2023) whereby the alliance will focus primarily on these three policy dossiers. Going forward, the work on UN Binding Treaty and due diligence legislation is reported within the Netherlands report. And any progress on nationally determined contributions (NDC), within the corresponding country reports.



Photo by FoE Argentina | Feminist Just Transition Conference

2. CHANGES IN CONTEXT AND RISKS IN 2023

In terms of programme related risks, we have updated the matrix on risk analysis and mitigation measures, please refer to [annex G](#). Worth noting that at programme level, there were no cases related to financial mismanagement, corruption or sexual harassment.

Globally, 2023 brought a number of changes in context and risks, below we describe some of the most relevant to our work.

2.1 INTERRELATED CLIMATE, WATER & BIODIVERSITY CRISES: FIGHTING DEFORESTATION IS KEY

Alarming, 2023 was the hottest year ever recorded with climate scientists describing the extent of broken records as “astonishing”. The remarks from the United Nations Secretary General, “The era of global warming has ended, the era of global boiling has arrived” rang true across the globe. All GLA partner countries are affected by the climate and related water and biodiversity crises. **Bolivia** is suffering from severe droughts and wildfires, **Colombia** has linked the climate and water crisis to increasing public health issues such as respiratory diseases, dengue and malaria and **the Philippines** partners invest more and more time in direct relief assistance due to extreme weather events. In several GLA country reports, CSOs and IP&LCs mention reduced agricultural yields.

In this scenario, the loss of forests [continues at an alarming speed](#). In 2023, total tropical primary forest loss totaled 3.7 million hectares. All this forest loss produced 2.4 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in 2023, equivalent to almost half of the annual fossil fuel emissions of the United States.

More evidence shows that **the Amazon** is reaching a [crucial tipping point](#), initiating the large-scale collapse of the entire ecosystem. In some countries in the region, the deforestation trend is slowing down. For example, between 2022 and 2023, Brazil and Colombia experienced a remarkable 36% and 49% decrease in primary forest loss, respectively. However, in other countries, the situation continues to get worse. This is the case of Bolivia, where [annual primary forest loss increased by 27%](#), the highest on record for the third year in a row. Drastic action is needed to stop deforestation and invest in restoration across the region.

The severity and rapid progression of the climate crisis is particularly devastating for communities who have done the least to cause it. The climate crisis is disproportionately impacting people who face underlying and structural inequalities such as people of colour, women and girls, indigenous communities and people living in poverty, among others. This emphasises the urgency of our work while adding new levels of complexity, as we face these unprecedented and extreme weather and climate events.

2.2 ECONOMIC CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT MYTHS CONTINUE TO PUT PRESSURE ON NATURE

Tropical forest landscapes continue to be threatened in the name of economic development. For example the [mining of critical raw materials](#) such as nickel, copper and bauxite leads to increasing deforestation in many areas of the world. It is estimated that for nickel mining in **Indonesia** alone, nearly [80,000 hectares of forest](#)

[have been cleared](#) whereas more than half a million additional hectares of forest are within nickel concessions, putting them at risk for deforestation.

Economic development myths are also opening the way for other destructive projects. For example, in **Ghana**, new environmental protection regulations allow for mining in forest reserves and globally significant biodiversity areas (GSBA) when it is [“in the national interest”](#). **Bolivia** is a strong example of a country where the government tries to boost the economy by the further expansion of the agricultural frontier and extractive industries in the indigenous forest territories that will worsen the climate and water crisis. Various infrastructure projects such as the S'on La Hydropower Dam in **Viet Nam**, the Trans-Papua Highway in **Indonesia**, and the Sarawak Hydroelectric Power Projects in **Malaysia** have caused the displacement of indigenous communities, resulting in the forced relocation of IP&LCs and the disruption of their traditional livelihoods and cultural practices. In 2023, **Colombia** elevated its diplomatic ties with China in a strategic partnership. GLA partners are concerned this might generate a rise in extensive and intensive cattle ranching in Colombia for beef export to China, and consequently increase deforestation. China's rapid expansion is also cause for concern in other countries, having negative impacts on IPs and forest territories and sometimes causes reframing of forest and environmental policy.

Similarly, the *fossil development myth* is still being pushed by the fossil industry in the world's poorest countries. At the same time, the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine, contributes to the continued dash for gas in Africa. National governments often go along with the idea that fossil fuel exploitation will provide long term benefits, for example in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, **Uganda** and **Mozambique**. This not only undermines global climate action, it also robs these countries of their own just transition to renewable energy, with billions of dollars used to benefit export demands, and undermining renewable energy investments that benefit local populations' energy needs. This increases these countries' vulnerability to fossil lock-in and stranded assets. Especially in Africa - the continent that has the largest renewable energy potential globally..

2.3 GEOPOLITICAL POWER DYNAMICS, GROWING CONSERVATISM AND POLARISATION

Global geopolitical power dynamics

October 2023, and the months that followed, have been marked by the Hamas attack on Israel and the extreme repercussions by the state of Israel that followed and are ongoing. Even though the war does not directly influence the GLA programme, it has a large influence on the geopolitical power dynamics and will potentially spark additional wars and conflicts in the region - leading to ever increasing amounts of human suffering. In addition, all wars contribute to environmental destruction, pollution and large amounts of [greenhouse gas emissions](#). There is also a high risk that human rights abusers will feel emboldened to act with impunity, and that states which consider themselves human rights defenders lose credibility. In addition, polarised positions on the conflict could hinder international collaboration and diplomacy between countries.

Dutch elections in November 2023

Unexpectedly, 2023 was an agitated year in Dutch politics. The coalition government led by Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (VVD) (in English, People's Party for Freedom and Democracy) fell halfway through its legislation. One of the immediate consequences of this were delays in regulatory processes that were ongoing during 2023, such as the consultation on binding climate goals for financial institutions and the Dutch corporate social responsibility law. New elections were called in November. The party that received the most votes was Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV) (in English, Party for Freedom), with the options for coalition building pointing towards a likely conservative government. At the time of writing, negotiations were still underway.

Looking forward, there are concerns within the Alliance as most of the parties with options to form government are openly sceptical of the need for ODA or the need to address the climate crisis and human rights violations in the global

value chains of Dutch corporations. Depending on the coalition and final agreements, there is also apprehension within the sector on what it will mean for (climate) policy processes and national and international commitments. The protection of forests, biodiversity and human rights is unlikely to be of high priority to the new government which in itself, is perceived as an important threat to the progress made by the programme to date and the communities we work with.

Pushback on gender progress

In 2023, the Ministry showcased its commitment to the recently adopted Dutch feminist foreign policy and hosted an international conference on this. Dialogue during the conference highlighted how the environment for actors working on gender, feminist issues and LGBTQ+ rights continues to be challenging. Recognition of their fundamental rights is crucial to enable women, girls and LGBTQ+ people to take these up, including engaging in community-led forest conservation and meaningfully participating in decision making about their lands. We also know from our partners that gender-based violence can seriously hinder women's engagement in forest conservation and management, particularly considering the security of women environmental and human rights defenders (WEHRD). This pushback on gender is hand in hand with the democratic backsliding experienced in many countries. It remains to be seen whether the new Dutch government maintains the long-standing commitment to gender equality and the relatively new feminist foreign policy.

2.4 RESTRICTIONS OF CIVIC SPACE, SAFETY, SECURITY AND REPRESSION CONTINUE TO BE A GROWING PROBLEM

Linked to the previous section, we identified the shrinking of civic space, repression of "unwelcome voices" and threats and violence against (women) environmental human rights defenders ((W)EHRDs) as a key challenge to achieving our goals. In some GLA countries as well as in international policy making arenas, we have seen the problem gradually getting worse over the years.

In **DRC, Colombia, the Philippines** and **Cameroon**, we continue to witness the impacts of armed conflict as well as direct threats and attacks on (W)EHRDs. The number of murdered (W)EHRDs in **Colombia** [remains extremely high](#), despite the change in government. In DRC, one of the GLA partners - IDPE - fell victim to armed robbery in 2023, limiting their activities. In the Philippines, civil society and human rights activists were further undermined by corrupted local elections and there is a risk of escalation of tension with China in the West Philippine sea. In Cameroon, two journalists were brutally murdered and the chief editor of a privately-owned newspaper was exiled, which shows the dangers of being critical towards the state and companies. Also in Vietnam, there is an increase in harassment and detention of (W)EHRDs and the programme was affected by the attack of the People's Committee in Dak Lak, killing nine people. On a more positive note, in Malaysia, the logging company Samling dropped the defamation (SLAPP) lawsuit against SAVE Rivers after ongoing national and international pressure.

In **Uganda**, the UN Human Rights office ceased operations in August 2023 after the Ugandan government decided not to renew the host country agreement. This has far-reaching negative impacts on (W)EHRDs as well as human rights. Yet, at landscape level, the GLA partners in Uganda experience an improvement in civic space as a result of the GLA work, e.g. the participation of IP&LCs in forest governance decision-making structures, which is also noticed in some GLA landscapes in other countries (e.g. **Indonesia, the Philippines, Bolivia**).

At a global level, shrinking civic space is also an issue in international policy making spaces. Civil society representatives and activists, particularly indigenous people, continue to face [intimidation tactics](#) during UNFCCC meetings, including being harassed and filmed without consent. The 2023 UNFCCC COP28 was hosted in the UAE, an authoritarian petrol-state which criminalises all forms of dissent. In light of actions aimed at drawing attention to the situation in Palestine, the UNFCCC Secretariat placed severe restrictions on protest actions during COP28. Also, during the Bonn intersessional (SB58) meeting the Mexican delegation led a [campaign](#) exposing the

intimidation, harassment and bullying that some delegates face during UNFCCC meetings, much of it sexual or gender-based in nature. This highly concerning issue led to UN climate change head Simon Stiell closing the talks by emphasising that “harassment, be it in the form of sexism, bullying or sexual harassment is not acceptable”.

Finally, although we identified it as a risk during the proposal development stage, the rise of **artificial intelligence (AI)** is a growing concern. Culturally and socially, the explosion of publicly available AI tools such as ChatGPT had a significant impact in 2023 and it remains to be seen how this will shape our world in coming years. From a feminist lens, there is concern about the extent to which these AI models might replicate and even exacerbate inequalities (for example, through deep fakes or by mimicking sexist, racist, homophobic language). It will likely add a new dimension to the disinformation crisis being experienced in recent years, which has been especially harmful for climate and gender movements.

2.5 INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS MAINTAINED IN 2023

The international policy commitments to counter climate change (Paris Agreement, Glasgow Statement), deforestation (EU deforestation regulation (EUDR)) and biodiversity loss (Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework (KM-GBF)) are important wins and real opportunities for change. There is increased recognition of the [importance of tropical forests](#), especially in light of the climate and biodiversity crises. Also we saw significant mention of indigenous peoples rights, roles, contributions and participation in the Km-GBF. This sets a very good opening for engagement of IP&LC in their national biodiversity strategy action plans. However, when it comes to the implementation of the commitments there is a need to remain vigilant for risks.

Climate and biodiversity commitments in 2023

During 2023, there was an increase in the number of signatories of the **Glasgow Statement** and the [forest pledges](#) developing fossil phase out policies to end international public fossil finance. This is a key step to phasing out fossil development and moving billions out of the fossil sector into renewable energy support. However, the signatories vary significantly in ambition. Later on in the year, at **UNFCCC COP28**, the Global Stocktake committed to phasing out fossil fuels. However, this was not met with finance for developing countries and was riddled with loopholes. Simultaneously, a global pact to triple renewable energy deployment and double energy efficiency was not linked to fossil fuel phaseout, nor was it backed by finance commitments or principles against extractivism. Increasingly rich countries are doubling down on their failure to provide finance; promoting instead private finance and a wider donor base. While they support a fossil phaseout on paper, they continue to expand fossil fuels in practice. In addition, the increased demand for transition minerals, such as nickel in **Indonesia** and **the Philippines**, calls for environmental and human rights safeguards instead of becoming just another destructive mining industry. Civil society clearly has an important role to play in monitoring the implementation of climate agreements and ensuring the process is guided by climate justice principles. In 2023, we have seen that our concerns are being picked up in the **media**, such as the failures of offsets and carbon markets, notably [the Guardian Verra investigation](#) early in the year.

The global agreement to protect 30% of the land by 2030 of the **KM-GBF** of the **CBD** is an important milestone and opportunity for forest conservation. It is however important that the conservation strategies and plans are in line with IP&LC rights, like free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), and include inclusive sustainable forest management principles. Also, there is a growing number of voluntary initiatives and industry led platforms related to **biodiversity and carbon offsetting**. For example, in **Malaysia** there are IP territories that are on the verge of becoming a carbon stock area. If the process is done properly and the FPIC process, indigenous peoples' rights and the profit/benefit sharing is clear, this can be good. However, currently there is no transparency which is a serious issue of concern. The GLA CSO partners in Malaysia are following this closely. Also in **Liberia**, there are serious concerns about the negotiation between the government and [Blue Carbon](#), against which partners took effective action in 2023 (see pathway B). In **Uganda, Indonesia** and **Malaysia** monoculture tree plantations, in the name of climate mitigation, are pushing over the forest frontiers and grabbing the land that people use for subsistence agriculture.

The majority of the GLA countries (**Indonesia, Ghana, Colombia, Cameroon, Malaysia** and **Vietnam**) are working on raising awareness on the **EUDR** and supporting local businesses and smallholders to comply with the regulation. GLA partners work closely with communities and local governments on compliance and to identify and overcome challenges and risks. There is a need to ensure that the European Commission officially collaborates with forest countries on the underlying causes of deforestation and includes the engagement of CSOs and IP&LC voices from the global south. It remains to be seen how the EUDR will impact smallholders in practice, particularly those with insecure land tenure rights such as IP&LCs and women. In addition, the review of inclusion of the banking sector in the EUDR is important for the success of the regulation.

Other positive developments

In 2023, progress was made in developing a **regional Amazonian cooperation** agenda at crucial dialogues between presidents of Amazonian countries, particularly the [pre-summit and the presidential summit](#) in August in Brazil, resulting in the Belém declaration. Although the declaration [is criticised](#) for being too vague and lacking concrete action to phase out fossil fuels, it is an important preparatory commitment for the CBD COP16 (Colombia, 2024) and UNFCCC COP30 (Brazil, 2025).

In addition, in **Uganda** the president ordered the immediate suspension of the clearing of Bugoma forest and banned the production and use of charcoal in the northern part of the country. In **Liberia**, a national action plan on business and human rights has been developed, and **Cameroon** notices an increased interest in business and human rights. **Colombian** partners acknowledge alignment with the new government's positions, yet are also aware of the difficulties in implementation. So far, concrete advances in agrarian reform and addressing deforestation have not materialised. The same goes for the government change in **Brazil**. This first year of the return of democracy in Brazil was difficult and slow, even though some women's groups managed to access benefits from national and local policies. After years of advocacy, **Ghana** has finally adopted the Wildlife Resource Management Bill, which supports the community structures involved in the management of forests. In **Indonesia**, village funds for social forestry have become available and in **Vietnam** there is growing consumer preference for eco-friendly products. As Vietnam is also a pioneer country committed to the EUDR, this is a good opportunity to promote green crop production businesses. In **the Netherlands**, there is increased attention for the role of the financial sector in the climate crisis and the destruction of nature.

3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN 2023

This section offers a general overview of the progress made at local, national, regional and international level and is not a complete description of all outcomes and outputs achieved in 2023, but is intended to provide a good impression of what has been achieved. We refer to annexes [D](#), [E](#) and [F](#) for more detailed progress reports. The progress boxes at the beginning of each pathway include quantitative PMEL data for relevant indicators ([see annex C](#)). The narrative text includes selected qualitative examples. Overall, 2023 has been a very productive year. The GLA progress was on track, sometimes slightly behind, but often ahead. We did not encounter serious concerns that would require significant programmatic changes.

All three pathways are closely connected and mutually reinforcing so for some outcomes it can be ambiguous under which pathway they fall. The report places outcomes under the most logical pathway while recognising the connection to other pathways.



Pathway A: IP&LC GOVERNANCE

Indigenous People and local communities sustainably govern increased areas of forest.

Under this pathway, GLA partners in all GLA countries invest in supporting IP&LCs in a variety of ways to strengthen their capacity to govern their lands and claim their (land) rights effectively. Mapping indigenous lands and monitoring deforestation and rights violations is an important part of this. GLA members, CSO partners and IP&LCs carry out advocacy to encourage governmental actors to legally recognise, ensure and protect the rights of IP&LCs, including their right to participate meaningfully in policy processes. Attention is also paid to developing inclusive internal governance structures, where under-represented groups (particularly women and youth) are supported to meaningfully participate in decision making.

Progress 2023: Consolidated overview monitoring data Pathway A

In 2023, the programme contributed to 54 reported changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive governance structures and sustainable IP&LC forest management (GLA indicator 4), in nine countries and at international level. Of these, 16 policies were adopted, 11 were (better) implemented, and 19 policies were blocked or drafted. These changes in policies or practices happened at different government levels, mainly local or sub-national (63%), national (43%), regional (9%) and international (9%), with several policies being relevant at multiple levels, which explains why the percentages add up to more than 100%. In 36 cases, the policy represented a change in gender equality, justice and/or inclusiveness of marginalised groups.

All the pathways of change for the programme aim to build and increase the capacities of civil society. In 2023, GLA strengthened the capacity of another 99 CSOs/CBOs (GLA indicator 9), in addition to 53 CSOs/CBOs strengthened in 2021 or 2022. Of these 99 newly strengthened CSOs/CBOs, 32 are first ring GLA partners and 67 second ring partners (subcontracted partners).

STRENGTHENING IP&LCS TO GOVERN THEIR LANDS AND CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS

Sustainable forest governance

In many of the GLA countries and landscapes, with the support and guidance of GLA partners, IP&LCs acquired more rights to govern their lands in 2023 (result 1) by registering and legalising their community governance structures and/or acquiring formal land rights. In all countries, establishing strong IP&LC governance structures is an important step. For example, in **Bolivia**, eight indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (ICCA) have been supported in establishing and strengthening their organisations and territorial governance capacity. In **Vietnam**, PanNature and NTFP-EP Vietnam contributed to the development of community development boards for three villages in Gia Lai. In **Uganda**, the project strengthened the capacity of IP&LCs and government officials in forest governance, which resulted in the participation of community forest management (CFM) groups in forest governance activities and their inclusion in the district plans.

Once IP&LC structures are in place, the next step is to ensure their formal recognition and rights to manage their land (result 4). A lot of progress has been made in this area at the local and landscape level. In **Indonesia**, NTFP-EP Indonesia and Tropenbos Indonesia supported IP&LCs to map and register five ICCAs. In **DRC**, Strong Roots helped to obtain six forest concessions for local communities and in Liberia CRSF supported seven clans to become recognised and certified by the Liberian Land Authority as land owning communities. This is the outcome of a longer process of self-identification, mapping and establishing community land development and management committees (CLDMCs) with equal representation of women. In **the Philippines**, NTFP-EP Philippines established the Higaunon Forest Federation and worked with three Higaunon partners - Pamalihi, MAMACILA and Kalanawan - to present their ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plans (ADSDPP) to local government units (LGUs). In **Vietnam**, CERGON and NTFP-EP realised community forest ownership through the forest land allocation of a total of 479 ha for ten communities in Kon Tum province.

Inclusivity in governance structures for the sustainable management of forested landscapes

A key element of the GLA theory of change is ensuring inclusive governance structures for the sustainable management of forested landscapes (result 2). The full and meaningful engagement of women and youth, in particular, in governance structures is a central element of capacity building in the communities. This is partly done through mainstreaming women and youth participation in workshops, meetings and structures. And in addition, the programme focuses on women and youth empowerment by strengthening their skills, leadership and confidence in women and youth only training and groups.

Some examples of activities in this area of work are: In **Vietnam**, the network of community-based NTFP enterprises (CBNE) organised a youth camp in December 2023 in Lam Dong province in which 14 youth-led CBNEs (including eight female-led CBNEs) were trained by experts in business planning, market research and product standards, and exchanged knowledge and experience in resource management, livelihood development, indigenous culture conservation and climate change resilience. In **Bolivia**, IBIF and CEDIB specifically strengthen the leadership and organisational capacity of women and youth, as well as training them on rights, climate and livelihoods issues. Friends of the Earth International (FoEI), in the **CRDD thematic programme** developed targeted training material on community forest management (CFM) and gender for FoE member organisations.

Overall, the focus on gender and youth is effective in enhancing inclusivity, which is visible throughout this report.

Land mapping and monitoring

Mapping indigenous and community-owned lands and monitoring illegal activities and deforestation in the GLA areas is another important element of the ToC. These maps form the basis for IP&LCs land governance agreements and evidence of violations are essential for forest protection (linked with pathways B and C).

Forest monitoring is a key part of the **CRDD thematic programme**. In 2023, FoE **Ghana, Cameroon, Indonesia, Liberia** and **Philippines** worked with 256 forest monitors, trained 102 new monitors and received 544 reports. The programme expanded the GIS and data research tools with a paid entry to palmoil.io for palm oil trade chains and started working with SarVision to map forest degradation from industrial logging in **Cameroon**. In **Ghana**, independent community monitors living at the fringes of Atewa Forest Reserve actively monitor forest activities and their presence wards off illegal operators. The monitors were trained by A Rocha Ghana in the use of the spatial monitoring and reporting tool (**SMART**) to document illegal activities and provide reports on illegalities to the Forest Services Division, which results in a reduction of threats to the forest.

In the Kibu local community forest concession in the **DRC**, IUCN NL partner [FODI supported local communities to set up community-based monitoring](#) of illegal logging and other activities that threaten the ecological integrity of the forest. Community members track where trees have been cut by using GPS and drones, Global Forest Watch then uses this data to spread deforestation warnings. IBIF in **Bolivia** received a grant to institutionalise the use of GFW within community areas to monitor deforestation and burned areas due to rampant wildfires. Bolivian partners also paid attention to [addressing the water crisis in the Chiquitania region](#). In this regard CEDIB and PROBIOMA organised the Water crisis in the Chiquitania international seminar - agrotoxics, health and socio-environmental rights. CEDIB also supported communities in the forest ecosystems in the San Ignacio area to set up a community-based monitoring system to halt the expansion of the agricultural sector, and to [monitor water quality](#) since pesticides used by agribusiness are contaminating the local water supply. In **Indonesia**, several cases of illegal activities were reported by forest monitors. The Simancuang village forest management group collected evidence of illegal logging in the village forest area and reported it to the village government for follow up. Residents of Donggala Regency reported cases of violations by two subsidiaries of Astra Agro Lestari to the governor of central Sulawesi and the provincial National Human Rights Commission.

Sustainable livelihood strategies

In 2023, a lot of progress was made in establishing livelihood strategies that are aligned with sustainable forest management. Improved livelihoods have many positive side effects in terms of social cohesion, resilience, sustainability and (women and youth's) empowerment. In Ghana, Tropenbos **Ghana** and the environmental conservation unit of the Forestry Commission raised awareness on how to conduct livelihood activities without causing wildfires led to a reduction of bush fires in the Bia West district in the Juaboso-Bia landscape. In **DRC**, with the support of CEPED, the [Union de Femmes pour le Progrès Social \(UFPS\) started to use drought-resilient farming techniques](#) including agroforestry and soil health on the outskirts of Virunga national park. This way, both livelihoods and biodiversity are protected. In **Bolivia**, IBIF helped to promote youth-led livelihood projects, such as initiatives for the implementation of agro-ecological family gardens with innovative irrigation systems.

In Indonesia, Warsi has started to [integrate Locally-Led Adaptation \(LLA\) in its work on Social Forestry](#) with local communities in West-Sumatra, to empower the communities to implement sustainable and effective strategies to adapt to climate change at the local level.

Partners in many GLA countries supported the establishment of Community Based Enterprises (CBEs), often women-led, promoting local products or activities like eco-tourism, for instance in **Indonesia**. In **the Philippines**, 24 CBEs were set up, 8 of which are run only by women and 4 are women-led. In **Viet Nam**, IP&LCs in Yang Tao commune of Lak district restored their traditional craft pottery village. In **Ghana**, the project made significant progress in agro-forestry by realising the planting of 25 trees per hectare on a total of 25 hectares of cacao farms in Juaboso-Bia. As a result the farmers indicate higher yields and a longer life of their cacao crops.

IMPROVED LEGAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF IP&LCS RIGHTS

Collaboration and coalition building to exert power

Strengthening collaboration of CSOs and IP&LCs and coalition building are important strategies to effectively exert power on decision makers and are essential parts of the GLA work in every country at the regional and international levels (result 10 and 12). The GLA coalition itself, with dozens of partners around the globe and its engagement in national and international networks, as well as the JET and CRDD thematic programmes, are examples of strengthened collaboration and coalition building. As the programme is in its third year, and many partners were also collaborating in the previous GLA programme (2016-2020), trust, familiarity and solidarity have grown and form an important foundation for effective collaboration.

In all partner countries in 2023, the GLA partners continued to strengthen their national coalitions and supported IP&LC and women and youth networks to advocate effectively at local, landscape and national level. An example from **Colombia** is the support provided by CENSAT to the indigenous collectives of Inga and Kamentsá women in the Sibundoy valley for the development of a joint action plan against extractives projects (copper mining), infrastructure (construction of roads in páramo ecosystems), mono-crop expansion, and REDD+ projects. These collectives have strengthened alliances and strategic collaborations with other stakeholders, amplifying their territories' defence actions and promoting territorial solutions in the context of the climatic crisis.

Lobby and advocacy

To ensure the meaningful participation of IP&LCs in sustainable forest governance policy development and implementation, it is important that IP&LCs are aware of their rights and of existing or planned policies. Many courses, workshops and exchange fora were conducted in 2023 to strengthen IP&LCs and CSOs capacity in this respect (result 9).

At a country level, GLA partners made progress in lobbying and advocacy at local levels, enhancing IP&LCs rights in various ways. For example in **Indonesia**, Pilimakujawa village issued a village regulation that regulates the community management, protection and utilisation of natural resources in the village. In **the Philippines**, after years of lobbying by GLA partners ATM, Convergence of Initiative for Environmental Justice (CIEJ), IP&LCs and other stakeholders, three provincial governments in Mindanao signed a joint ordinance to [protect the Marbel Buluan watershed](#) which is crucial for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation and the livelihoods of local communities. In Colombia, the outcomes of the regional Amazonian table have helped to place indigenous peoples and their knowledge systems at the centre of the new government agenda.

The ultimate goal of increased participation and rights of IP&LCs is the protection and sustainable and inclusive management of forests. The GLA programme is effective in ensuring that IP&LCs become aware of threats and are able to speak up and prevent or stop destructive practices.

In **Malaysia**, IP&LCs became aware that the vision for Upper Baram forest area (UFBA) was changed by the forestry department without the involvement of civil society. The original proposal stated that the core zone area of the forest is supposed to be protected as a no-touch zone, however the forestry department later proposed to run it according to sustainable forest management (SFM), which would allow entrance into the virgin rainforest and the core area. In response, NGOs and IP&LCs of the UBFA area came up with the [UBFA declaration](#) which sets forth the hopes and vision for the UBFA project – the first indigenous-led and co-managed protected area of its kind in Sarawak. This forms the basis for continued advocacy. In Cameroon, local and indigenous communities achieved support from CED and the CRDD programme to organise themselves to take legal and other steps against industrial logging of the Ebo forest.

LGL POLICY DOSSIERS RELATED TO PATHWAY A: INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTION

Under this pathway, we worked on two relevant international policy dossiers to ensure IP&LCs participation in these policy processes and to include support for sustainable IP&LCs forest management.

International Policy dossier: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

In 2022, the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)** was adopted at the UN CBD COP15, with 23 targets aimed at halting global biodiversity loss and restoring biodiversity by 2030. Following this, the work of GLA partners in this international policy dossier has largely focused on promoting the recognition of the importance of indigenous territories for the protection of biodiversity. In 2023, the GLA Alliance contributed to international dialogues at different levels. Some of these activities have been mentioned above under lobby and advocacy related to pathway A.

At the local and regional level, **Gaia Amazonas**, coordinator of the North Amazon Alliance (ANA), has promoted the recognition of indigenous territories as key for biodiversity protection at the CBD. For this, Gaia Amazonas informed the discussion for the Amazon and highlighted the importance of this bio region for the implementation of the GBF worldwide. For example, through ANA, Gaia Amazonas has followed the national process for the Colombian national biodiversity action plan. In addition, Gaia Amazonas continued to work with ANA to motivate Amazonian governments to jointly agree on a regional approach for the Amazon in the frame of the presidential summit in Belém do Pará in August. **NTFP-EP** coordinated the advocacy of the ICCA Consortium in Southeast Asia. In the Philippines, they also co-organized a National Roundtable Discussion of Indigenous Peoples for Biodiversity to lobby for inclusion of indigenous peoples perspectives and plans in the Philippines Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (PBSAP).

At the global level, **FoEI and FoE organisations** focused their interventions on pushing for coherence between climate and biodiversity policies. The FoEI introduced several proposals to ensure more coherence regarding climate and biodiversity policies in the draft CBD SBSTTA text, which will be further discussed at the CBD COP in 2024. Also, FoE members raised awareness on the negative impacts of some nature-based solutions (NbS) among decision makers through interventions and lobbying during the SBSTTA meeting and the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) consultation process on NbS in Nairobi in October 2023. As a result there was no formal outcome on NbS at the UNEA consultation process and the SBSTTA did not endorse the document.

IUCN NL is involved in the CBD process in the Netherlands, as well as internationally by supporting ICCAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), monitoring and evaluation and resource mobilisation. In 2023, IUCN NL contributed to the national biodiversity strategy and action plan of the Netherlands by leading the non-state actor contributions for the targets on climate, mainstreaming, ecological footprint, finance, gender and inclusivity. GFC focused on promoting the gender-responsive implementation of the GBF. For this, GFC continued engaging with the CBD women's caucus and CBD Alliance, participating in online and face to face events and press conferences, writing articles and delivering a statement in negotiations to defend the gender-responsive implementation of the GBF. A task force on the monitoring framework was created under the CBD women's caucus. Also, GFC led and facilitated collective actions to improve gender-responsive language in the negotiated text at SBSTTA 25.

International Policy dossier: UNFCCC

Under this policy dossier we aim to strengthen the recognition and position of IP&LCs, women and youth in the discussions, design and implementation of climate action, particularly related to the UNFCCC process. Activities include strengthening capacities of IP&LCs, women and youth groups to participate in national and international discussions on climate action (result 8) and contribute to all three pathways.

In July 2023, **WECF** was invited to participate in and speak at a three day strategy workshop on women's land rights in the context of the three Rio conventions (climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (CBD) and desertification (UNCCD)). This was a groundbreaking event as it was the first time that actors - including civil society, policymakers and donors, national focal points, convention secretariat representatives - working across the three conventions were brought together to harness synergies and develop concrete actions on strengthening women's land rights. WECF addressed the provisions and gaps of the UNFCCC in relation to (women's) land rights, and highlighted best practices for equitable land tenure.

NTFP-EP Asia facilitated and co-organised activities aimed primarily at amplifying youth voices and promoting indigenous rights at UNFCCC meetings and the 2023 Asia-Pacific Climate Week. Due to NTFP-EP's work, Asami Segundo, representing Asian IP youth, delivered the indigenous caucus' closing statement for the UNFCCC SB58 meeting in June 2023 in Bonn, Germany.

The GLA was also present in the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties 28 and organised a number of side events, including:

- ☒ The GLA (under the lead of **NTFP-EP**) co-organised a side event with the Gagga Alliance entitled Gender-just climate policy and finance: from barriers to actionable solutions.
- ☒ **IUCN NL, Gaia Amazonas, NTFP-EP, Tropenbos International** and **WECF** organised side events at COP28 in the blue zone and at the IUCN pavilion that explored approaches to prevent and repair forest and biodiversity loss. These events emphasised the power of locally-led approaches to climate adaptation and mitigation and showcased the critical role of IP&LCs in protecting forests.
- ☒ **NTFP-EP**, together with other CSO partners, co-organised a side event entitled, Indigenous Peoples' right-based, bottom-up, and collaborative solutions for nature and climate.
- ☒ **WECF** organised the eighth edition of the annual [Gender Just Climate Solutions](#) ceremony at COP28. The winner of the non-technical solution category was an indigenous women's group from Kenya (Paran women group) working on reforestation of native tree species, eco-friendly briquette making to reduce dependence on firewood, and agro-ecological food production with local seeds. The award ceremony received considerable attention including from party delegates and other high-level stakeholders. WECF also organised two pavilion [side events](#) with a focus on forests, biodiversity and gender and community justice.

Both Gaia Amazonas and NTFP-EP promoted the engagement of youth and IPs at COP28. For example, **Gaia Amazonas** facilitated the participation of an indigenous representative from the indigenous territories of the northeast Colombian Amazon. He participated in side events and spoke to high level decision makers on behalf of his territory, Pirá Paraná, sharing the story of how his territory brought the first case on human and indigenous rights violations related to carbon credits to the constitutional court in Colombia. In preparation for COP28, **NTFP-EP**, as a member of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, supported and co-organised a hybrid coordination meeting among the Philippine CSOs and Aksyon Klima members.

STORY OF CHANGE



Photo by Rowena Combang | Mga Kalebonan et BICAMM

INDIGENOUS PALAWANO WOMEN CHAMPION THE CALL TO SAVE PALAWAN'S FORESTS

In Brooke's Point, Palawan, Philippines, an indigenous Palawano woman leader directs action to safeguard community livelihoods.

Norima Mantaran Mablon, a 44-year-old indigenous Palawano woman, has taken a firm stance with fellow Palawenos in a peaceful barricade against Iplan Nickel Corporation.

With fellow residents, farmers, fisherfolks, indigenous people, including women and youth, and local government, the barricade continues to protest the mining giant's extraction of nickel in their municipality.

Norima is the chairperson of the local women's group, Mga Kalebonan BICAMM (Women of BICAMM) in Brooke's Point. Asked why campaigning to stop mining is so important to them, she explains: "The mining site is operating in areas of our livelihood activities." She adds that for them, as indigenous women, mining not only damages the forest ecosystem - part of Mt. Mantalingahan, a government-declared protected area, and the ancestral forests of the indigenous Palawano - it threatens their livelihood, food and water sources.

Amid tensions of the ongoing mining operations, Norima and the women of MKE-BICAMM, continue to strengthen their ranks. Formally established as an organisation in 2019, their vision is in a healthy community and environment where women's voices are recognised. With the support of civil society partners like Philippines non-timber forest products exchange programme (NTFP-EP) through the GLA programme, MKE-BICAMM has been legally registered, recognised and accredited by the local government.

In line with their mission to care for nature, biodiversity and community through their programmes, MKE-BICAMM continues to promote and secure indigenous women's access to livelihoods and water.

In 2023, they gained a civil society seat in the technical working group of the municipal's environmentally critical areas network (ECAN) board. The ECAN board deals with the zoning of environmentally critical areas in Palawan. This meant that Norima would be part of the team conducting consultations and field validation - the first and only indigenous woman on the board.

"I thank NTFP-EP, who assisted and formed us, and all those who believed in us," said Norima. She hopes to continue strengthening MKE-BICAMM's leadership, and focus on deepening their knowledge of indigenous rights and environmental laws, and be able to support livelihoods that are rooted in their ancestral domain. Norima said they cannot tire from explaining the ill effects of mining on their livelihood activities. **"It is essential"**, she said, **"because the impact spares no one. All will be affected."**



Pathway B: DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION

Governments and agro-commodity, extractives, energy and infrastructure sectors no longer drive deforestation and address citizens' concerns to protect forests and human rights.

Under this pathway we target local and national governments and intergovernmental bodies as well as private sector initiatives and actors to halt deforestation. We aim to strengthen the influence of governments over the private sector through regulations and enforcement of environmental and human rights policies. We also seek to ensure that governments, businesses and investors implement policies which ensure the protection of human rights (due diligence). The drivers of deforestation are addressed at different levels and through different constituencies of Alliance members and CSO partners that collaborate in specific short term interventions or longer term collaborations.

Progress 2023: Consolidated overview monitoring data Pathway B

In 2023, the programme contributed to the implementation and compliance or blockage of 62 policies and regulations addressing drivers of deforestation by public and private actors (GLA indicator 3). The main focus of the policies was on community-led governance and management of land and forests; the agro industry (oil, palm oil, soy, cattle, etc.); management regulations for the financial and economic sectors that drive deforestation; biodiversity loss and nature conservation; mining; human rights and the rights of (W)EHRDS. Thirty two reflected a change in policies of public actors, nine of private actors, 15 by civil actors, such as community leaders or community groups, and two by civil society actors. Of the 62 changes in policies or practices, 50% were relevant at a local level, 55% at national level and 16% covered the international or regional levels comprising several countries (with some issues relevant for multiple levels). Thirty eight policy changes were related to gender and/or inclusiveness.

The programme contributed to the adoption of 27 standards and regulations by public and private actors to address the drivers of deforestation in a gender responsive way and to protect the rights of (W)EHRDS (GLA indicator 5). Nine of these reflect a change in policy of public actors and 11 policies reflect a change in policy by local (Indigenous) authorities. Twenty out of 27 policies represent a change related to gender equality, justice and/or inclusiveness of marginalised groups. The changes in policies or practices were relevant at different levels: local (67%) national (59%), regional (15%) or international (11%). Multiple levels are possible per issue.

Social movements, constituents and media took up 103 relevant cases covering environmental IP&LCs and deforestation drivers in 11 countries, including the Netherlands (GLA indicator 7). Seventeen cases (17%) explicitly sought to more equally distribute power or access to resources between women and men. Additionally, 28 cases (27%) paid explicit attention to differences between men and women, but not to the extent as previously described. In 15 cases (15%), gender was mentioned in the agenda but not covered in the analysis, and in 43 cases (42%) gender was not covered at all.

GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ACTORS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR DEFORESTATION AND RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

At the country level, the GLA works with IP&LCs and CSOs to prevent deforestation and to hold governments and private sector actors accountable for deforestation and rights violations (result 3). The GLA efforts to strengthen networks and coalitions (result 10), to monitor violations (result 8), work with the media (result 7) and lobby and advocate for forest protection and human and women's rights (result 5) reaped many small and large results in 2023. Examples are highlighted below.

In **Bolivia**, a combination of community engagement, advocacy and media work, particularly regarding rights violations around mining sites, contributed to the Bolivian government enacting Supreme Decree 4959 in June 2023. This decree establishes mechanisms to monitor and control the import, export and commercialisation of mercury, with the explicit argument of "protecting the environment and health". At the municipality level, IP&LCs and municipalities have strengthened their capacities for the management and protection of their water sources (SAVIA). Following this, the autonomous municipal government of Puerto Suárez defended the importance of the Cáceres Lagoon in different spaces, positioning itself as the articulator of different actors working on the problem in the region, including government actors, private sector, civil society, IP&LC, scientists and media.

In **Cameroon**, CED supports communities and community leaders to defend themselves against the state or private investors. In 2023, CED opened four new cases: 1) forced evictions in mining sites in Kambele; 2) killings of community members in mining sites in Kambele; 3) clearing of large portions of community land for banana plantations in Yawanda and Ndogtima Nyong (Sanaga Maritime Division); 4) rubber plantations in Avebe (Dja and Lobo division). In all cases the failures of the investors to comply with the legislation and with community rights and environmental protection were documented and shared. As a result, the parliament made a very critical assessment of these large concessions for land and forest. So far, CED succeeded in suspending forest clearing in Ndogtima Nyong and Avebe.

In **Colombia**, Gaia Amazonas invested extensively in data collection, analysis and sharing. As a result, the indigenous councils and the general population have access to detailed information about land cover changes in and around their territories, both at a national level and at a cross-border level. This information has allowed for a comprehensive analysis of the pressures and threats for the territory and the development of control actions to deal with these situations more efficiently. In addition, FCDS, TBC and CENSAT organised the regional Dialogues on Deforestation and Degradation: Thinking and Acting from the Territories, where stakeholders reflected on the institutional policies to control deforestation and the alternative community-based initiatives. The dialogue was attended by 300 people with broad participation of civil society, academia and representatives of governmental entities and legislative work units of the congress.

In **DRC**, GLA partners focused on education, awareness-raising and capacity building as the preliminary steps towards holding government and private actors accountable. For example, IDPE organised 14 environmental education and awareness sessions on climate change and the fight against oil exploitation for young people and members of IP&LCs living at the borders of Virunga national park. Currently, seven pilot clubs of ambassadors, made up of 85 students, youth and members of local communities, are operational and raise awareness against the proposed oil exploitation desires of the DRC government. In addition, capacity building, mobilisation and a community action roundtable was organised for leaders of the fishing community on crimes related to the biodiversity of Lake Edward in Virunga national park. This coincided with capacity strengthening for criminal investigation officers working against environmental crimes at Lake Edward.

In **Ghana**, two unexpected policy developments required the immediate attention and action of the GLA partners and IP&LCs communities. Firstly, the government permitted the president to allow mining in forest reserves, including in globally significant biodiversity areas (GSBAs) if he deems it to be in the interest of the country. This is a complete deviation from principles of conservation. GLA partners, together with other CSOs mounted a [vigorous](#)

[advocacy and media campaign](#) for an amendment or repeal of this decision. So far, the decision is still in force and the campaign continues. Secondly, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources presented the Environmental Protection Authority Bill to parliament for passage. The bill has provisions that are detrimental to forest conservation and the government wanted to speed its passage by using a certificate of urgency. Consequently, the GLA partners together with other CSOs advocated for a halt of the process and a revision of the bill, which resulted in the withdrawal of the certificate of urgency allowing more time for further engagements.

In **Indonesia**, the programme strives for no new national or sub-national permits for large-scale plantations, mining and extractive industries. WARSI and other CSOs in West Sumatra are investigating the application for a timber forest product utilisation business license by PT Bumi Rangkiang Sejahtera covering ± 43,591 ha in South Solok Regency which overlaps with six social forestry permits covering ± 4,285 ha. They advocate with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to not issue permits in overlapping areas in accordance with applicable regulations. Also, with the facilitation from Tropenbos Indonesia and Sawit Watch, the district government of Kayong Utara Regency has issued a district action plan on sustainable oil palm in November 2023. With the issuance of this action plan, the district received a palm oil production sharing fund worth 19.9 billion IDR (1,143,783.22 EUR) in 2023-2024. In July 2023, the Bulungan district government in consultation with Sawit Watch, initiated a regional regulation on the protection of agricultural lands which will protect food areas from the expansion of oil palm and mining plantations.

In **Liberia**, SDI and members of the CSO oil palm working group (CSO-OPWG) have been able to meaningfully influence the development of the national action plan on business and human rights (NAPBHR) by ensuring the inclusion of issues in the agro commodity sector and provisions for redress and remedy for communities.

In **the Philippines**, NTFP, ELAC and IDEAS all used different and complementing strategies (e.g. awareness raising, lobby and advocacy support and legal support) to draw attention the fact that the Celestial Nickel Exploration Corporation and its operator Ipilan Nickel Mining Corporation had not obtained FPIC from IPs prior to their operations. As a result the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) regional office [ordered an immediate cease-and-desist](#) from their nickel mining business in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

Uganda approved the revised national energy policy in 2023 aiming to reduce pressure on forested landscapes. The new policy emphasises more access to electricity, access to clean cooking and renewable energy. Also, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development completed the Bugoma forest boundary opening report in 2023 which is the starting point for potential restoration activities. Despite these positive developments, the GLA partners also indicate that the government is generally slow in the review and enactment of environmental laws, such as the Land Acquisition Bill and continues to move forward with the EACOP and other oil projects.

Media engagement

Media plays an important role in all three pathways and is an important strategy to exert power and hold governments and private actors accountable (result 7). **Liberia** and **Bolivia** particularly invested in this strategy, reaping impressive results. In **Liberia**, the GLA works with investigative journalism platform the DayLight and Liberia Forest Media Watch (LFMW), which runs the Forest Hour radio show. This proved a fruitful collaboration. [The DayLight's investigation](#) of an illegal logging operation known as Kpokolo led to a ban by Liberia's Forestry Development Authority (FDA). The [investigation](#) also provided evidence that influenced the [Forest Development Authority decision to debar](#) three logging companies for deforestation and illegal logging. In addition, the DayLight investigated a dubious deal between the government of Liberia and Blue Carbon, a UAE-based company. This proposed deal was discussed in a live talk show on the Forest Hour radio show. It brought to [the attention of policymakers](#), opinion leaders and the public that several Liberian laws and international conventions would be broken by the deal and ultimately led to the halting of the deal during the negotiation process.

In **Bolivia**, CEDIB and PROBIOMA provided support to Bolivian journalists affiliated with the National Association of Journalists of Bolivia to report on human and environmental rights violations, both as organisations and as individuals, by providing more protection at national and international level. In 2023, 27 publications and 48 radio

programmes have been broadcasted on the impacts of mining and agro-extractivism on water resources, forests, fires and food systems, as well as analyses of the political and socio-environmental context in Bolivia.

On a slightly different note, but related, in Colombia, **TBC and CENSAT** organised an interactive display on deforestation called Behind Smoke and Chainsaws for three months at the Science Museum in Bogotá (Maloka). The exhibition was visited by 1200 people. In the exhibition five practices of community forest management in the most deforested departments of the country (Caquetá, Guaviare and Putumayo) were shared through a giant installation of an infographic, that was built on stories that were generated in the Dialogues on Deforestation and Degradation: Thinking and Acting from the Territories. Officials from the environment ministry, the embassy of the Netherlands, and allied organisations, were present at the launch of the interactive display and learned how communities regained control in their territories.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION

At the regional and international levels, we addressed the drivers of deforestation through our local-to-global-to-local (LGL) work on one policy dossier: EU deforestation legislation; our two thematic programmes: CRDD and JET; and regional collaboration in Southeast Asia.

International Policy dossier: EU Deforestation Legislation

Within the EU deforestation legislation international policy dossier, we focus on the EU and Dutch action to address deforestation and target, in particular, the Dutch government, the European Commission, the European Parliament and member states, which are key actors to halt deforestation in supply chains and beyond. We focused on the approval, implementation as well as flanking measures of the EUDR to minimise the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the European market. **Fern, TBI, IUCN NL, Milieudefensie, SDI and GFC** are all working on this policy dossier together with partners and non-GLA networks and play an important role in bringing the perspective of civil society in the global south into the decision-making platforms.

The GLA partners identified several risks around the EUDR, including corruption and the political situation in some of our target countries and the danger that commodities linked to deforestation, off limits to the EU market, will simply be welcomed in less scrupulous markets. There is also a risk that the regulation may harm local smallholders who could be left out of the supply chain. Also, the financial sector is not yet included in the EUDR, meaning that deforestation companies can still receive finance from Europe's financial sector. Access to justice for affected communities and restoration of forest is not included in the EUDR. The growing demand for transition minerals is also a risk for deforestation which is not included in the EUDR, stressing the need to monitor underlying drivers of deforestation beyond agriculture. Fern is monitoring the EU [CRMA](#) developments and has coordinated a [position paper](#) on the CRMA with more than 40 NGOs.

On the day the EUDR entered into force, **Fern** published a [joint call to EU member states](#), signed by more than 150 NGOs, which outlined the immediate actions needed to implement and properly enforce the EUDR, including deadlines for setting up and authorising competent authorities, and a deadline for commercial actors to comply. Another letter in July updated and reinforced this messaging. In May 2023, Fern co-funded a meeting in London with EU ministries to discuss competent authorities' involvement. As a result of these activities, there is now greater scrutiny over competent authorities. **IUCN NL** and **TBI** have started to participate in EUDR-related stakeholder meetings of the Dutch government with specific knowledge on palm oil, soy and cacao, to promote meaningful implementation.

The NGO smallholder coalition, including **Fern** and **TBI**, organised a meeting in November 2023 on the sidelines of the Amsterdam Declaration Partnership (ADP) meeting in Belgium to discuss smallholders' concerns. Over 40 participants joined from companies, NGOs, including partner NGOs from producer countries, representatives from the EC, GIZ and ADP. In addition, GLA members devoted considerable energy and resources preparing civil society partners and smallholders in producer countries on the content and obligations of the EUDR and how to navigate these. For any chance of success, the EUDR must be a vehicle that leads to a true transition on the ground and allows smallholders and family farmers to benefit from the EUDR. This is especially true for women and other under-represented actors who ensure food security for their communities and the wider world while facing insecure land tenure rights.

GLA members and partners helped to organise outreach to smallholders on the ground - most notably in **Ghana, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Vietnam** and **Indonesia** - to further develop EUDR strategies and to explore with small producers and CSOs how to overcome challenges and risks, and grasp opportunities related to the EUDR. The partners carried out deeper explorations of the law with partners in **Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Ghana** and **Vietnam**. **CED, Fern** and **Milieudéfense** used the EUDR as leverage in [a publication](#) on forest degradation and deforestation in **Cameroon** and the impact on the outcome of the countries benchmarking under EUDR.

Thematic programme: Community rights and deforestation drivers (CRDD)

Through the CRDD thematic programme, FoE groups organise their work with IP&LCs and allies to connect IP&LC rights and corporate driven deforestation struggles to national, regional and international fora and social movements. The CRDD main intervention strategies focus on the mobilisation of IP&LC-based social movements and documenting, exposing and filing grievances on harms inflicted by industrial deforestation drivers.

In 2023, key achievements were:

- ☒ Local forest monitoring support provided in **Ghana, Cameroon, Indonesia, Liberia** and **the Philippines**.
- ☒ Collaboration with WALHI (**Indonesia**) to promote the Ekonomi Nusantara vision of an economy based on community control over land. A WALHI team visited the Netherlands and created a larger network of support for this vision amongst CSOs in Europe, potential buyers of the community produce, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and scientists.
- ☒ FoE Africa achieved increased commitment from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to take action against the expansion of industrial monoculture plantations during presentations, lobby and media conferences during its parliamentary session.
- ☒ Various financiers and consumer goods companies divested or suspended from harmful agri-business companies including Swiss and Dutch (PFZW) pension funds and ten consumer goods companies. GLA partners decided to appeal in a freedom of information (FOI) request in the Netherlands to get documents on the financing of guards by Dutch development bank FMO in DRC. SAM (**Malaysia**) organised mobilisation activities to resist deforestation and landgrabs and to restore mangroves. This was covered well in the media and resulted in more financial support for biodiversity conservation. Also, the national government took action against the Kelantan state government that planned to remove the legal protection of protected forests.
- ☒ Another positive result was the launch of a [Team Europe Initiative](#) by the Dutch government, and its contribution of 20 million EUR to tackle the root cause of deforestation and implement the EUDR.
- ☒ Through CRDD's work on civic space, the project gained attention from the UN special rapporteur for two WEHRDs in Indonesia and one EHRD from Sierra Leone who were released from unlawful arrest after CSO actions.

Thematic programme: Just energy transition (JET)

The just energy transition (JET) programme connects local to global struggles addressing climate change by halting deforestation and human rights violations related to fossil and renewable energy-related mineral extractivism and deforestation activities. During 2023, the JET programme focused on supporting international collaboration in lobbying and advocacy, and mutual capacity building around fossil energy and renewable energy-related raw materials extractivism.

Just transition and climate was included in the [provisions](#) of the revised OECD guidelines for multinational companies, adopted in 2023. This is an important step, because all binding regulations and (inter)national legislation are ultimately based on the OECD guidelines. This contributes towards ambitious legal frameworks, standards and commitments to [protect the planet and human rights](#).

In 2023, key achievements within the programme were:

- ☒ Important steps were made to contribute to end export credit agencies' fossil support abroad. At the end of 2022, the Netherlands introduced its phase-out policy, which unfortunately included some fossil exceptions - such as the introduction of a transition year. In early 2023, the Dutch government decided to support a large fossil project, worth 300 million EUR, off the coast of Brazil. The GLA raised this with [Dutch MPs](#) and [Dutch media](#) and coordinated an [urgent call](#) from southern JET partners to the Dutch government to stop fossil support altogether. The commotion contributed to the Dutch government ultimately abandoning the majority of the fossil projects during the transition year. At an international level, JET partners also kept pressure on signatories of the Glasgow Statement by engaging in joint advocacy research, such as the publication [Changing the Trade Winds](#).
- ☒ The JET programme continued its advocacy to stop TotalEnergies' restart of the Mozgas LNG project in Cabo Delgado (Mozambique) in 2023. JET's long term advocacy around the situation in Cabo Delgado resulted in a parliamentary request (2021) for an independent evaluation of the Dutch ECA support for the LNG project. The [independent investigation](#) was published mid-2023 and revealed serious flaws in ADSB's assessment process. During the last quarter of 2023, Milieudefensie co-organised a Dutch tour for a delegation of Mozambican activists and journalist Alex Perry. It gained considerable press attention and contributed to a widely supported [parliamentary motion](#) calling upon the Dutch cabinet to inform parliamentarians about the results of the reassessment of the ECA support for the LNG project.
- ☒ Throughout 2023, Milieudefensie worked on the integration and mainstreaming of our JET perspectives in key Dutch policies, such as the Dutch Africa strategy and the Dutch raw materials strategy. This resulted in several questions from MPs across political parties as well as motions in line with our JET input and concerns.
- ☒ Finally, JET partners in Uganda and Colombia effectively mobilised local communities and groups to stop destructive fossil projects and push for a just energy transition. In Uganda, EGI was able to stop a Japanese bank from funding EACOP and this bank warned other investors about the risks of the project.

Mining and deforestation

Although it is not formally an international policy dossier of the GLA, several partners have increased their focus on addressing concerns from civil society on the nexus between mining and deforestation. This is not new and several alliance members and in-country CSO partners (e.g. ATM in the Philippines, JET partners) have been working on this since the beginning of the programme. The introduction of the [EU Critical Raw Materials Act](#) (CRMA) and the [Dutch raw materials strategy](#) in 2023, however, made the importance of working on this dossier from a local-to-global-to-local approach more evident.

In **the Netherlands**, IUCN NL advocated at different levels for stronger environmental and human rights safeguards for the mining of energy transition minerals, most notably nickel which is causing major deforestation and environmental degradation. This included advocacy on the rights of IP&LCs in the CRMA and the Dutch raw materials strategy. Also, IUCN NL, together with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organised a knowledge session on the updated OECD guidelines, where the impact of nickel mining on primary rainforest areas and IP&LCs in eastern Indonesia was highlighted as an example through the video [Tompotika: Forests, Nickel, and Critical Choices](#) produced by AITo and IUCN NL. Supported by IUCN NL, VBDO, in collaboration with the Rainforest Foundation Norway, successfully initiated an [investor statement regarding nickel supply chains](#) to address the negative environmental and social impact of the entire electric vehicle nickel chain. With Aid Environment, IUCN NL developed a [report on palm oil trade flows between Colombia and the EU](#), and potential social and environmental concerns in palm oil production in the country (2nd version forthcoming).

As part of the **JET programme**, Milieudefensie, together with southern JET partners and European CSOs organised in the Raw Materials Coalition (RMC), advocated for the development of a Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA) that supports responsible renewable alternatives that protect the forest/ecosystems, human rights of affected communities, and a just transition in the global south.

Finally, as noted earlier the EUDR does not contemplate the risk that the growing demand for transition minerals has on forests. In order to monitor underlying drivers of deforestation beyond agriculture, Fern is monitoring the EU [CRMA](#) developments and has coordinated a [position paper](#) on this with more than 40 NGOs.

Regional collaboration and advocacy towards ASEAN governments

The Asia regional collaboration involves the voluntary participation of Alliance members and 26 country partners with four priority themes for joint learning and advocacy: 1) extractive, destructive and intrusive projects and programmes (EDIPP): mining, dams, oil palm plantations; 2) forest governance and tenure rights: social forestry and ICCAs; 3) defending (W)EHRDs; and 4) food sovereignty/security and community-based livelihoods.

To address the drivers of deforestation in the ASEAN region, a [briefing paper](#) on the drivers and trends of EDIPPs in Southeast Asia was developed by the Asian GLA partners in August 2023. The paper looked at the implications of EDIPPS on biodiversity conservation and climate action including the gender angle.

In **Asia**, NTFP-EP facilitated joint advocacy in the region. They supported the launch of the ASEAN guidelines on Recognition of Customary Tenure in Forested Landscapes (2023). Another important outcome was the ASEAN approval of the concept of a regional FPIC handbook.

STORY OF
CHANGE

Photo by Avebe communities mobilised to protect their land

AVEBE COMMUNITIES MOBILISED TO PROTECT THEIR LAND

For over five years, the people of Avebe and Meyos in southern Cameroon, near the Dja Wildlife Reserve, have been battling to protect their land from the encroachment of RubberCam. The company has already cleared 1,200 hectares of forest to plant rubber and plantains, threatening the livelihoods and environment of the local communities.

The communities were not informed about a concession contract granted by the state for their land, nor did they consent to the allocation of such a vast area to the company. Communication between the company and the communities broke down, and the local administration was not responding to the community's questions.

A project led by the Cameroonian GLA partner group CED (*Centre pour l'Environnement et de Développement*) has helped the communities map their land, highlighting the cleared areas and pointing out the risks of land and resource scarcity in the area.

During the Land Tenure Week at the National Assembly, a community representative presented the situation in his village. This led to a senior official from the Ministry of Land Affairs taking notice. The Land Tenure Week is an event that brings together stakeholders in land tenure and natural resources management, to discuss the challenges of land management and suggest resolutions to improve land governance in Cameroon.

Following this, a meeting at the Ministry accelerated the investigation. It led to site visits that revealed the plantation lacked proper authorization. A complaint lodged with the administrative court is currently being processed.

The case shows how quickly the authorities can react once the matter has been referred to them at central level. One lesson learned is that communities that persevere in their fight end up winning protection for their land. The case also underscores the importance of using every possible means of recourse to deal with attempts to take over land: appeals to the authorities and legal action.

The project did not initiate or lead the fight. It provided support to community members who were leading the fight, ensured their involvement, and enabled them to express their views in the conflict. This approach helped identify areas of disagreement and allowed for the formulation of comprehensive arguments and holistic solutions.



Pathway C: CIVIC SPACE

Citizens enjoy human and women's rights and safely participate in social movements.

Under this pathway, Alliance members, partners and other CSOs and (W) EHRDs work together to monitor, secure and expand civic space, which is an important precondition for achieving results under Pathway A and B. Our main approaches are analysing, monitoring and documenting abuses and human rights violations, setting up effective safety and security strategies, advocating for improved women and human rights protection and ensuring access to justice for impacted communities and (W)EHRDs.

Progress 2023: Consolidated overview monitoring data Pathway C

In 2023, the GLA contributed to at least 89 spaces in 11 countries where IP&LCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement, and are increasingly recognised by governments (GLA indicator 8). The groups that reported increased presence in these spaces were CSOs (14), community-based organisations (4), social movements (10), women's groups (19), indigenous communities (31) and local communities (8). Achievements ranged from creating spaces in policy dialogues on land policies at national, regional and community levels, enabling oil and mining affected communities to defend their rights, and creating spaces on the international level such as the EU CRMA and the EUDR.



Photo by Irene | FPAR training in Pontianak, West Kalimantan

GLA CIVIC SPACE SURVEY AND REPORT

At the end of 2022, the GLA carried out an internal baseline survey to get a more in-depth and nuanced overview of civic space in the countries and landscapes where the programme is implemented. The data was analysed in early 2023, and took into account other external sources to complement the information gathered. Validation sessions were also carried out with the CSOs per region to present and discuss the findings.

The results from the survey showed a further deterioration of civic space in many GLA countries, while in some countries the situation remained the same. The MTR that was carried out later in the year, concluded that the recommendations from the civic space survey were solid and should be put into action. These were summarised in MTR recommendation 1 (prioritise and implement recommendations from the 2023 civic space survey). Among others, these have been operationalised into the following activities:

- ☐ Enhance the information sharing for accessing GLA emergency funds (refer to box below);
- ☐ Continue and intensify support and engagement between GLA partners at country level on addressing civic space challenges
- ☐ Continue, and where relevant, intensify engagement of country partners with Dutch embassies and other diplomatic agencies in their countries of intervention
- ☐ Provide capacity building and resources to pursue the viability of accessing regional jurisdictions for case filing and advocacy and accessing other regional intergovernmental platforms
- ☐ Provide capacity building and a wider understanding of different human rights instruments agreed at regional and international levels i.e. UN procedures, Special Rapporteur..

ADDRESSING CSO AND IP&LC REPRESSION AND INSECURITY

Repression of civil society and IP&LCs, including threats, violence and murder, remained highly problematic in 2023. All countries invested in **strengthening (W)EHRDs' capacity to protect themselves in different ways** against this.

IUCN NL continued its work with Protection International (PI) in **Ghana, Uganda, Bolivia, Indonesia and the Philippines**. In all of these countries PI worked with the in-country GLA partners on risk analysis and security protocols not only for the GLA partners themselves but also for some of the (indigenous) communities they work with in the GLA landscapes in these countries. For example, in **Bolivia** environmental defenders from Roboré strengthened their capacity for risk analysis and planning of collective self-protection strategies with the support of PI, IUCN NL and in coordination with CONTIOCAP. Also, the women's association of Santo Corazón, in Chiquitanía, who are active in resisting mining in their region, reached out to other communities in southern Chiquitanía to reinforce their networks and alliances. This is an important condition for their protection. In **Uganda**, the partners indicate that the national and international collaborations and joint advocacy reduced threats to individual organisations. In **Indonesia**, security protocols have been developed to

support (W)EHRDs, and all partners provided feminist participatory action research (FPAR) training to women at the grassroots level to enable them to address human rights violations. In Ghana, partners report that the capacity building of over 50 forest monitors to ensure safety and security during monitoring has reduced conflict and attacks.

Through the CRDD thematic programme, SAM (**Malaysia**) organised a conference in 2023 to address the increasing threat of SLAPP cases. As a result, more than 50 participants have a better understanding of policy and legal reforms to protect (W)EHRDs from SLAPP cases. The participants came from 23 CSOs/CBOs, five legal firms, one media company, one political party, the Commission of Human Rights of Malaysia and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change. Half of the participants were either practising lawyers or individuals with professional legal training.

In terms of advocacy on repressive laws and policies, partners in **Ghana** provided input on the proposed Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) Bill. The draft NPO bill currently includes vague conditions for suspending or revoking a licence, providing the NPO Commission with broad discretion to suspend or revoke an organisation's licence. Because of this and many other troublesome clauses in the bill, IUCN NL has linked the Ghana GLA partners with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) to help analyse the content of the bill and to make policy recommendations.

In **Uganda**, the Ugandan constitutional court nullified section 25 of the Computer Misuse Act in 2023 after civil society, including the JET partners, publicly expressed severe concerns. This particular section was specifically designed to suppress the voices of Ugandan CSOs and restrict their right to assembly. The nullification of section 25 is a landmark decision that upholds the principles of freedom of speech, expression and assembly. The ruling recognises the importance of a vibrant Ugandan civil society and acknowledges its role in promoting transparency, accountability and social progress.

Emergency funds

To support (women) environmental human rights defenders ((W)EHRDs) or CSOs in need, GLA has included emergency funds in its programme budget. Mechanisms such as the FoE International solidarity system are in place to support the (W)EHRDs in different ways. The emergency funds are managed in a decentralised way by the Alliance members and technical partners. They are a flexible financing model created to provide immediate strategic support to IP&LCs and their organisations and to GLA partner CSOs and (W)EHRDs in their network. Grant sizes generally range from 500 EUR to 5000 EUR. Funds are used to support urgent activities to address key safety and security issues, monitor and document environmental cases, new or continuing initiatives needing start-up capital for meeting urgent needs of CSOs facing threats and, occasionally, used to respond to natural or man-made disasters in GLA landscapes. For example in Asia, NTFP-EP has established the quick response grants (QRG) fund, with financial contributions from IUCN NL. Since the start of the GLA FfJF programme 20 QRGs were provided to IP&LC (W)EHRD and CSOs at a total amount of 55,626.00 EUR. In Africa - notably Uganda and DRC - and South America, IUCN NL provided emergency funds on 18 occasions at a total of 63,400.00 EUR

HIGHLIGHT BOX



The emergency funds have proven helpful in addressing urgent cases of repression, intimidation or safety and security concerns, e.g. in the Philippines, through the quick response grant, advocacy and legal support, a (W)EHRD was acquitted of two counts of cyber libel filed against her by a mining company. SLAPP suits filed by mining companies against indigenous leaders from Nueva Vizcaya and Palawan were also dismissed.

MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

One key strategy to protect (W)EHRDs is monitoring and documenting rights violations to raise awareness and support, and to enable access to justice (link with pathway A). In 2023, this strategy was widely used. For example, in DRC, CREDDHO documented seven cases of threats against (W)EHRDs in the eastern landscapes and ACEDH monitored 35 (W)EHRD attacks/cases in Virunga, including seven deaths. In the Philippines, the documentation of the human rights situation by LRC convinced the Commission on Human Rights national office to create a technical working group to investigate and address the escalation of killings, harassments and displacements experienced by non-Moro indigenous peoples in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). In Bolivia, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) requested detailed information from CEDIB on cases of water contamination from mercury mining, as well as the situation of human rights defenders linked to extractive projects. In March 2023, the IACHR issued a preliminary report on these issues and in November, the IACHR organised a regional hearing on “the impacts of illegal mining on human rights” during its 188th Period of Sessions in Washington, where CEDIB and other CSOs presented cases from Bolivia.

Ultimately, the GLA goal is for community members to have access to justice, which is sometimes successful. For example, in Liberia, SDI hired two lawyers for 16 community members in the Joegbahn clan, Grand Bassa county, who were illegally arrested by the Equatorial Palm Oil Company private security staff and state security and jailed for over a month for alleged palm theft, without being formally charged. The lawyers worked successfully with the county solicitor and freed the 16 community members from prison.

Mandatory Human Rights and Due Diligence (mHRDD) regulation

In 2023, progress was made in the development of HRDD regulation for businesses. In December, during the political dialogue in Brussels the European Council, European Commission and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the EU corporate sustainability due diligence directive (CSDDD) to include an ambitious climate plan article which is in line with the revised OECD guidelines (2023) and the corporate sustainability reporting directive (CSRD). An article regarding civil claims - removing obstacles for access to justice - is also included in the law proposal. Milieudefensie and IUCN NL provided extensive text input regarding the included climate provisions and access to justice article.

Universal Periodic Reviews

In several countries the universal periodic review (UPR) process of the Human Rights Council is used to address human rights violations. In DRC a national UPR coalition, consisting of 120 CSOs, was established for monitoring and advocacy. In Uganda, the partners raise awareness of the UPR recommendations that deal with civil society repression and (W)EHRDs. The IPs from Southern Sierra Madre in the Philippines submitted to the UNHRC for the fourth UPR of China documentation of the human rights violations committed by funding and constructing the Kaliwa Dam. Their report demonstrates Beijing’s “lack of meaningful progress” in fulfilling its extraterritorial obligations on human rights under international law. The Netherlands accepted nine UPR recommendations on Dutch businesses and human rights made by IUCN NL together with Milieudefensie. And in Bolivia, SAVIA updated the UPR document on violations of indigenous rights. All partners are now involved, under the lead of CEDIB, on gathering data for the 2025 EPU report. This November they will send the first compilation of HR abuses related to extractive activities.

STORY OF CHANGE



THE STRUGGLE OF RECLAIMING CUSTOMARY LAND IN DUA NAGARI: SAFEGUARDING THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNANCE

“Go ahead, shoot us. Go kill us on our land. We are not afraid of death, we will fight until the last drop of blood.”

In the fertile valleys of South Solok Regency, West Sumatra, Herniati, a tenacious 51-year-old farmer known as Upik Item, stands defiant against military forces defending corporate interests on her land. She, along with other female farmers, courageously continues to cultivate palm fruit despite threats from palm oil company PT Ranah Andalas Plantation (PT RAP), which unjustly claimed their land through broken promises and legal manipulation.

The conflict ignited in 2005 when local elders transferred 4,000 hectares of customary land to PT RAP, anticipating mutual benefits. An agreement promised that after 30 years of cultivation rights, the land would return to the community with them receiving a significant share of the palm oil profits. However, the company soon disregarded these terms, exploiting the land without compensating the rightful owners.

The situation escalated over the years, with PT RAP ignoring multiple warnings from the South Solok regent to uphold the agreement. By October 2020, when local authorities finally prohibited the company from harvesting, tensions had peaked, leading to increased military presence and confrontations. The community's resilience grew, fueled by injustice and the urgent need to reclaim their livelihoods during the economic strains of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Indrayadi, another local farmer, and his community face constant obstruction from law enforcement who paradoxically allow PT RAP to continue its operations. The community's frustration culminated in a 2023 incident where police accused six farmers of stealing from their own land - a stark representation of criminalisation efforts against them.

Amid these struggles, the Indonesian Forum for the Environment (GLA member group WALHI) and the Padang Legal Aid Institute (LBH Padang) support the farmers, educating them on legal self defense and advocating for their rights. Despite the ongoing legal battles, the community's spirit remains unbroken, emphasising their sovereignty over their land.

This narrative is part of a larger pattern of agrarian conflicts in Indonesia, where corporate and governmental interests often overshadow the rights of local communities. The Agrarian Reform Consortium (KPA) reports thousands of such conflicts, underscoring a national crisis affecting over 1.7 million families.

The farmers of Dua Nagari, guided by WALHI, are now exploring sustainable agricultural alternatives to palm oil, reflecting a broader desire to manage their resources independently of corporate exploitation. This move towards self-sufficiency is seen as essential for ensuring long-term community welfare and environmental sustainability.

Their struggle is a poignant reminder of the global challenges faced by indigenous and local communities in retaining control over their lands and lives in the face of overwhelming corporate and state pressures. The farmers of Dua Nagari continue to fight not just for their land but for the principle of true community governance and sustainable management of their resources.





4. INCLUSION, GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Transversal to all
pathways: Inclusivity

GLA is committed to addressing historic gender imbalances and the under-representation of women, youth and other marginalised forest people in leadership of forest governance and decision-making roles and processes. We aim to ensure that gender transformative policies and actions are embedded in overall planning, structures and organisational culture of the Consortium and local partners (result 11). This is key to achieving our ultimate goal: the inclusive governance of forests.

Progress 2023: consolidated overview monitoring data on inclusion

Gender is mainstreamed in different indicators of the ToC, as reflected throughout this report. In addition, all the pathways of change in the programme aim to contribute to gender transformative actions (GLA indicator 11) both at organisational level as in the implementation of their programme. In 2023, 33 GLA partners have paid special attention to gender in their strategies and actions in 11 countries. These partners reported a total of 36 campaigns and other advocacy strategies using a gender and social inclusion lens. Main strategies included capacity building of implementing partners and CSOs on gender mainstreaming; lobbying and advocacy of different state actors at the national and international level to implement binding human and women's rights in forest, climate and biodiversity policy; sustainable livelihood practices and for women's participation and leadership in development and land use plans such as the ancestral domain sustainable development plans, and in other decision-making spaces. Additionally, 43 Alliance partners reported on having developed/strengthened their organisational gender action plan (OGAP).

In the FfJF programme, gender equality and inclusion goals have been prioritised in the planning and monitoring framework from the start. Together with the engagement of WECF/GFC at global level and gender partners at national level we see this prioritisation is effective in integrating a gender lens across the board (result 11). All countries have developed an organisational gender action plan (OGAP) to advance gender equality within their organisation and consider gender and inclusion of young people in their activities and strategies. The MTR shows that 92% of the partners made considerable to great progress in implementing the OGAP. CED has established a gender advisory group, marking a milestone of being the first NGO in **Cameroon** to take this step.

In 2023, all countries worked towards equal representation of women in activities and structures and promoted more inclusive spaces with decision makers to make the voices of under-represented and most affected groups heard. This is combined with capacity strengthening of women, youth and IP&LCs to know their rights and effectively speak up about the issues they face. In addition, we invested in gender policies and gender and age disaggregated data collection and analysing HR violations from an intersectional perspective. The effects and results of this work are reflected in the progress under Pathway A, B and C.

A few examples of work in this field that have not yet been reflected under the pathways are:

In **Indonesia**, led by the Indonesia gender team consisting of Aksi! For Social and Economic Justice, Solidaritas Perempuan and Yakkum Emergency Unit, the GLA Indonesia partners have implemented feminist participatory action research (FPAR) as a tool to realise transformative change for women at village level. Using the tool, at least 700 women in four landscapes have been impacted, strengthened and empowered to become agents of change in their respective villages. In **Vietnam**, women play a central role in CBNEs, however, the MTR noted: "a need to recognise and address intersectionality issues to ensure more inclusive and comprehensive project implementation in the future". To address this gender concern, a training workshop was organised in December 2023 in Ho Chi Minh City to improve the knowledge of all eight NTFP-EP Vietnam staff in gender analysis and integration of gender equality in the project's activities. In **Bolivia**, the partners analysed different forms of gender based violence (GBV) that affect (W)ERHDs, as well as protection strategies used. They found there is a need for deeper reflection on the asymmetries of power between women and men and the impacts of men's loss of privileges in the face of women's leadership processes. In **Asia**, NTFP-EP organised a regional youth camp to strengthen and amplify indigenous youth voices. As a result, a youth statement was made at the International Indigenous Peoples forum on Climate Change during the Asia-Pacific Climate Week, and two indigenous youth joined UNFCCC COP28 in 2023.

The JET partners significantly advanced our vision of a feminist just energy transition during our Feminist Just Energy Transition conference, which was co-organised by FoE Argentina, Milieudefensie and FoEI in Buenos Aires in September 2023. The conference resulted in the establishment of a core set of principles and demands, agreed upon by feminist activists from over 15 countries. The participants also discussed barriers such as cultural norms and customs, traditional gender roles and social stigma.

The GLA also had a marketplace stand at the [Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy](#) conference (the Hague, November 2023). The GLA gender hub developed a [video](#) specifically for the conference, highlighting GLA partners' work on gender responsive and transformative forest governance. In addition, WECF co-organised a session at the conference called Women Making Waves. Through five overarching themes (drought; flooding; extraction; pollution and conflict) panellists discussed the positive impacts of women on water committees, the structural inequalities which exacerbate vulnerability to climate change for the people least responsible, and the need to integrate feminist postcolonial and decolonial perspectives into foreign policy. While focusing on water, the panellists also touched on land rights, biodiversity and forest conservation discussions, and particularly highlighted the harmful extractive industries and business activities which drive both water pollution/unsustainable use and deforestation.

The significant investments in inclusion, gender equality and youth involvement have reaped promising results, yet the GLA partners indicate the transformation of patriarchal structures to inclusive and equal structures is not easy and takes time. There is a need for continued investments as well as remaining vigilant for potential or real set-backs, particularly as conservative powers are gaining strength globally.

STORY OF
CHANGE

Photo by Yunner Helain Iles Moreno | Caquetá

WINNER OF THE “YOUNG GAZES OF THE AMAZON” PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

A young Ticuna woman, Cindy Amalec Laulate Castillo, has won the Green Livelihood Alliance (GLA) Young Gazes of the Amazon photography competition with a series of self portraits.

Tropenbos Colombia invited the youths of six departments of the Colombian Amazon to participate in the first photography contest Young Gazes of the Amazon as part of the strategy to include youth perspectives in the management of the territory. The competition was open to young people between 14 and 26 years of age. A total of 65 photographs, which took on different perspectives and themes, were submitted.

The jury defined three winning photographs and additionally awarded a special mention to three other photographs that showed great value by responding in a meaningful way to the questions of the contest. These questions were: How do the Amazon youth see themselves in relation to their territory? What does it mean to be part of the Colombian Amazon youth? How does the youth take care of the Amazon forest?

The first prize was awarded to a series of self-portrait photographs by Cindy, a 26-year old Ticuna who is from the Heron clan in the Amazon, and whose name in her native tongue is Ünägükü Taüchina meaning the flock bird that flies alone to find its dreams and goals. Cindy was born in the community of San Francisco de Loretoyacu, in the municipality of Puerto Nariño, Amazonas.

In her photographs, Cindy represents the gaze and power of the Tikuna/Magüta woman: “The photographs are part of my discovery and emancipation of the different oppressions I have experienced as an indigenous woman. I walk the territory and each day I face the need to fight for the defence of the Amazon,” says Cindy when referring to her work. She explains that in the winning photograph, she uses the feathered crown of her father, who is a traditional medicine man.

“Usually only men wear the crown as medicine men. It represents the connection between the elder spirits and the animals of the rainforest. By wearing the crown, in my path, I come to revindicate the role of the indigenous woman and her wisdom,”

Cindy imparts strength and beauty, visualising and expressing the elements of her culture and her surroundings, inspiring others in her path. For her, “the Amazon rainforest represents the food, sacred places, nurturing, learning, shelter and spiritual power. When we see a tree, we see a grandfather, grandmother or an animal. In the photograph I look around me, I see the chagra (traditional Amazonian orchid) in abundance. I recognise almost all types of crops, trees and plants, taught to me by my parents who took me to the chagra when I was a child.”

At present, Cindy is studying Self-Indigenous Communication at the Autonomous Indigenous Intercultural University, of the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca. The win has awarded her her first professional camera and tripod, which will enable her to continue documenting her culture and her territory to share her vision with the world.



Photo by Cindy Amalec Laulate Castillo

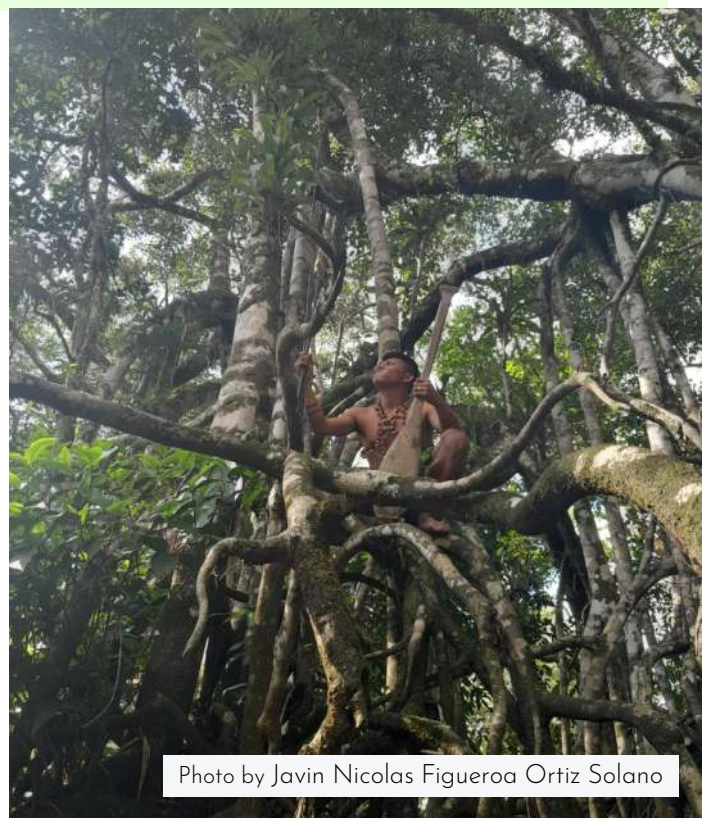


Photo by Javin Nicolas Figueroa Ortiz Solano

1ST PLACE

Cindy Amalec Laulate Castillo
Puerto Nariño Amazonas

2ND PLACE

Javin Nicolas Figueroa Ortiz Solano
Caquetá

3RD PLACE

Yunner Helain Iles Moreno
Solano, Caquetá

[Interview with Cindy through Tropenbos
Colombia on a national television channel RTVC.](#)

5. PROGRAMME MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (PMEL)

Programme mid term review

The main focus of the PMEL team this year was on the midterm review (MTR) of the FfJF programme. It was carried out by an external consultancy firm, ACE consultants, contracted by the GLA to facilitate the MTR process and to develop the MTR report. Based on the guidance provided by the ministry, the MTR covered the period from January 2021 to April 2023 and had two main objectives:

- ☑ Assess to what extent and how the GLA programme is making progress towards the programme targets as formulated in the baseline report, how this is influenced by external contextual factors impacting the programme, what this means for its Theory of Change and how the programme can improve/ adjust for the remainder of the funding period.
- ☑ Reflect and gain insights on partnership collaboration towards larger programme impact. The MTR process was very intense and required input from everybody involved in the programme at different levels. In addition to the collection and analysis of data by the consultants, all countries carried out a three day workshop to discuss programme progress so far. In September, Alliance members and representatives from all GLA countries and thematic programmes came together for one week in the Philippines to discuss the global report and recommendations, as well as provide input to be taken into account for the management response. The report was submitted to the ministry on December 1, 2023.

Many of the findings and conclusions in the [MTR report](#) showed significant achievements and progress made so far. In relation to the first objective, two key conclusions were that (i) the programme Theory of Change continues to be relevant and coherent; and (ii) the programme is on track, with good progress being made in all pathways. In relation to the second objective, it highlighted how the expansion of the Alliance to include an equal number of Alliance members based in the tropical forest regions has been highly positive and the balance of partners in these regions and in Europe has enhanced the diversity of approaches, networks, skill sets, knowledge and capabilities, enriching the collective competence and resourcefulness for collaboration. Overall, the MTR also provided insights into aspects of the programme which could be strengthened or adjusted in the period 2024-2025 and beyond. It presented a list of recommendations at the global programme level that the Alliance took into consideration, and for which it has developed a [management response](#) in December 2023.

The MTR presented a list of 16 insightful and relevant recommendations. Fourteen were for the Alliance, one for the ministry and one for the Dutch embassies. These can be found in the final section of the MTR report.

First face to face meeting of the PMEL working group

Before the global MTR meeting in the Philippines, the PMEL working group took the opportunity to have a meeting to prepare for the second half of the programme. The group took time to discuss how to facilitate more consultation and greater involvement of country coordinators and teams in defining monitoring and learning priorities and information gaps for the remainder of the programme. This was also recommended in the MTR. Another area for dialogue was how to improve learning within the programme, and particularly, how to improve our analysis and usage of the data collected through outcome harvesting for programme learning and implementation. This will be followed up in 2024.

6. GLOBAL ALLIANCE COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

Collaboration within the GLA

Internal coordination and collaboration among the GLA partners at all levels remained positive throughout 2023. The collaboration within and between the different governing committees and working groups has been positive and professional.

The MTR showed that 63% of respondents of the MTR online questionnaire considered that the collaboration within the Alliance has to a considerable, or even great, extent created added value to the programme. 29% said it had moderate value and only 8% considered the Alliance has added little to no value to their work. Added value is mainly seen in complementary expertise, solidarity, capacity building, learning and development. Also, collaboration and partnerships can be a buffer for aggression and attacks. A significant benefit of the Alliance is that it increases partners' ability to address complex issues and work towards sustainable solutions. This is experienced most profoundly in the local to national to regional to international connections. Also, almost all country reports indicate that solidarity is an important value which has grown over the years of the GLA partnership.

Regional collaboration and exchange

At a regional level, exchange and collaboration (result 9) was mostly organised through the Asia regional programme, the JET thematic programme (Africa), the regional work of Gaia Amazonas on the Amazon (South America) and other regional collaborations.

In the **South American region**, Gaia Amazonas invested in further strengthening the North Amazon Alliance (ANA) to engage in advocacy targeting the Belém declaration, the CBD, the UNFCCC and the UN Water Conference. In 2023, the third regional encounter Conversations of the Amazon around Amazonian local economies was organised, resulting in collectively identifying 15 principles of these economies that are responsible and adequate for the particularities of the region, which subsequently form the foundation for advocacy.

In **Southeast Asia**, young people's capacity was strengthened at the first youth engagement and empowerment (YEEHA) regional youth camp that was co-hosted by PACOS, a GLA country partner in Sabah Malaysia. Eighteen girls and 14 boys from IP&LCs in the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam and Malaysia participated in the camp and gained knowledge and skills on the following topics: youth agency, climate solutions and innovation, inclusive forest governance and tenure rights, lobby and advocacy and EDIPP issues and challenges. Also, an online regional learning session on security protection of (W)EHRDs was held in May 2023. The session aimed at raising awareness about the risks faced by environmental defenders and providing guidance on how to mitigate those risks.

In Africa, JET representatives of FoE Togo visited the Ugandan JET partners to learn more about the EACOP campaign, how civil society is organising local communities and effective strategies used. SDI and FoE Africa are leading on advocacy work at the ECOWAS and African Commission with capacity building and strategy building to inform and challenge these fora on the adverse impacts of monocultures plantations in 10 countries on the African continent. FoE Africa brought affected communities and civil society to ECOWAS parliamentary meetings to have their voices heard by these decision makers.

At the interregional level, it is worth mentioning that GLA partners AFIEGO (Uganda), CENSAT (Colombia) and JET partner OPSur (Argentina) participated in the Just Transition and Feminism conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and presented on the just transition challenges faced by African women.

Collaborative learning and exchange

Collaborative learning and exchange takes place at different levels within the GLA.

In-country, implementing partners come together (at least) twice a year and meet (generally in person) to jointly discuss the country annual plan or report. These meetings are sometimes used as an opportunity to learn and share experiences between partners working in the same country and in some cases (e.g. Indonesia) they are sometimes used to visit each other's landscapes and communities. Other forms of learning in-country may also take place, as defined by the country partners.

In September 2023, the MTR global meeting in the Philippines was the first time since programme start that representatives from 11 GLA countries were able to meet face to face and share experiences directly. Although the aim of the meeting was to discuss preliminary findings from the MTR, there was a visit to a programme landscape (Sierra Madre) to hear from the communities and the GLA partners about the Kaliwa Dam project. This served as an excellent opportunity to discuss the experiences of the different partners on similar problems they are facing in their own countries and exchange approaches and experiences.

The annual regional learning event that generally takes place in Southeast Asia was replaced by the MTR meeting. However, GLA partners participated in other regional events organised by NTFP-EP such as the [5th Madhu Duniya 2023](#) that offered partners opportunities for learning about climate and bee population, and micro-small-medium honey enterprise strategies.

The GLA also continued to organise monthly online exchange and learning spaces (ELS) where all GLA partners interested in hearing and sharing experiences on issues related to the programme can come. Everybody involved in the GLA is invited to participate but people can opt in or out based on their interest in the selected topic. This year, many topics were discussed, including:

- ☑ Universal periodic review (UPR): the basics
- ☑ Corporate litigation: case studies of the Shell climate case and Shell Nigeria
- ☑ Sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH) policy (two sessions): (i) Why do we need policies to prevent and address SEAH in our forest programmes? (ii) Drafting, implementing SEAH policies and overcoming obstacles
- ☑ Integrity: generating an understanding of what we mean when we talk about integrity, why it is so important for civil society and why it is especially important for the GLA.

All sessions were well attended (on average between 40-65 people) and based on feedback, were much appreciated by the participants.

Finally, Alliance members and technical partners also facilitated learning sessions with their networks. Some examples:

- ☑ WECF and GFC held virtual skillshare and exchange webinars with the in-country gender technical partners, for example on the revision of the GLA monitoring framework with emphasis on the gender-specific indicators, to support the OGAP process and on monoculture plantations and factory farming.
- ☑ In 2023, TBI paid particular attention to the issue of conflict. Partners participated in workshops organised in collaboration with PeaceNexus Foundation, to develop a better understanding of conducting conflict analysis in different ways. This has strengthened their capacity to understand and address conflicts they encounter within their programmes. This workshop will be continued in 2024.
- ☑ In South-America, Gaia Amazonas established a working group for the regional management of knowledge within the Northern Amazon Alliance, led by the sub-regional focal points. This group identifies and documents

experiences and best practices of local Amazonian economies. The sub-regional focal points visited different communities within the region. The work of the working group has enriched the arguments and evidence of the best practices in international spaces, consolidating ANA's position as a unified voice from the region regarding relevant themes for the protection of sociocultural connectivity in the northern region of the Amazon.

☑ IUCN NL initiated knowledge sharing sessions in the GLA team and with some of its partners on [Locally-Led-Adaptation \(LLA\)](#),

COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

In addition to strengthening internal collaboration, the GLA also recognised the importance of working with others and invested in these collaborations. Examples included collaborations with NGO/CSO networks and (global) coalitions, as well as engagement with multi-stakeholder platforms as described in chapter 3 and within the country briefs (Annexes [D-E](#)).

In the Netherlands, an exchange of information on the programme and collaboration with the ministry (mostly IGG) took place on a regular basis, mostly online, to ensure non-Dutch partners were able to equally participate. Coordination meetings also took place with the other SPC climate alliances, mainly GAGGA, VCA and AACJ.

In most countries, the GLA partners have been in touch with the **Dutch embassy or consulate** on a regular basis in 2023, with the exception of **Bolivia, Liberia** (no embassy present) and **Vietnam**, where no meetings took place. In most cases, the communication is merely an exchange of information, but in some cases the embassy is an important ally in the resistance against civic space restrictions and the arrests of (W)EHRDs. This is true for **DRC, the Philippines** and **Uganda**.

Collaboration has also taken place through the many platforms where GLA Alliance members participate, as well as during international events, many referenced earlier in the report (e.g. UNFCCC COP 28, Netherlands Feminist Foreign Policy conference).

Planning and reporting

In 2023, the following reports and plans were developed and submitted.

Planning and reporting requirements 2022	Period covered	Deadline	Status
IATI		Quarterly publications (Jan 31, Apr. 30, Jul. 31, Oct. 30).	Published: financials quarterly, indicators on Apr. 30
Annual narrative and financial report 2022	Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2022	Jun. 1, 2023. With extension approved to Jul. 1, 2023.	Sent: Jun. 15, 2023 Approved: Dec. 14, 2023
Annual audit 2022	Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2022	Jun. 1, 2023. With extension approved to Jul. 1, 2023.	Sent: Jun. 28, 2023 Approved: Dec. 14, 2023
Midterm review (MTR)	Jan 1, 2021 to April 30, 2023	Dec. 1, 2023	Sent: Dec. 1, 2023 Approved: Apr. 04, 2024
Annual plan and budget 2024	Jan 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022	Dec. 1, 2023, with extension approved to Dec. 31.	Sent: Dec. 21, 2023 Approved: Feb. 29, 2024

Photo by Irpan Lamago | ICCA in Sinar Kuri Village, West Kalimantan

SECTION II

Annual financial report and narrative

1. INTRODUCTION

The 2023 financial report of the GLA annual expenditure with respect to the budget division as requested by MoFA is found in [Annex A](#). This includes expenditures 2023 per budget line (A.1), per pathway (A.2), per country (A.3) and country/pathway (A.4). Expenditures are reported in relation to the budget included in the GLA annual plan 2023 formally approved by MoFA on January 10th, 2023.

Per pathway: All activities and related expenditures correspond to one of the three core programme pathways or to the coordination of the programme:

☑ **Pathway A:** Indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LCs)

☑ **Pathway B:** Drivers of deforestation

☑ **Pathway C:** Civic space

☑ Organisational coordination

Per country: All activities and related expenditures are also reported along the following divisions:

☑ **Per country:** GLA work at the country level

☑ **Regional, international and thematic:** GLA work at the regional and international level

☑ **Organisational coordination:** GLA coordination, administrative and PMEL costs

The rest of this section will provide a narrative overview of the financial report 2023 (section 2) providing explanations for deviations in actuals versus budget per budget line, country and pathway, the disbursements and liquidity overview (section 3) and in section 4 we report the financial irregularities and the mitigation measures that were implemented. Section 5 presents the expenditures and budget cumulative for the first two years of the project and section 6 provides a conclusion on the financial progress of the programme so far.

In line with the new audit protocol, explanations are given for deviations of more than 10% on the subtotal of a budget line, when this is more than 5,000 EUR.

The GLA spent 9,908,615 EUR of the 2023 annual budget of 10,009,840 EUR. The advance fund received from MoFA for 2023 is 10,281,000 EUR, totalling to an amount of 27,659,000 EUR for the period 2020-2023. The GLA liquidity statement at the end of 2023 had a cash balance of 1,511,137 EUR based on reported payments.

All amounts in the financial report relate to the reporting year 2023 unless otherwise indicated. Note that all numbers are subject to review by the auditor. If there are any changes made after the review of the auditor, these will be highlighted in the cover letter that we send when we submit the audit report later this month.

In 2023, there is a difference of -1% between the budget and the expenditures. This is mainly due to some delayed activities that will take place in 2024/2025. When comparing the cumulative budgets for 2021-2023 with the expenditures for these years, the difference between the total budget and expenditures is -4% (see table 5.1).

2. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW EXPENDITURE 2023

OVERVIEW ACTUALS VERSUS ANNUAL BUDGET 2023

Table 2.1 Budget versus actuals per budget line (see also section A.1 of financial report for full report)

Per budget line	Budget	Actuals	Difference in %
I. Direct staff costs			
A. Staff costs	€ 2.163.770	€ 2.090.010	-3%
B. Local staff costs	€ 22.097	€ 16.411	-26%
C. Consultants and advisers	€ 43.258	€ 136.820	216%
Subtotal I	€ 2.229.125	€ 2.243.242	1%
II. Other direct programme costs			
A. Activity costs	€ 6.168.354	€ 6.117.291	-1%
B. Costs of consortium partners and local NGOs	€ 231.000	€ 157.472	-32%
C. Activity-related travel costs	€ 179.059	€ 142.825	-20%
D. Project office costs	€ 10.645	€ 17.533	65%
E. Equipment and investments	€ 21.349	€ 22.676	6%
F. Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	€ 75.950	€ 127.721	68%
Subtotal II	€ 6.686.357	€ 6.585.519	-2%
III. Overheads/indirect costs			
Overheads/indirect costs			
Total (EUR €)	€ 10.009.840	€ 9.908.615	-1%

I-B. Local staff costs.

Gaia Amazonas experienced delays in contracting of field staff due to changes in national legislation regarding contractual processes. These have implied more formal steps which are difficult to sort for indigenous and local staff who live in areas with no reception and have to travel to urban centres in order to get the paperwork done and meet the formal requirements. This was a process facilitated by Gaia which took more time than expected but it set up a process that will make this easier in the coming years.

I-C. Consultants and advisors.

IUCN NL and global coordination hired external support from consultants on the programme management because of vacancies and/or sick employees.

II-B. Costs of Consortium partners and local NGOs.

Global coordination budgeted the MTR costs under II-B, but underspent* on this budget to leave extra budget for the end evaluation, which is expected to have been under budgeted in the original programme budget. Also there was some underspending on the internal learning, training and exchange budget line. *The underspending was actually due to other Alliance members contributing extra to the MTR. See under II-F.

II-C. Activity related travel costs.

GAIA underspent to reserve budget for expected expenses in 2024; IUCN NL underspent because of smart combination with travels for other projects and TBI underspent because of limited staff capacity and limited attendance of international events (which mostly took place in Europe).

II-D. Project office costs.

SDI had not budgeted for the cost of bank transfers, which came up to 5,500 EUR in 2023, which explains almost the entire overspend on this budget line.

II-F. Monitoring, evaluation and auditing.

Extra expenditure for PMEL by several Alliance members because of their contribution to the MTR, which made it possible for global coordination to reserve budget for the end evaluation (as already explained above under II-B). NB: MTR costs should have all been budgeted and reported under II-F, but because global coordination budgeted these under II-B, their MTR expenditures are also reported under II-B.

OVERVIEW ACTUALS VERSUS BUDGET PER PATHWAY

Table 2.2 Budget versus actuals per Pathway (see also [Annex A.2](#) for full overview per pathway)

Per budget line	Budget	Actuals	Difference in %
IP&LCs (A)	€ 3.004.315	€ 3.083.864	3%
Drivers (B)	€ 3.431.587	€ 3.409.694	-1%
Civic space (C)	€ 2.102.391	€ 1.796.973	-15%
Organisational coordination	€ 1.471.546	€ 1.618.084	10%
Total (€ EUR)	€ 10.009.839	€ 9.908.615	-1%

Civic space.

Underspending was partly due to postponed activities to 2024 and 2025, but mainly to overspending (or overreporting) on other pathways, because much of the work carried out by our partner organisations actually benefits multiple pathways. In practice, work under pathway C (civic space) almost always also contributes to goals under pathway A (IP&LCs) and pathway B (deforestation drivers). Because results under pathway A and pathway B are generally more concrete in nature than results under pathway C, our partners are inclined to report outcomes and outputs under A and B and less likely under pathway C. This results in underspend under pathway C.

Organisational coordination.

Overspending is mainly due to IUCN NL correcting the reported overhead / indirect costs: in prior financial reports, the overhead/indirect costs of cooperating partners were accidentally included under this caption, but IUCN NL has now corrected this approach as per Auditor request. (Remaining within the 15% overhead limit for 2023.)

OVERVIEW ACTUALS VERSUS BUDGET PER COUNTRY

Table 2.3 Budget versus actuals per country (see also [annex A.3](#) for full overview per country)

Per country	Budget	Actuals	Difference in %
Bolivia	€ 449.032	€ 441.085	-2%
Cameroon	€ 150.324	€ 157.787	5%
Colombia	€ 1.075.973	€ 997.460	-7%
DRC	€ 462.171	€ 502.782	9%
Ghana	€ 484.848	€ 647.132	33%
Indonesia	€ 724.345	€ 823.819	14%
Liberia	€ 301.845	€ 296.299	-2%
Malaysia	€ 95.838	€ 100.884	5%
Nigeria	€ -	€ -	0%
Philippines	€ 650.552	€ 637.350	-2%
Uganda	€ 308.216	€ 262.751	-15%
Vietnam	€ 277.309	€ 279.817	1%
Regional, international and thematic prog.	€ 3.557.838	€ 3.162.318	-11%
Organisational coordination	€ 1.471.549	€ 1.599.132	9%
Total (€ EUR)	€ 10.009.839	€ 9.908.615	-1%

Ghana.

In Ghana, 133% of the budget has been reported as expenditures. The difference is largely due to the scope exemption reported last year by TBI for the local costs in Ghana, which were not reported in 2022 and are now included.

Indonesia.

In Indonesia, 114% of the budget has been reported as expenditures. The difference is due to including previously unreported commitments from 2021 for Milieudedefensie's Indonesian partner WALHI and higher expenses by IUCN NL's partner Protection International from the flex fund budget of Indonesia, resulting in 70,000 EUR higher expenses. The overspend still fits within the overall budget for Indonesia.

Uganda.

In Uganda, 85% of the budget has been reported as expenditures. The underspend is due to a change in staff and limited capacity at TBI, causing the total staff time for Uganda to be much less than planned. And TBI staff did not visit the partner. Also, one country partner of IUCN NL chose to have a higher budget during year one of the programme. This is balanced out over the other four implementation years and explains the underspending.

Regional, international and thematic programmes.

For the regional, international and thematic programmes, 89% of the budget has been reported as expenditures. The underspend is due to postponed activities from GAIA's partner organisations in Brazil and Peru (that have been carried out during the first months of 2024) and to TBI reporting some expenditures for thematic programmes under the relevant countries, plus also some delayed activities (implemented in 2024).

OVERVIEW ACTUALS VERSUS BUDGET PER COUNTRY

In [Annex A.4](#) [tab 1c of the financial report] we have included an overview of budget and actuals in a matrix of pathways per country. As this is quite a detailed level of the financial report, there are some deviations >10%, but with a small absolute value. We have not included a full narrative on this overview as the reasons for the deviations in this report are already covered by the explanations given above per pathway and per country.

SUBCONTRACTED PARTNERS

Of the funds received for 2021-2023, 27.659.000 EUR in total, all Alliance members transferred a total of 12.116.369 EUR (44%) to their cooperating partner organisations. So far, these partner organisations have reported 10.564.549 EUR as (audited) expenses.

3. DISBURSEMENTS AND LIQUIDITY OVERVIEW

Disbursements from DGIS in 2023 were received as follows:

- ☑ On December 6th, 2022, a liquidity update and cash request for 2023 was submitted to MoFA
- ☑ On January 10th, 2023, the annual plan and revised budget for 2023 (submitted on December 1, 2022) were formally approved by MoFA
- ☑ On January 17th, 2023, we received the first (and only) cash advance for 2023 of 10.281.000 EUR from MoFA

4. FINANCIAL IRREGULARITIES

In 2023, GLA Alliance members, technical partners or subcontracted partners did not report any (suspected) irregularities or legal cases in relation to the implementation of programme activities, other than a minor irregularity of one cooperating partner of Milieudéfensie not yet submitting their 2022-report, due to the departure of the employee handling these contracts. Milieudéfensie is working with the partner to receive all lacking information in full. The total contract amount is 39.478 EUR (0,086% of the total programme budget). NB: The Ministry was not notified immediately about this irregularity as it was not deemed sufficiently serious. The issue is being addressed with expected positive resolution, without financial or other negative implications for the programme.

5. CUMULATIVE OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW ACTUALS VERSUS ANNUAL BUDGET 2021-2023

Table 5.1 Budget versus actuals per budget line (see also section A.1 of financial report for full report)

When comparing the cumulative expenditures for the first three years of the programme to the budgets for these three years (according to the approved revised five year budget of end 2021), it shows there is a difference of almost 1.04 million EUR between the budget and expenditures, -4% of the total budget for these three years. The budget of 27.774.618 EUR equals 60% of the total of the five year budget of 46.097.902 EUR.

Per budget line	Budget 2021-2023	Actuals 2021-2023	Difference in %
I. Direct staff costs			
A. Staff costs	€ 6.098.435	€ 5.927.681	-3%
B. Local staff costs	€ 58.672	€ 51.848	-12%
C. Consultants and advisers	€ 0	€ 394.351	100%
Subtotal I	€ 6.157.107	€ 6.373.880	4%
II. Other direct programme costs			
A. Activity costs	€ 17.445.730	€ 16.503.310	-5%
B. Costs of consortium partners and local NGOs	€ 369.000	€ 284.441	-23%
C. Activity-related travel costs	€ 455.484	€ 381.209	-16%
D. Project office costs	€ 29.100	€ 56.971	96%
E. Equipment and investments	€ 83.036	€ 44.387	-47%
F. Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	€ 194.356	€ 276.423	42%
Subtotal II	€ 18.576.706	€ 17.546.740	-6%
III. Overheads/indirect costs			
Overheads/indirect costs	€ 3.040.805	€ 2.810.704	-8%
Total (EUR €)	€ 27.774.618	€ 26.731.323	-4%

The budget lines with the largest differences are the budget lines with smaller budget amounts. All of these are explained by the explanations under table 2.1.

6. FINANCIAL RISKS DURING IMPLEMENTATION

There are several overarching risks identified that affect the implementation and financial progress of the programme.

As in previous years, high inflation remains a concern and has an impact in all countries. The original GLA budget was developed with an annual inflation of 2% in mind, which of course is considerably less than the actual inflation. CSO partners have been dealing with rising commodity prices for petroleum, food and transport since 2022, which meant they had to somewhat curtail their activities.

The high inflation combined with the tight labour market in the Netherlands, causes the Dutch organisations to face increased labour costs and difficulties in filling vacancies. This is reflected in the overspend on I. staff costs, due to the hiring of external staff. For the coming years, it is expected there will be budget shifts from II. activity costs to I. staff costs which will be necessary to manage the increased staff costs, and/or there will be a need to reduce hours spent on the remainder of the programme. This may have some impact on the work we can carry out.

A positive change in 2023 for some organisations outside of the Netherlands were more favourable exchange rates. However, exchange rate fluctuations remain a concern and are closely monitored by the organisations.

7. CONCLUSIONS ON FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF THE PROGRAMME

Taking into account the 2023 annual reports (technical and financial) sent by Alliance members and technical partners, the Forests for a Just Future programme is on schedule in terms of (financial) implementation. After the first three years, the programme is on track with a total of 96% of the 2021-2023 budget implemented. In 2023, the Alliance managed to make up for almost 366,000 EUR of the amount that was underspent in 2021 and 2022, reducing the underspend from 1.4 million EUR to a little over 1 million EUR.

The overall picture that the financial progress is on track, corresponds with the findings of the midterm review conducted during 2023. In general, the findings and conclusions in the MTR report show positive achievements and progress on the implementation and impact of the programme along the three pathways.

Considering all of the above, the GLA Forests for a Just Future programme was financially well managed in 2023.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADSDPP	Ancestral domain sustainable development and protection plan
AMAF	ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
ANA	North Amazon Alliance
ASEAN	Association of SouthEast Asian Nations
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNE	Community-based NTFP enterprise
CEASE	Centre for the Study of Environment, Society and Energy
CFM	Collaborative forest management
CICOL	Indigenous headquarters of original communities of Lomerío
CLDMC	Community land development and management committees
COICA	Coordinator of the Indigenous organisations of the Amazon Basin
CoP	Convention of the Parties
CRDD	Community rights and deforestation drivers
CREMA	Community resource management area
CRSF	Community rights support facility
CSI	Community self identification
CSOs	Civil society organisations
DGIS	Directoraat Generaal Internationale Samenwerking Directorate General International Cooperation
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EACOP	East African crude oil pipeline
ECA	Export credit agency
EHRDs	Environmental and human rights defenders
EU	European Union
EU CSDDD	EU directive on corporate sustainability due diligence
EUDR	EU deforestation legislation
FfJF	Forests for a Just Future
FGTR	Forest governance and tenure rights
FoE	Friends of the Earth
FPAR	Feminist participatory action research
FPIC	Free, prior and informed consent
GBF	Global biodiversity framework
GFC	Global Forest Coalition
GLA	Green Livelihoods Alliance
GSBA	Globally significant biodiversity areas
ICCA	Indigenous community conserved area
IEA	International Energy Agency
IIFB	International Indigenous forum on biodiversity
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPLC	Indigenous people and local communities
IP	Indigenous peoples
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN NL	IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands Foundation

JET	Just energy transition
LBDI	Liberian Bank for Development and Investment
LCFC	Local community forest concession
LGL	Local-to-global-to-local
LGU	Local government unit
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
mHREDD	Mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
NAP	National adaptation plan
NDC	Nationally determined contributions
NTFP-EP	Non-timber forest products – exchange programme
OECM	Other effective area-based conservation measures
OMIML	Monkox Indigenous Women’s Organisation of Lomerío
OPSUR	Southern Petroleum Observatory
PCG	Programme coordination group
PMEL	Planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning
PT. ANA	Palm oil company PT. Agro Nusa Abadi
PT. RAP	Palm oil company PT. Ranah Andalas Plantation
SB	Supervisory board
SDI	Sustainable Development Institute
SF	Social forestry
SLAPP	Strategic lawsuits against public participation
TBI	Tropenbos International
TCO	Community land of origin
ToC	Theory of Change
UN BT	United Nations binding treaty
UNFCCC	United Nations framework convention on climate change
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WECF	Women Engage for a Common Future
(W)EHRDs	(Women) environmental and human rights defenders
WEWONA	Western Region Women Network Association

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Annex A1.

Financial report with respect to annual budget 2023

By year		Budget 2023	Actuals 2023	Difference	Difference in %
I. Direct staff costs					
A. Staff costs	Total	€ 2,163,770	€ 2,090,010	-€ 73,760	-3%
B. Local staff costs	Total	€ 22,097	€ 16,411	-€ 5,686	€ 0
C. Consultants and advisers	Total	€ 43,258	€ 136,820	€ 93,562	€ 2
Subtotal I	Total	€ 2,229,125	€ 2,243,242	€ 14,116	1%
II. Other direct programme costs					
A. Activity costs	Total	€ 6,168,354	€ 6,117,291	-€ 51,063	-1%
A.1 Commitments to cooperating partners	Total	€ 4,625,743	€ 4,492,235	-€ 133,508	-3%
A.2 Other activity costs	Total	€ 1,542,611	€ 1,625,057	€ 82,446	5%
B. Costs of consortium partners and local NGOs	Total	€ 231,000	€ 157,472	-€ 73,528	€ 0
C. Activity-related travel costs	Total	€ 179,059	€ 142,825	-€ 36,234	€ 0
D. Project office costs	Total	€ 10,645	€ 17,533	€ 6,888	€ 1
E. Equipment and investments	Total	€ 21,349	€ 22,676	€ 1,328	€ 0
F. Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	Total	€ 75,950	€ 127,721	€ 51,771	€ 1
Subtotal II	Total	€ 6,686,357	€ 6,585,519	-€ 100,837	-2%
III. Overheads/indirect costs					
Overheads/indirect costs	Total	€ 1,094,357	€ 1,079,854	-€ 14,503	-1%
Total (EUR €)		€ 10,009,840	€ 9,908,615	-€ 101,224	-1%

Annex A2.

Financial report per pathway

By result		IPLCs	Drivers	Civic space	Organisational coordination	Total Expenses (€)
		A	B	C	D	
I. Direct staff costs						
A. Staff costs	Total	€ 407,450	€ 716,216	€ 317,850	€ 648,494	€ 2,090,010
B. Local staff costs	Total	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 16,411	€ 16,411
C. Consultants and advisers	Total	€ 11,165	€ 6,908	€ 7,447	€ 111,300	€ 136,820
Subtotal I	Total	€ 418,615	€ 723,124	€ 325,297	€ 776,205	€ 2,243,242
II. Other direct programme costs						
A. Activity costs	Total	€ 2,325,240	€ 2,302,400	€ 1,286,814	€ 202,836	€ 6,117,290
B. Costs of consortium partners and local NGOs	Total	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 157,472	€ 157,472
C. Activity-related travel costs	Total	€ 47,932	€ 44,952	€ 26,781	€ 23,160	€ 142,825
D. Project office costs (if applicable)	Total	€ 6,827	€ 4,915	€ 5,493	€ 299	€ 17,534
E. Equipment and investments	Total	€ 10,295	€ 5,807	€ 3,548	€ 3,027	€ 22,676
F. Monitoring, evaluation and auditing	Total	€ 11,134	€ 6,788	€ 6,501	€ 103,298	€ 127,721
Subtotal II	Total	€ 2,401,428	€ 2,364,863	€ 1,329,136	€ 490,092	€ 6,585,519
III. Overheads/indirect costs						
Overheads/indirect costs	Total	€ 263,822	€ 321,707	€ 142,538	€ 351,786	€ 1,079,853
Total (EUR €)		€ 3,083,864	€ 3,409,694	€ 1,796,973	€ 1,618,084	€ 9,908,615
Total Expenses (€)	Total	€ 3,083,864	€ 3,409,694	€ 1,796,972	€ 1,618,083	€ 9,908,615
Total Budget (€)	Total	€ 3,004,315	€ 3,431,587	€ 2,102,391	€ 1,471,546	€ 10,009,840
Difference (€)	Total	-€ 79,549	€ 21,893	€ 305,419	-€ 146,537	€ 101,226
Difference (%)	Total	3%	-1%	-15%	10%	-1%

Annex A4.

Financial report country per pathway

		Bolivia	Cameroon	Colombia	DRC	Ghana	Indonesia	Liberia	Malaysia	Nigeria	Philippines	Uganda	Vietnam	Regional, international & thematic programs	Organisational coordination	Total (€)
2023																
IPLCs																
Expenses	Total	€ 278,468	€ 59,779	€ 340,070	€ 242,128	€ 232,524	€ 355,492	€ 145,023	€ 41,105	€ 0	€ 326,387	€ 120,341	€ 162,540	€ 827,515	€ 0	€ 3,131,372
Budget	Total	€ 254,458	€ 52,825	€ 377,065	€ 208,706	€ 148,541	€ 352,494	€ 106,023	€ 40,047	€ 0	€ 325,884	€ 114,788	€ 147,728	€ 873,221	€ 0	€ 3,001,778
Difference		-€ 24,010	-€ 6,954	€ 36,995	-€ 33,422	-€ 83,983	-€ 2,998	-€ 39,000	-€ 1,058	€ 0	-€ 503	-€ 5,553	-€ 14,812	€ 45,706	€ 0	-€ 129,594
Difference		-9%	-13%	10%	-16%	-57%	-1%	-37%	-3%		0%	-5%	-10%	5%		-4%
Drivers																
Expenses	Total	€ 99,324	€ 53,553	€ 327,081	€ 151,233	€ 263,825	€ 233,027	€ 126,003	€ 29,362	€ 0	€ 175,238	€ 88,580	€ 66,905	€ 1,841,568	€ 0	€ 3,455,699
Budget	Total	€ 95,330.06	€ 50,439.11	€ 367,551.93	€ 123,316.54	€ 228,969.19	€ 247,078.52	€ 88,123.72	€ 27,347.53	€ 0.00	€ 204,067.30	€ 112,823.16	€ 48,882.75	€ 1,835,121.24	€ 0.00	€ 3,429,051
Difference		-€ 3,993	-€ 3,114	€ 40,471	-€ 27,916	-€ 34,855	€ 14,051	-€ 37,879	-€ 2,015	€ 0	€ 28,829	€ 24,243	-€ 18,023	-€ 6,447	€ 0	-€ 26,648
Difference		-4%	-6%	11%	-23%	-15%	6%	-43%	-7%		14%	21%	-37%	0%		-1%
Civic Space																
Expenses	Total	€ 63,293	€ 44,455	€ 330,314	€ 109,421	€ 150,783	€ 233,300	€ 13,323	€ 30,416	€ 0	€ 133,224	€ 53,830	€ 47,871	€ 493,229	€ 0	€ 1,703,460
Budget	Total	€ 99,243	€ 47,060	€ 323,752	€ 130,149	€ 107,336	€ 124,772	€ 107,699	€ 28,443	€ 0	€ 120,601	€ 80,606	€ 80,700	€ 849,495	€ 0	€ 2,099,856
Difference		€ 35,950	€ 2,605	-€ 6,562	€ 20,728	-€ 43,447	-€ 108,527	€ 94,376	-€ 1,973	€ 0	-€ 12,623	€ 26,775	€ 32,828	€ 356,266	€ 0	€ 396,396
Difference		36%	6%	-2%	16%	-40%	-87%	88%	-7%		-10%	33%	41%	42%		19%
Organisational Coordination																
Expenses	Total	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 2,000	€ 11,951	€ 0	€ 0	€ 2,500	€ 0	€ 2,500	€ 0	€ 1,599,133	€ 1,618,084
Budget	Total	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 1,479,154	€ 1,479,154
Difference		€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	€ 0	-€ 2,000	-€ 11,951	€ 0	€ 0	-€ 2,500	€ 0	-€ 2,500	€ 0	-€ 119,978	-€ 138,929
Difference															-8%	-9%

Annex B.

Overview of countries, partners and landscapes (updated 2023)

# partners	GLA 1st ring partners	Type of partner	Landscapes(*)/Areas/Regions
	GLA country programme		
Bolivia			
1	Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF)	Local implementing partner (TBI)	1) Eco-region of Chiquitania 2) Chaco Pantanal 3) Northern Amazon (Eastern Bolivia). These landscapes include 6 municipalities, 4 national protected areas and 4 regional (departmental or municipal) protected areas.
2	Centro de Documentación e Información Bolivia (CEDIB)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
3	Asociación para la Conservación, Investigación de la Biodiversidad y el Desarrollo Sustentable (SAVIA)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
4	Productividad Biosfera Medio Ambiente (PROBIOMA)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
5	Centro de Capacitación e Investigación de la Mujer Campesina de Tarija (CCIMCAT)	Local technical partner - gender (GFC)	
Cameroon			
6	Le Centre pour le Développement et l'Environnement (CED / FoE Cameroon)	Local implementing partner (SDI)	1) Southern part of the Congo Basin rainforest in Cameroon.
7	Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	2) Kilum Ijim forest in North West region
Colombia			
8	Fundación para la conservación y desarrollo sostenible (FCDS)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	1) Northwest Colombian Amazon, also known as the deforestation arc which covers the departments of Caquetá, Guaviare and south of Meta; 2) Northeast Colombian Amazon, which covers the departments of Amazonas, Vaupés and Guainía. 3) Andes Region.
9	Gaia Amazonas Foundation	Alliance partner, Local implementing partner (Gaia)	
10	Tropenbos Colombia	Local implementing partner (TBI)	
11	Censat Agua Viva / FoE Colombia	Local implementing partner (MD)	
Democratic Republic of Congo			
12	Alerte Congolaise pour l'Environnement et les Droits de l'Homme (ACEDH)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	1) Eastern Landscape: Virunga/Kahuzi Biega 2) The central landscape, extending over three provinces: Mongala, Bas-Uele and Tshopo 3) Salonga and Upemba landscape (West DRC).
13	Centre de Recherche sur l'Environnement la Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme (CREDDHO)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
14	Fédération des comités des pêcheurs individuels sur le Lac Edouard (FECOPEILE)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
15	Strong Roots	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	

# partners	GLA 1st ring partners	Type of partner	Landscapes(*)/Areas/Regions
	GLA country programme		

16	Centre d'Education pour la Protection de l'Environnement et Développement durable (CEPED)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
17	Foyer de Développement pour l'Autopromotion des Pygmées et Indigènes Défavorisés (FDAPID)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
18	Innovation pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement (IDPE)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
19	Innovation et Formation pour le Développement et la Paix (IFDP)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
20	Tropenbos DRC	Local implementing partner (TBI)	
21	Coalition of Women Leaders for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CFLEDD)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	
22	Conseil pour la Terre des Ancêtres (CTA)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	
23	Programme Intégré pour le Développement du Peuple Pygmée (PIDP)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	
24	Common Front for the Protection of the Environment and Protected Areas (FCPEEP)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	

Ghana

25	Tropenbos Ghana	Local implementing partner (TBI)	Eastern region: 1) Atewa Forest Western-North region: 2) Juaboso-Bia 3) Sefwi-Wiawso
26	A Rocha Ghana (ARG)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
27	Friends of the Earth Ghana	Local implementing partner (SDI)	
28	Development Institute (DI)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	

Indonesia

29	NTFP-EP Indonesia	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	1) Mudiak Baduo (West Sumatra) 2) Ketapang-Kayong Utara (West Kalimantan) 3) Kayan (North Kalimantan) 4) Lariang (Central Sulawesi)
30	Sawit Watch	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)	
31	Tropenbos Indonesia	Local implementing partner (TBI)	
32	Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI)	Local implementing partner (MD)	
33	Komunitas Konservasi Indonesia - Warung Konservasi (KKI-WARSI)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)	
34	Solidaritas Perempuan Berdaulat Perempuan Indonesia	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	

# partners	GLA 1st ring partners	Type of partner	Landscapes(*)/Areas/Regions
	GLA country programme		

Liberia			
35	Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)	Alliance partner, Local implementing partner (SDI)	1) Southeast (Sinoe, Grand Kru and Maryland Counties) 2) Northwest (Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu Counties).
36	Community Rights Support Facility (CRSF)	Local implementing partner (SDI)	
37	The Day Light	Local implementing partner (SDI)	
38	Liberia Forest Media Watch (LFMW)	Local implementing partner (SDI)	
39	Civil Society Independent Forest Monitors	Local implementing partner (SDI)	
40	Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE)	Local technical partner, gender (WECF)	

Malaysia			
41	NTFP-EP Malaysia	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	Two landscapes on the northern section of Borneo Island: 1) Sabah (Telupid) 2) Sarawak (regions of Belaga, Apoh-Tutoh, Simunjan, Upper Baram)
42	Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA)	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	
43	Save Rivers	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	
44	PACOS Trust	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	

Philippines			
45	NTFP EP Philippines (Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Program)	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	1) Sierra Madre Mountain Range in Luzon, 2) Southern Palawan 3) Northern Mindanao 4) South Central Mindanao
46	Institute for the Development of Educational and Ecological Alternatives, Inc. (IDEAS)	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	
47	Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC)	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	
48	Mabuwaya Foundation	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	
49	Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)	
50	Kitanglad Integrated NGOs, Inc. (KIN)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)	
51	Lilak Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights (LILAK)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)	
52	Samdhana Institute	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)	
53	Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRCKSK/FoEPhils)	Local implementing partner (MD)	
54	Forest Foundation Philippines	Local implementing partner (TBI)	

# partners	GLA 1st ring partners	Type of partner	Landscapes(*)/Areas/Regions
	GLA country programme		
Uganda			
55	Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA)	Local implementing partner (TBI)	1) Albertine Graben
56	African Institute of Energy Governance (AFIEGO)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)	
57	Friends of Zoka (FoZ)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)	
58	Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	
Vietnam			
59	Tropenbos Vietnam (TBVN)	Local implementing partner (TBI)	1) Central highlands. Four provinces in the Dak Lak, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, and Lam Dong.
60	PanNature	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	
61	NTFP-EP Vietnam (Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme)	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	

* Definition of landscape (IUCN NL): 'A Landscape is a socio-ecological system that consists of a mosaic of natural and human-made land cover types which provide ecosystem services and development opportunities for a diversity of stakeholders.'

Landscape boundaries may be concrete, fuzzy, or nested, and may correspond to watershed boundaries, distinct land features, and/or jurisdictional and administrative boundaries. Thus, a landscape may encompass areas ranging from hundreds to tens of thousands of square kilometres.

Annex C.

GLA indicator framework and progress towards indicators (2023)

GLA ToC Result 1							
Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) sustainably govern increased areas of forest							
Result 1 GLA indicators	1. Area of land (hectares) under improved sustainable forest management or other improved practices contributing to decreased deforestation.						
	==> Linked to IGG indicator: Area of forest(ed) land under sustainable forest management or other improved practises contributing to decreased deforestation, enhanced carbon sinks and increased adaptive capacity of ecosystems and livelihoods						
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
	1. 29,005,000 hectares				34,066,400 hectares	1. As of mid-2023, the GLA programme has influenced an area of over 34 million hectares of forested landscapes. 21% of the area was targeted to improve ongoing practices, 15 % to bring under IPLC control while the remaining 64% as forest lands to be conserved. These broad categories encompass several strategies towards the sustainable management of forest resources such as areas under community forestry arrangements, forests under protected areas, areas under the management of IPLC, areas under agroforestry or restoration practices, areas under improved private sector commitments, etc... Another 1.94 million hectares of forested lands identified and targeted at the baseline were not surveyed and, thus, remain with unknown status.	1. 41,622,000 hectares (following target revisions from the programme in Malaysia)

GLA ToC Result 2							
IPLCs implementing gender inclusive and sustainable forest governance and livelihood strategies							
Result 2 GLA indicators	2a. Number of people (women, men, young men and young women) who are better prepared and/or supported to use improved sustainable practices and to participate in (local) governance.						
	==> Linked to IGG indicator: Number of beneficiaries (m/f) supported by projects and programs on sustainable agriculture and/or forestry practices in the landscape/jurisdiction						
Result 2 GLA indicators	2b. Number of people (women, men, young men and young women) who practise (improved) sustainable activities and/or actively participate in (local) governance and thus experience increased adaptive capacity (resilience) to climate change						
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
	2a. 0 people				192,710 people	2a. As of mid-2023, the GLA programme has reached more than 192 thousand people in the various landscapes and countries. This number includes a large proportion of men, which already surpassed the target set at the beginning of the programme. On the other hand, the programme still needs to work towards reaching the targeted number of women, young men and young women standing at roughly 52%, 43% and 21% of the intended targets respectively. The most derived benefits from the programme are access to resources and improved capacities to participate in management and governance processes (totalling 70 thousand people each). Improved income and improved food security are the other benefits derived with 58 thousand and 59 thousand people reported respectively. Note: Since the indicator measures the amount of people reached and deriving a benefit from the programme, double-counting is possible in some cases since the same group might be impacted by different interventions and GLA strategies simultaneously.	2a. 230,780 people; Note: The target has been slightly adapted to align with a revision made at MTR, though overlooked at the time.
	Women: 0				47,650 women		Women: 84,440
	Men: 0				122,850 men		Men: 82,640
	Young women: 0				6,840 young women		Young women: 32,000
	Young men: 0				15,370 young men		Young men: 31,700
	2b. Total: 17,350				26,245 people	2b. As of mid-2023, there are 26,225 people recorded to have adopted improved sustainable practices in agriculture and forestry (54%) or to be actively involved in local governance processes (41%) , with the remainder 5% reported with unknown distribution among the two categories. This represents roughly 60% of the previously determined target, or 66%, 45%, 88% and 43% for men, women, young men and young women respectively. Note that this includes results that were not foreseen at the baseline, and thus the targets will also be adjusted accordingly.	2b. 44,300 people
	Women: 4,600				6820 women		Women: 15,300
	Men: 9,900				12,830 men		Men: 19,200
	Young women: 1,050				1,985 young women		Young women: 4,600
Young men: 1,800				1,985 young women	Young men: 5,200		

GLA ToC Result 3 Government and agro-commodities, extractives, energy and infrastructure sectors no longer drive deforestation. (Pathway B and contribute to Pathway C)							
Result 3 GLA indicators	3. Number and nature (*) of policies, agreements, investments, standards and regulations implemented, complied with and/or blocked by local, national, regional and global public and private actors that address drivers of deforestation, distinguishing between those that have a gender perspective and those that do not (qualitative).						
Result 3 GLA indicators	==> Linked to DSO basket indicators: SCS1 number of laws and policies for sustainable and inclusive development that are better implemented as a result of CSO engagement SCS2 number of laws and policies for sustainable and inclusive development adopted/improved/blocked as a result of CSO engagement (*) Nature of policies: Main focus on community-driven management of land and forests, management regulations for the financial and economic sectors that drive deforestation, biodiversity and nature conservation, coffee/oil palm/ soy, mining, human rights and the rights of environmental and human rights defenders						
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
	3. Number of policies: 60 policies etc. (11 of which are gender-responsive and 0 of which are gender-transformative)	3. Number of policies changed: 21	3. Number of policies changed: 39	3. Number of policies changed: 62	3. Number of policies changed: 122	3. As of end 2023, 122 policies that address drivers of deforestation have changed with contribution of GLA interventions. These policies represented a change in relation to the agro-industry sector, mining, forestry, finance, infrastructure or changes in gender and/or inclusiveness. Of the 122 changes, 69 were made by public government actors, 28 by community leaders, 18 by private sector actors and 2 by an international human rights organization.	3. 96 policies
GLA ToC Result 4 IPLCs install inclusive governance structures and (local and national) authorities support sustainable IPLC forest management (Pathway A)							
Result 4 GLA indicators	4. Number and nature of changes (**) in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management. ==> Linked to DSO basket indicators: SCS1 (refer to indicator 3) SCS2 (refer to indicator 3) (**) Nature of policies: Most of the policies identified are on the agenda or being implemented and are gender-sensitive; i.e., recognising but not addressing differences in participation, power, needs, etc. of men and women Nature of changes: changes in level of adoption/implementation; content or level of gender responsiveness						
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
	4. Number of changes in policies and practices: 0 policies and practices	4. 25 changes in policies and practices	4. 55 changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management.	4. 54 changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management.	4. 134 changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management.	4. As of end 2023, 134 changes in policies and practices contributing to governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management have been made with contributions from the GLA Alliance. 74 of the 134 changes in policies have been implemented or adopted, while 38 changes in policies resulted a improvement or a draft of a policy. 88 out of 134 policy changes represent a change in gender equality, justice and/or inclusiveness of marginalised groups. 78 of the 134 policies depict a change in IPLC inclusive governance structures, others are changes in multistakeholder settings or general government structures. Continuous effort of the GLA can potentially lead to several changes in one policy across multiple years, thus potentially contributing to the cumulative count of one policy over the specified period.	4. 82 changes in policies and practices
GLA ToC Result 5 Public and private actors (in relation to agro-commodities, extractives, energy and infrastructure sectors) adopt policies/standards/agreements that promote forests and human and women's rights (Pathway B)							
Result 5 GLA indicators	5. Number and nature (***) of changes in policies, agreements, investments, standards and regulations adopted by local, national, regional and global public and private actors to address the drivers of deforestation in a gender-responsive way and to protect the rights of (W)EHRDS. ==> Linked to DSO basket indicators: SCS1 (refer to indicator 3) / SCS2 (refer to indicator 3) (***) Nature of policies: Most of the identified policies are on the agenda and are gender-sensitive or gender-blind. The main focus aligns with that of indicator 3 Nature of the changes: changes in the level of adoption/ implementation; content or level of gender responsiveness						

	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
Data overview	5. Number of policies: 0 policies	5. 9 policies have been adopted by local, national, regional and global actors.	5. 12 policies have been adopted/improved/drafted by local, national, regional and global actors to address drivers of deforestation and to protect civic space and protect the rights of (W) EHRDs specifically.	5. 27 policies have been adopted/improved/drafted by local, national, regional and global actors to address drivers of deforestation and to protect civic space and protect the rights of (W) EHRDs specifically.	5. 48 policies have been adopted/improved/drafted by local, national, regional and global actors to address drivers of deforestation and to protect civic space and protect the rights of (W) EHRDs specifically.	5. As of end 2023, 48 policies that address drivers of deforestation, protect civic space and protect the rights of (W)EHRDs have been changed with contributions of the GLA Alliance. 23 out of the 48 policies reflect a change in policies by public government actors, while 16 out of 48 policies reflect a change in policy by local (indigenous) authorities and 5 out of 48 policies reflect a change in a private (business) actor. 34 out of 48 policies represented a change in gender equality, justice and/or inclusiveness of marginalised groups. Continuous effort of the GLA can potentially lead to several changes in one policy across multiple years, thus potentially contributing to the cumulative count of one policy over the specified period.	5. 48 policies

GLA ToC Result 6 National governments and other actors protect EHRD and women rights defenders (Pathway C)

Result 6 GLA indicators 6. Extent to which men and women IPLCs, men and women EHRDs, groups that work with a gender transformative/gender justice approach, and other CSOs experience increased civic space, human rights, and women’s rights

	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
Data overview	6. Due to safety issues relating to the civic space of the survey respondents no data has been collected for this indicator		6. A baseline report has been collected (early 2023) of which a separate report will be shared			NA	6. No targets have been set for this indicator

GLA ToC Result 7 Media, community members and (other) CSOs highlight environmental IPLC and women’s rights issues and deforestation drivers

Result 7 GLA indicators 7. Degree to which environmental IPLC and deforestation drivers issues, including gender just reports, affecting IPLCs are taken up by and are on the agenda of social movements, constituents, media.
 ==> **Linked to DSO basket indicators:** SCS3 # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage.

	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
Data overview	<p>7. Social movements: 17% of the issues (n=168) are taken up rarely; 33% of the issues are taken up sometimes; 33% of the issues are taken up often and 16% of the issues are taken up always. 1% of the issues are never taken up.</p> <p>7. Media: 6% of identified agendas (n=178) had no coverage; 23% had some coverage; 20% had moderate coverage; 38% had good coverage; and for 12% it was a high-profile issue. On average the coverage is ‘good but mostly in outlets with small audiences’.</p>	7a. 45 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 10 countries.	7. 65 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 11 countries including The Netherlands.	7. 103 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 11 countries including The Netherlands.	7. 213 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 11 countries including The Netherlands.	<p>7. By end 2023, 213 issues on environmental IP&LCs and deforestation drivers issues, including gender just reports, received attention a result of efforts of the GLA programme. Of those 213 issues, 17% explicitly sought to more equally distribute power and/or access to resources between women and men or between women, 25% report paid explicit attention to differences between women and men, but not to the extent as previously described, in 24% of the issues gender was mentioned in the agenda, although it was not covered in the issue and in 34% of the issues gender was not covered at all.</p> <p>In 20% issues or reports were local, in 43% were national level and in 37% were covered the international level (multiple levels are possible per issue). The persistent commitment of the GLA alliance to uphold specific issues/ topics on the agendas of social movements, constituents, and the media has at times led to the inclusion of similar issues across multiple years, thus potentially contributing to the cumulative count over the specified period.</p>	7. The GLA aims to improve how often these issues are taken up by social movements and media, but no specific target is defined.

GLA ToC Result 8		IPLCs, including women and youth, participate in decision-making processes, are an active part of monitoring and enforcement bodies, and their interests are recognised by governments at the national and international level					
Result 8 GLA indicators		<p>8. Number of spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement bodies and their interests are increasingly recognized by governments at national and international level.</p> <p>==> Linked to DSO basket indicators: SCS3 # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage</p>					
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
	<p>8. Of the 131 processes IPLC men always participate in 41%; often participate in 24%; and sometimes participate in 20%.</p>	<p>8. 31 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 9 countries</p>	<p>8. 56 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p>8. 89 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p>8. 176 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p>8. By mid 2023, the GLA alliance has contributed to a total of 176 spaces in which IPLCs have increased participation. The groups that reported increased in these spaces were CSOs (25), community-based organizations (9), social movements (19), women groups (38), indigenous communities (56) and local communities (22). The persistent commitment of the GLA alliance to maintain participation of IP&LCs in decision making spaces, has at times led to the inclusion of spaces across multiple years, thus contributing to the cumulative count over the specified period.</p>	<p>8. The aim of the programme is to increase the level of influence or participation in decision making by IPLCs in more processes, especially at national and international level. Besides, the programme aims to increase the level of participation for women and young women/ men in all processes. No specific target is defined in this case.</p>
	<p>IPLC women always participate in 21% of the processes; often participate in 20% and sometimes participate in 30%.</p>						
	<p>IPLC young men always participate in 11% of the processes, often participate in 8%; sometimes participate in 27%; and rarely participate in 31%.</p>						
	<p>IPLC young women always participate in 6% of the processes; often participate in 4%, sometimes participate in 18%; and rarely participate in 32%.</p>						
GLA ToC Result 9		Alliance members and partners strengthen their capacity for international and regional collaborations and exchange, legitimacy, effective L&A, etc.					
Result 9 GLA indicators		<p>9. Degree to which alliance members, CSO partners, CBOs, coalitions, social movements and womens groups have increased capacity and skills to advocate effectively and/or with improved ability to activate and strengthen the capacity of other civil actors.</p> <p>==> Linked to DSO basket indicator: SCS5 number of CSOs with increased lobby and advocacy capacities</p>					
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
	<p>9. For the 43 partners 218 capacities were identified (21 types of capacities, with an average of 5 per CSO). Of these, 31% of capacities were assessed as low, 54% were moderate and 15% were high.</p>	<p>9. Total 57 CSOs / CBOs strengthened</p>	<p>9. Total 80 new CSOs / CBOs were strengthened in 2022 and besides 27 CSOs / CBOs previously strenghtened in 2021 were additionally strenghtened 2022, as a result of the GLA alliance.</p>	<p>9. Total 99 new CSOs / CBOs were strengthened in 2023 and besides 53 CSOs / CBOs previously strenghtened in 2021 or 2022 were additionally strenghtend in 2023.</p>	<p>9. Total 236 CSOs / CBOs strengthened of which 80 direct partners of the GLA Alliance (1st ring) and 156 CSO / CBO partners that are in the close network of direct partners of the GLA Alliance (2nd ring).</p>	<p>9. After 2023, as a result of efforts of the GLA programme at least 80 first ring partner have reported to increase their capacity in different topics and 156 second ring CBOs / CSO have been strengthened in capacity and skills to advocate effectively. These are all different and unique organizations or community groups.</p>	<p>9. The GLA target is to increase on average at least 2 capacity types for each GLA partner.</p>

GLA ToC Result 11 Alliance members and partners are gender transformative and support women's rights groups to advance environmental literacy							
Result 11 GLA indicators 11. Degree to which actions by Alliance members and CSO partners are gender transformative ==> Linked to DSO basket indicators: SCS8 number of CSOs using a Gender and Social Inclusion lens during all phases of the programming cycle, with specific attention to youth.							
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025
		11. 58% (Alliance members, excluding WECF) 64% (CSO partners)	11. 15 partners of the GLA Alliance (≈ 23%)	11. 30 partners of the GLA Alliance (≈ 46%)	11. 33 partners of the GLA Alliance (≈ 55%)	11. 53 (≈ 88%) alliance partners have taken special attention to gender in their strategies and actions in 12 countries; A total of 123 campaigns and other advocacy strategies using a Gender and Social Inclusion lens; 45 alliance partners reported on having developed/strengthened their Organizational Gender Action Plan.	11. 53 (≈ 88%) alliance partners have taken special attention to gender in their strategies and actions in 12 countries. These reported on a total of 123 campaigns and other advocacy strategies using a Gender and Social Inclusion lens. Main strategies include capacity building of implementing partners and CSOs on gender mainstreaming, lobby and advocacy of different state actors at the national and international level for instance on implementing binding human and women's rights in climate and biodiversity policy, calling for attention on feminist perspectives in the Just energy transition and in the ASEAN guidelines on recognition of customary Tenure, and for women's participation and leadership in development and land-use plans such as the Ancestral Domain Sustainable development plans, along in other decision making spaces. Additionally, 45 alliance partners reported on having developed/strengthened their Organizational Gender Action Plan.

GLA ToC Result 12 Alliance members and local partners (at different levels) adhere to the principles of collaboration							
Result 12 GLA indicators 12. Degree to which Alliance members adhere to the principles included in the GLA vision of collaboration							
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Narrative 2021 until mid 2023	Target 2025	
		12. No data collected yet	12a. 13 partners have actively worked to adhere to the principles included in the GLA vision of collaboration	12. 49 partners of the GLA have actively worked to adhere to the principles of collaboration.	12. 55 partners of the GLA have actively worked to adhere to the principles of collaboration.	12. 55 partners of the GLA have actively worked to adhere to the principles of collaboration. This includes collaboration between partners at country level, designing joint activities and strategies and international collaboration. In 2021 there was quite some under reporting. In 2022 and 2023, more partners actively reported on this indicator.	12. Not applicable

Annex D.

Brief summary country reports 2023

Bolivia

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The region or landscape of focus for the programme comprises the regions of Guarayos, Chiquitanía, Pantanal, a portion of the Chaco and southern Amazon and their ecosystem transitions, within the department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia. It also covers four of the largest protected areas in Bolivia: Kaa Iya (Chaco), San Matías and Otuquis (Pantanal, Chiquitanía-Chaco), Noel Kempff Mercado (Southern Amazon transition to Chiquitanía), Madidi (Northern Amazon, La Paz department) and their areas of influence.

In 2023, indigenous people and local communities (IP&LCs) implemented strategies for territorial management and sustainable livelihood development. Our support aimed to enhance the local capacities and strategies so these communities could further fortify their ability to protect and manage resources - such as water, forests and minerals - within their territories. They also gained knowledge about defending human rights from the harmful effects of agrochemical spraying. Indigenous organisations are now working on an agenda to protect water sources. In San Jose de Chiquitos, a watershed protection committee was formed and was composed of representatives from the civic committee, the Association of Professionals, indigenous representatives from the TCO Turubo Este, and the Peasant Federation. Their objective is to advocate for sustainable water management in the province.

CSOs and IP&LCs have also increased their capacity to challenge non-compliance with environmental norms and standards by the private sector. In the communities of Bajo Paraguá and Chiquitanía, direct and legal action has been taken to defend against encroachment, mining incursions, the exploitation of resources and the expropriation of water resources. Environmental youth groups have raised awareness of environmental issues affecting protected areas and their buffer zones. CONTIOCAP has publicly denounced corporate violations of human and indigenous rights before international bodies and events, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Minamata Convention, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Nations, the UN's report on human rights for a healthy environment, and the UN High Commissioner in Bolivia.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

In 2023, Bolivia faced an unprecedented environmental crisis due to drought and fires, mainly in the lowlands and in the areas where GLA works. This crisis led to numerous conflicts and structural barriers in legal and economic terms, limiting the sustainable management of the indigenous territories involved. These environmental challenges are compounded by the degradation of ecosystems and the declining livelihoods of rural communities, which disproportionately affects the most vulnerable people. Additionally, the current economic context has driven increased extractive activities, such as the import and export of mercury, which doubled in 2023 compared to 2022.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
Women defenders, leaders and young people, strengthened in their capacities, assume leadership in the defence of their territories and organise themselves for self-protection.	Youth of Guarayos' community forest organisations are strengthened to contribute effectively to community forest management in their territories.	Young people from Guarayos are a reference point for Bolivian indigenous youth on climate action, obtaining seed funding for the operation of the forest monitoring centre, under the umbrella of Guarayos' Indigenous Forest Association.

<p>The Bolivian government gives effect to the recognition of (women) human rights defenders (W/HRD).</p>	<p>Communities of San José and San Rafael are sensitised to the impacts of agro-extractivism (GMOs, agrofuels, incentives and financial incentives, etc.)</p>	<p>On 14 June 2023, the Bolivian government enacted Supreme Decree 4959, which established mechanisms to monitor and control the import, export and commercialisation of mercury.</p>
<p>Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation</p>		
<p>Regional multilateral organisations and the Dutch government take measures to stop deforestation and its financing and promote alternative practices.</p>	<p>Actions that seek to promote pronouncements by UN Rapporteurs (on toxic waste and the environment by IP&LCs, Minamata Secretariat, IACHR and others) are focused on demanding urgent action from the Bolivian government regarding the use of mercury for alluvial gold mining.</p>	<p>In 2023, a total of 72 different media outlets and information spaces of institutions (41 national and 31 international) disseminated information on different aspects of gold mining in Bolivia, its environmental impacts and human rights violations derived from the use of mercury. CEDIB is mentioned in these media reports.</p>
<p>Pathway C: Civic space</p>		
<p>The Permanent Assembly of Human Rights in Bolivia holds hearings on violations of the rights of IP&LCs and CSOs.</p>	<p>The Environmental and Indigenous Peoples' Commissions of the senate and other defenders have received specialised support and advice from GLA in relation to the violation of HRDs.</p>	<p>In 2023 Protection International has built capacities on self protection of CONTIOCAP and other partners. This has resulted in CONTIOCAP safely denouncing human rights violations.</p>

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

In 2023, the Bolivia programme conducted a review of its Theory of Change and its underlying assumptions, confirming that it remains valid for the coming years. The GLA implementation strategies are grounded in respect for organic bodies and an understanding of the communities' unique circumstances. This approach, particularly in work involving women, aims to promote the engagement of local and territorial authorities to create a safe operating environment.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

The leadership roles of women and young people have increased within indigenous territories. Women's agendas focus on addressing issues such as water, food security and livelihoods. These agendas also highlight the need for capacity strengthening to create informed policies on these topics. There is a shared concern across the entire population regarding the water scarcity, particularly in the Chiquitanía municipalities, where the GLA operates. Additionally, various forms of structural and escalating violence have been identified through the experiences and testimonies of women leaders. This underscores the existence of systemic gender-based violence, often driven by extractivist practices targeting individuals who challenge the state's developmental policies.

Cameroon

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The main GLA implementing partner in Cameroon is CED. CED focuses mainly on southern Cameroon - the majority of which is covered by forest and is targeted by investors for large infrastructure projects and agro-industries such as rubber, cocoa and palm oil plantations. CED has built capacity and advocated with key allies, including NGO networks active on oil palm, forests and land rights, and indigenous people and local communities (IP&LCs), gender-focused and women's groups. RACOPY, an organisation that coordinates work with IP&LCs and civil society working on indigenous peoples issues, is a key partner in the Cameroon programme. Community based organisations, community leaders and activists continued to be involved in the implementation.

Main achievements of 2023 included:

- ✔ Advocacy for Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) engagement in Cameroon: CED played a critical role in advocating for CAFI's investment in Cameroon's forest sector by advocating with the board members.
- ✔ Training local monitors: CED trained and deployed 32 local monitors to focus on forestry, land grabbing and mining, aiming to identify violations of indigenous and local community rights, as well as threats to environmental integrity.
- ✔ Support for community rights: CED supported communities and their leaders in defending their rights against state or private investors. In 2023, CED opened four cases related to forced evictions in mining sites, killings at Kambele mining sites, and land clearing for agro-industrial activities in Yawanda, Ndogtima Nyong and Avebe. Out of these, CED succeeded in suspending forest clearing in Ndogtima Nyong and Avebe.
- ✔ Civic space: The Central Africa Office of the UN Human Rights High Commission has reintroduced business and human rights in the agenda for Cameroon and neighbouring countries, as a result of advocacy from CED.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

- ✔ Civic space and safety concerns: Civic space in Cameroon is under threat, exemplified by the brutal murders of two journalists and the exile of a chief editor of a privately owned newspaper. These events indicate a concerted effort by the state and private companies to suppress public criticism of the government. This shift necessitates a cautious approach to communication, with CED adapting to the approach of new heads of cooperation agencies who aim to strengthen ties with the Cameroonian government.
- ✔ Increased corruption and illegal exploitation: The lead up to the next presidential election, scheduled for 2025 (potentially earlier in 2024), has seen a surge in illegal exploitation of natural resources, including agricultural land, forests and mines. Corruption within state affairs has also intensified, contributing to a more challenging operating environment.
- ✔ Positive developments in human rights advocacy: Despite these risks, there are positive signs of increased engagement on human rights issues. The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (Central Africa Office) and the Human Rights Commission (Cameroon) have shown growing interest in business and human rights topics. A joint workshop and the establishment of a working group have laid the groundwork for further discussions and collaborative actions in this area.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
The village is recognised as a legal entity by the Cameroonian state, where it collectively owns and manages its traditional lands under a regime and the collective land cannot be sold.	Local CSOs, communities and traditional authorities have increased awareness and support the initiative to recognise the village as a legal entity and collective customary rights.	The tool for monitoring compliance with legal and contractual obligations of land-based investors is tested and widely endorsed. The Ministry of Land has taken several steps to improve the recognition / protection of customary land rights.

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation

The government stops granting land-based concessions on High Conservation Value and High Carbon Stock forest areas and land where communities claim customary rights, without their free prior informed consent.

In at least one case, communities achieve positive impacts from their resistance to new commercial land allocations to investors.

Forest clearing for RubberCam in Avebe and Eyos villages and a banana plantation in Ndogtima Nyong was halted after legal and advocacy interventions.

Pathway C: Civic space

The Government of Cameroon recognises the need to protect environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) and develops a legal framework.

The issue of the protection of HRDs is on the agenda of the government and national elected officials.

The Central Africa Office of the UN Human Rights High Commission has reintroduced business and human rights in the agenda for Cameroon and neighbouring countries.

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

The programme has made good progress towards achieving its objectives for 2023, and is well on the way to achieving its objectives for the end of 2025, despite some difficulties linked to the national context in Cameroon (the announced end of a long political regime lasting more than 40 years).

Gender transformational approach/strategy

In 2023, significant strides were made in supporting indigenous and women's groups, achieving notable outcomes in gender and youth empowerment.

The programme backed a youth association of indigenous people, uniting about 20 young leaders dedicated to supporting their communities' fight for rights and resources. The Alliance also extended support to groups of women involved with agro-industries and those impacted by mining operations.

On the gender and youth front, the programme drafted a new CED gender policy to ensure the work accounts for gender relations and the varying impacts of logging, conservation, mining, agro-industries and large infrastructure projects. Additionally, CED established a gender advisory group, the first of its kind among NGOs in Cameroon, to guide the programme's efforts toward gender equality and inclusivity.

Colombia

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The programme focuses on two main regions, the Colombian Amazon and the Andean region, collaborating with indigenous peoples, campesinos and local governments. In a coordinated manner, advocacy actions are carried out in Bogotá with civil society and state entities. Partners include Tropenbos Colombia, Gaia Amazonas, FCDS and CENSAT Agua Viva. In 2023, the programme achieved relevant goals including:

- ✔ recognition by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of local communities’ roles and management practices as effective strategies against deforestation in Colombia
- ✔ involvement of indigenous collectives of Inga and Kamentsá women in Putumayo in the construction of an action plan for the development of educational, communicative, cultural and spiritual strategies for the defence of their territory facing extractives projects, infrastructure, mono-crop expansion and green economy threats
- ✔ agreements reached at the regional Amazonian table, positioning indigenous knowledge systems at the centre of the new governmental agenda for the Amazon.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

In 2023, the municipalities where GLA partners operated, presented notable changes, including increased public health concerns due to ecological and climatic factors impacting respiratory diseases and vector-borne illnesses like dengue and malaria. Additionally, escalating armed conflict posed risks to human rights, particularly for environmental leaders facing threats and attacks, amid ongoing political challenges and slow progress on agrarian reforms and deforestation.

In 2023, the opening of commercial trade between China and Colombia’s cattle markets raised concerns about increased cattle ranching and deforestation in the Amazon. While current livestock monitoring systems lack traceability to deforestation hotspots, collaborative efforts with key stakeholders like ICA, Fedegán and ANDI are underway to address these emerging challenges and enhance traceability.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
PIACCL strengthens their community initiatives and community management models.	There is a collaborative work agenda focused on the green economy with campesinos and indigenous communities, that includes inquiry and understanding of projects that influence the Amazon region.	CENSAT: The indigenous collectives of Inga and Kamentsá women of six councils in the Sibundoy Valley (Putumayo) have developed an action plan of educational, communicative, cultural, artistic and spiritual strategies for the defence of the territory facing extractives projects (copper mining), infrastructure (construction of roads in páramo ecosystems), mono crop expansion and green economy (REDD+ projects). With this same purpose, these collectives have strengthened alliances with other territorial stakeholders.

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation		
<p>Work alliances are formalised and working plans developed with associations of producers and specific businesses to incorporate improved environmental and social controls on their productive practices.</p> <p>Data on the traceability of value chains of Amazonian original products is available.</p>	<p>An advocacy agenda to pressure private sector companies to implement standards associated with oil palm and livestock is executed.</p>	<p>FCDS: Strengthened alliances with ANDI, Fedegan and ICA on implementing due diligence mechanisms for the palm and cattle ranching sectors and EUDR to exchange information and raise awareness within the industry about the importance of traceability in the livestock production chain.</p> <p>Contributed to Colombia's zero deforestation agreement for palm, focusing on traceability and training stakeholders in deforestation monitoring, by producing analyses on palm oil and cattle ranching value chains using a mixed methodology, including quantitative, GIS and qualitative information.</p>

Pathway C: Civic space		
<p>Push forward actions that seek to sensitise the public opinion over sectors of the campesino communities in forest governance.</p> <p>Develop advocacy strategies to promote structural changes, influencing decision makers and the private sector to diminish infringing tendencies.</p>	<p>Partner organisations generate advocacy strategies to position local initiatives and knowledge as the basis for agreements oriented toward sustainable management of territories and forests.</p> <p>Indigenous people's knowledge systems and governmental models from the Eastern Colombian Amazon are used to inform the construction of a diverse and intercultural state and global agendas for the sustainable management of forests.</p>	<p>TBC: University students in urban surroundings reflected on deforestation and human rights for the Amazon through a contest of university essays in which they were invited to construct a written piece on the effects that deforestation has on the Colombian Amazon, where their concerns were expressed and critical and propositive answers were given on how to treat this problem.</p> <p>GAIA: In the Regional Amazonian Table, agreements were met that imply a positioning of the indigenous people and their knowledge systems at the centre of the new governmental agenda for the Amazon. These agreements include the implementation of processes to consolidate indigenous territories as territorial entities, which represents a crucial advance toward the recognition and strengthening of autonomy and indigenous governance in the Amazon region.</p>

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

The midterm report has allowed us to reflect on the significant process of the programme in Colombia from a complementary perspective, both regarding the strengthened capacities of IP&LCs in the equitable and sustainable management of the forest, as well as regarding the inclusive monitoring of deforestation drivers. Progress highlighted the importance of capacity building for sustainable forest management and decolonial relationships with partners. The project strategies enhance social support, with partners planning joint actions to support knowledge management and strategic communications.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

The four partners made progress concerning their organisational GAPs and agreed to carry out joint gender actions for 2024. The Colombian partners increased their results related to gender each year, especially in pathways A and C. The increased participation of women, youth and IP&LCs in decision-making processes is transformational.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The GLA programme in the DRC covers two distinct landscapes, focusing on a single Theory of Change. The programme works in the eastern landscape (Virunga/Kahuzi - Biega), in the central landscape, which extends over three provinces (Ituri, Mongala and Tshopo), and at the national level on the issue of governance of protected areas in the DRC, as well as the strengthening of civil society for these issues around the Upemba and Salonga national parks. The GLA landscapes are home to large blocks of intact forests that provide vital ecosystem services for east central Africa. This area contains some of the highest levels of species richness in central Africa, a high number of endemic species and a significant number of globally threatened species, including 95% of the gorilla range and the Okapi.

In 2023, efforts to protect the Sarambwe nature reserve were enhanced by promoting improved stoves in the village bordering the forest, reducing deforestation and environmental impact. Local communities near the national reserve of Itombwe (RNI) and Kahuzi-Biega national park (PNKB) committed to sustainably managing protected areas and responsibly using their traditional lands' resources. Initiatives to boost local purchasing power were introduced, including micro-financing for women's activities in the fishing sector across the Virunga and Upemba landscapes. Continuous monitoring of the 2019 UPR recommendations ensured that environmental protection, women's rights, children's rights and human rights, especially those of environmental defenders, were being upheld. Additionally, there was growing resistance from fishing communities against new plans for oil exploitation in the DRC's protected areas, particularly in Virunga national park.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

Overall, the risks identified during the planning phase of the programme, including security disruptions, did not significantly hinder the execution of activities or the achievement of the 2023 objectives. However, the negative impact of the M23 rebels' aggression in the central part of the Virunga landscape had more severe repercussions for the CSO members of the GLA consortium. Additionally, the displacement of people due to conflict has adversely affected the protection of forests in the eastern landscape by encroaching on the ecosystems of Virunga national park.

DRC has pursued oil and gas exploitation through 27 oil and three gas blocks, engaging in talks with Uganda about the East African crude oil pipeline (EACOP). These discussions indicate the DRC government is committed to oil exploitation, even within protected areas. However, this approach has severe environmental impacts, especially on agriculture, the main livelihood for neighbouring communities. Continued oil exploitation could have detrimental effects on the lives of many communities, including those benefiting from the GLA programme.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
Indigenous people and local communities (IP&LCs) adopt/ implement sustainable strategies for responsible governance of forests and climate-resilient livelihoods.	250 people adopt practices that are resilient to the effects of climate change in Bukoma and Binza in the chiefdom of Bwisha by December 2023.	In 2023, in Bukoma and Binza, Rutchuru territory, Bwisha chiefdom, 311 people living around the Virunga National Park adopted practices resilient to the effects of climate change through appropriate agricultural practices, (201 farmers) and the use of improved stoves (110 households).

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation		
Public authorities, industries in the agri-food and mining sectors, as well as the energy and infrastructure sectors, are controlling deforestation and responding to citizens' concerns regarding the protection of forests and human rights.	IP&LC resilience alternatives are developed to reduce pressure on ecosystems.	IP&LC members documented environmental crimes as well as other human rights violations, and the collected information was successfully shared within the network and with relevant stakeholders.
Pathway C: Civic space		
Develop strategies to protect environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs).	The overall situation of EHRDs within the landscape is known.	In the eastern landscape, seven cases of threats against HRDs were documented. One case involved an EHRD who was arrested and released after intervention by the GLA partner CREDDHO.

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

Over the past year, significant progress has been made, particularly in agricultural production, environmental protection and women's empowerment. In the Bukoma and Kanyabayonga clusters, climate-resilient farming practices have boosted crop yields, providing both environmental and economic benefits. In North Kivu, judicial authorities have taken a stronger stance against environmental crimes, leading to more active prosecution and encouraging community-led conservation efforts.

Women living near Kahuzi Biega National Park have gained financial independence through micro-credits from village savings and credit associations. This support has allowed them to start businesses and contribute to their communities' economic growth while fostering a shared commitment to conservation. These developments underscore the programme's success in promoting sustainability, legal accountability and women's empowerment.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

WECF and the gender technical partners provided a toolkit with key messages on gender integration to the implementing partners. This document was distributed and explained by the technical partners, ensuring a clear understanding of the GLA programme's gender integration goals. As a result, the implementing partners plan to collaborate with the technical partners on creating organisational gender action plans (GAP) for the GLA country partners. This collaborative effort will help align the programme with its gender integration objectives.

In the 2023 activities in DRC, a total of 16,000 people were involved in GLA related activities, with a gender breakdown of 31% women, 19% young girls, 12% young boys and 38% men.

Ghana

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

GLA Ghana is a partnership among Tropenbos Ghana, A Rocha Ghana, Friends of the Earth Ghana plus the Development Institute (DI) as the gender technical partner. The partnership conducts solidarity campaigns, capacity strengthening and advocacy, based on empirical evidence to create social movements that protect forests and biodiversity resources, and support communities to defend their environmental rights. National level actions in Ghana focus on influencing policies, regulations, plans and practices. The GLA landscapes are the Atewa forest landscape, in the eastern region and Juaboso-Bia cocoa-forest landscape in the western north region.

In 2023, thanks to persistent engagement with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Ghana’s parliament passed the Wildlife Resources Management Bill into law. This new legislation officially recognises community resource management areas (CREMAs), supporting community-led forest management and giving local groups a voice in decisions related to forest and wildlife conservation.

Community monitors from several villages within the Atewa and Juaboso-Bia landscapes played a crucial role in protecting forests within the landscapes. After being trained in using the spatial monitoring and reporting tool (SMART) (Atewa landscape) and the datalect-real time monitoring application (Juaboso-Bia landscape), they actively monitor forest activities and report illegal operations to the forest services division. In the Bia West district, bush fires have decreased due to awareness campaigns by GLA partners and the Forestry Commission’s resource management support centre - environmental conservation unit. Local communities credit these efforts for safer practices that prevent wildfires while maintaining their livelihoods.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

The Environmental Protection (Mining in Forest Reserves) Regulations, 2022 (L.I. 2462) which allows mining in forest reserves, even in globally significant biodiversity areas (GSBAs), “in the national interest,” has sparked concern. Many CSOs learned about this new regulation only in early 2023, and its provisions are alarming. In response, GLA partners and other CSOs are campaigning to repeal the regulation, engaging with local communities to press their members of parliament for action during the 2024 election period.

The government is working on a draft non-profit organisations (NPO) bill that raises additional concerns. The bill allows for licence suspension or revocation on broad grounds, including if an organisation pursues activities outside its original scope or provides misleading information. This vagueness grants the NPO Commission considerable power to suspend or revoke licences arbitrarily. Due to these issues, the Ghana GLA partners have sought advice from the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) to analyse the bill and recommend changes.

The EUDR challenges cocoa companies to source from sustainable sources. This shift has encouraged these companies to support farmers in adopting climate-smart practices, which aligns with the GLA’s goal to prevent encroachment into forest reserves and promote higher yield, sustainable cocoa production.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
Local communities in Atewa and Juabeso - Bia landscape drive inclusive natural resource governance arrangements by 2025.	CREMAs have national legal backing through the passage of the wildlife bill to make decisions on sustainable and inclusive natural resources governance.	Parliament has passed the Wildlife Resources Bill during the second half of 2023, which gives legal backing at the national level to the work of the CREMAs is waiting for Presidential Assent. The law will give confidence to the community structures that support the management of forests in our landscapes. It also affirms the rights of the communities to be included in decision making related to forest and wildlife resources.

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation		
By 2025, the government of Ghana and the EU commit to sustainable and gender responsive mining, logging, cocoa and oil palm production and trade.	FC, COCOBOD & MC maintain gazetted forests and declare remaining cocoa-forest producing blocks as no mining.	The government passed L.I. 2462, permitting the president to allow mining in forest reserves, when considered of interest for the country. This was a drastic deviation from conservation principles. GLA partners, and other CSOs mounted an aggressive advocacy and media campaign for an amendment or repeal of the bill.
Pathway C: Civic space		
Smallholder farmers, local communities and landowners feel safe and confident in monitoring and reporting illegalities and their rights are upheld by national and local agencies.	Law enforcement agencies uphold human rights and provide security mechanisms for communities to participate in NRM.	Through the project in 2023, we continued to build the capacity of over 50 local community forest monitors in the Juaboso-Bia landscape to ensure safety and security during forest monitoring. We also empowered local community members in the forest laws in order to give them the leverage in demanding their rights from state and non-state actors. This has reduced incidences of conflicts and attacks in the landscape.

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

The programme implementation is progressing well with significant advancements towards long-term goals. Landscape level outcomes are being achieved faster than national ones, likely because national level changes involve policy shifts, which take longer to materialise. Despite the slow pace, persistent advocacy has paid off. The Wildlife Resources Management Bill, long championed by the GLA, was passed by Ghana’s parliament in 2023.

To promote sustainable and inclusive forest management, the GLA has focused on educating local communities, especially women and youth, about conservation practices. In the Juaboso-Bia landscape, these efforts have led to 25 hectares in cocoa farms adopting improved agroforestry with commercial indigenous tree species.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

Efforts were made to encourage community groups, like CREMAs, to embrace good governance, including inclusivity. The recent community resource management committee (CRMC) elections for the new CREMA in the Atewa landscape saw an unprecedented increase in women elected to leadership positions. In some committees, women filled four of the seven available seats. This marked the first time that more women showed an interest in running for these roles during a CRMC election. A Rocha Ghana played a key role by organising a capacity-building workshop exclusively for women, boosting their confidence to pursue leadership positions within the CRMC

Indonesia

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The GLA programme in Indonesia is implemented by Tropenbos Indonesia (TI), Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI), Komunitas Konservasi Indonesia - WARSI (KKI-WARSI), SAWIT WATCH, Non-Timber Forests Product - Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) Indonesia and technical partners: the working group for ICCAs in Indonesia (WGII), Consortium SIKLUS, Consortium ROA and the Indonesian gender team (IGT), consisting of AKSI, YAKKUM and Solidaritas Perempuan.

In 2023, progress was made towards registering indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCA). Of the eight targeted outcome indicators, five ICCAs were registered: three from Tropenbos Indonesia in West Kalimantan and two from NTFP EP landscape in central Sulawesi. Additionally, 15 more ICCAs have been identified for future registration across four GLA Indonesia partner landscapes.

In 2023, the district government of Kayong Utara Regency implemented a district action plan for sustainable oil palm through Regent Regulation No. 60/2023 facilitated by Tropenbos Indonesia and Sawit Watch. This regulation helped the district secure a palm oil production sharing fund of 19.9 billion IDR (1,149,516 EUR) for 2023-2024.

Also, in 2023, security protocols were developed to support environmental human rights defenders (EHRD) and women environmental human rights defenders (WEHRD). All partners provided grassroots capacity building for women through feminist participatory action research (FPAR) training, aiming to increase awareness of human rights and environmental violations.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) now requires that only deforestation-free products can enter the European market. In response, WALHI and Sawit Watch developed a policy paper addressing this issue, while Tropenbos Indonesia focused on tracing rubber products from farmers at the landscape level.

In Indonesia, the recent election of executives and legislative parties introduces new risks, as many supporters have ties to the mining industry. The upcoming simultaneous elections at the national and local levels could significantly impact regulations, policies and institutional commitments, especially concerning tenure rights, indigenous peoples' rights, and social forestry. Indonesian partners plan to engage with the newly elected leaders to strengthen communication and build support for ongoing and new programmes.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
IP&LCs develop and execute forest management based on traditional knowledge (preventing forest fires and illegal logging).	IP&LCs manage areas based on sustainability principles and local values.	In March 2023, the stakeholders of Moa village, South Kulawi district, Central Sulawesi, consisting of traditional institutions, village government, women, and community leaders agreed on a draft customary forest management plan to become a social forestry work plan document (Moa Customary Forest).
Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation		
District government enforces the provincial regulation on high conservation value (HCV) for land-based investment at the ground level.	Provincial government enforces HCV regulation to land-based management units at province-wide level.	West Kalimantan provincial government issued Governor Regulation No. 1/2024 as a technical guide for implementing Government Regulation No. 6/2018. This regulation emphasises the importance of creating an indicative HCV map for the entire province. A HCV working group is being formed to develop this map.

Pathway C: Civic space

<p>By 2025, a task force within the National Commission of Human Rights (NCHR) has formulated a clear policy instrument that protects (W)EHRDs.</p>	<p>The NCHR establishes a task force on EHRD/(W)EHRD violence.</p>	<p>NCHR and WALHI made a Memorandum of Understanding on handling agrarian and environmental conflicts, to map agrarian and environmental conflicts and prepare recommendations for handling, resolving and restoring agrarian and environmental conflicts.</p>
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Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

- ✔ The work of GLA Indonesia partners has yielded tangible outcomes for sustainable and inclusive governance of tropical forests and forested landscapes. Efforts have led to improved practices that help reduce deforestation, including sustainable agricultural methods, protection of traditional/customary areas (ICCA), resolution of agrarian conflicts (grievance mechanisms), and recognition of areas under the control of IP&LCs (social forestry schemes).
- ✔ To ensure these results are sustainable, the Indonesian partners continually seek local funding opportunities and connect IP&LCs with additional support sources. For example, the issuance of the integrated area development policy in Bulungan district aims to align village and district funds, while also engaging other stakeholders, including the private sector, to advance social forestry initiatives.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

- ✔ GLA Indonesia partners have used feminist participatory action research (FPAR) to drive transformative change among grassroots women at the village level. This approach has impacted, empowered and strengthened at least 700 women across four landscapes, equipping them to become agents of change in their communities.
- ✔ The partners have also bolstered internal gender policies to ensure programme inclusiveness. The goal is to empower women to become strong environmental human rights defenders (WEHRDs), develop their leadership skills, and take on greater roles in forest and natural resource management. This empowerment is evident in women's active participation and implementation of various partner-led activities within their landscapes.

Liberia

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

Green Livelihood Alliance Liberia is a partnership among CSO Oil Palm Working Group (CSO-OPWG), the Community Rights Support Facility (CRSF), Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE), the DayLight, and Liberia Forest Media Watch. The priority areas of the country’s programme interventions are the southeast and the northwest landscapes of Liberia. In the northwest, the GLA partners work with concession affected communities in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu counties, and in the southeast with concession affected communities in Sinoe, Grand Kru and Maryland counties.

In 2023, SDI and the CSO-OPWG played a key role in shaping the national action plan on business and human rights (NAPBHR), ensuring that issues in the agro-commodity sector and provisions for community redress and remedy were addressed by stakeholders and policymakers.

In May 2023, SDI facilitated a dialogue between affected communities in Maryland county and the Maryland oil palm plantation (MOPP). This improved the relationship between the company and the communities, leading to MOPP’s support for the community development fund’s general assembly meeting.

An investigation by the DayLight into illegal logging prompted the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) to debar three logging companies for deforestation and illegal logging. Additionally, the DayLight’s reporting on a dubious carbon marketing deal between the government of Liberia and Blue Carbon, a UAE-based company, along with a radio talk show by Liberia Forest Media Watch, highlighted legal violations and international conventions at risk of being breached. This public attention led to the halting of the deal during the negotiation process.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

Liberia’s legislative and presidential elections in 2023 affected programme activities as political campaigns drew attention away from regular community engagements. During this period, many citizens focused on political debates and rallies leading to a pause in some programme initiatives.

Inflation remained a challenge, with rising costs of essential commodities like petroleum products, transportation and food, as well as fluctuations in the exchange rate. Environmentally, a major concern was the dubious Blue Carbon deal the previous government intended to sign, potentially to fund political campaign activities. This deal, which was later halted, highlighted the environmental risks associated with certain political agendas.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
Communities in the southeast and northwest of Liberia formalise their customary land rights, taking advantage of the country’s progressive land legislation.	Six clans in two districts (Tehr and Dowein) in the western region of Liberia Bomi county formalised their customary land rights, taking advantage of the country’s progressive land legislation.	On July 8 2023, the CRSF, with GLA funding through SDI, presented seven clans in Bomi county for certification to the Liberia Land Authority. As a result, these clans in Senjeh district, Bomi county, are now officially recognised by the Liberian government as customary land-owning communities.

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation		
<p>The Liberian government establishes a comprehensive national policy and legal framework on agriculture that includes community rights-based provisions on the allocation of land-based concessions, halting deforestation and promoting community-based agriculture.</p>	<p>The National Oil Palm Development Fund Bill is enacted into law by the national legislature through collective lobby and advocacy.</p>	<p>Two separate oil palm bills are circulating among Liberia’s national government entities, both proposing an oil palm development fund. This fund would manage a percentage of profits from oil palm sales and other contributions from government and industry actors.</p> <p>The CSO Oil Palm Working Group reviewed both bills to ensure they are community-focused, providing technical feedback and recommendations. They submitted their input to the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) for consideration.</p>
Pathway C: Civic space		
<p>Securing civic space for civil society and local community leaders to speak out for their rights, livelihoods and the forest.</p>	<p>The ACHPR or other international redress institutions accept verified evidence and act upon at least one EHRD case filed by SDI, partners and communities with more litigation cases filed nationally.</p>	<p>In May 2023, SDI facilitated a dialogue between affected communities in Maryland county and the Maryland oil palm plantation (MOPP). This improved relations between the company and the communities, leading to MOPP’s support of the community development fund (CDF) committee’s general assembly meeting in July 2023. MOPP also made upfront payments and built a bridge between Gbaken and the road to Pleebo City.</p>

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes
<p>The country’s thematic programme is progressing well and is on track. Collaborative efforts have achieved significant outcomes, including investigative journalism that exposed social and environmental harms in forests and agro-commodity sectors, helping to reduce deforestation. Partners also influenced policy reforms, such as draft bills for the national action plan on business and human rights and the oil palm development fund.</p> <p>The DayLight conducted field investigations resulting in the publication of 11 news articles and features on oil palm-related issues and other conflicts throughout 2023.</p> <p>Liberian partners agree that ongoing engagement with policymakers, local communities, CSOs and development partners is essential to sustain the programme’s progress.</p>

Gender transformational approach/strategy
<p>After training in research and result documentation, women from the western region conducted a regional study on mining and logging companies operating in Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu. The draft report highlights the social and environmental harms to affected communities and describes the impact of these concessions on local women.</p> <p>RICCE has set up a gender hub chat room, which has improved coordination and knowledge sharing among women’s group representatives and country gender focal points.</p>

Malaysia

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The GLA Malaysia partnership consists of NTFP-EP Malaysia (coordinator); Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA), Save Rivers, and PACOS Trust. NTFP-EP focuses primarily on the Belaga and Apoh-Tutoh regions of Sarawak. SADIA works mainly in the Simunjan region of Sarawak; SAVE Rivers in the Upper Baram region of Sarawak. PACOS Trust works with all three organisations mainly for lobbying and advocacy, training and capacity building workshops.

In September 2023, the giant logging company Samling dropped its lawsuit against SAVE Rivers and its board of directors, signifying a major win for environmental activists and demonstrating the impact of international pressure. Had the lawsuit not been dropped, it could have had significant consequences, serving as a warning to other environmental defenders in the region that their work could put both their organisations and themselves at risk of bankruptcy.

In 2023, significant advocacy efforts were made to protect forests. For example, a memorandum on the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) was submitted to Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment. Also, the Upper Baram forest area (UBFA) declaration was submitted to the International Tropical Timber Organization and Sarawak Forestry Department, reflecting ongoing initiatives to promote sustainable forest management.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

Political context: Long Banga, in the Upper Baram landscape, has a new village head and committee members who are more open and welcoming, potentially facilitating the expansion of ICCAs.

EU Deforestation Regulation: Indigenous people and local communities (IP&LCs) are voicing their concerns, but there's limited action at the national level. Ideally, governments would engage with civil society organisations (CSOs) to discuss policies, but this is challenging. CSOs and NGOs must persist in discussions, even if they find it frustrating due to the lack of follow up.

Economic context: Indigenous territories are on the brink of becoming areas for carbon stock activities. If conducted properly with free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), indigenous rights and fair profit-sharing carbon trading can be beneficial. However, there's currently little government transparency on these processes. To mitigate this, Sarawak CSOs are developing an environmental action plan, including community engagement and lobbying members of the state legislature on carbon policy.

Cultural context: The younger generation's knowledge of their native land is fading, posing a risk of losing valuable information and traditions. This is compounded by the loss of traditional foods due to biodiversity loss, climate change and changing land use. Youth participation in cultural activities is a challenge due to urban migration for education and job opportunities. To address this, partners need to engage young people through activities that connect them with their heritage, such as guided jungle walks led by elders, cultural classes and documentation projects.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
IP&LCs work with the government to actively secure individual and communal titles over their native customary rights lands and forests.	Communities are aware of their customary territories and their access rights of the land, territories and resources.	Upper Baram forest area core zone policy lobbying efforts are ongoing to have the area gazetted as a totally protected area for the core area (79,000 hectares), preventing logging and plantation activities. Approval from the Forest Department of Sarawak is pending since the last community event in September 2023 which was organised by the Forest Department of Sarawak itself.

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation		
GLA partners and IP&LCs in Upper Baram will establish an ICCA area of 1000 hectares as a biodiversity peace park.	The Stop the Chop campaign advocates for communities to participate in land use decisions and reducing or ending logging in their forests.	In September 2023, Samling withdrew its defamation lawsuit against SAVE Rivers, marking a victory for environmental activism and public participation, with international pressure contributing to the outcome.
Pathway C: Civic space		
National, regional and local governments include representatives from GLA partners, IP&LCs and other CSOs (especially environmental, women and youth CSOs) as integral members of policymaking bodies.	Indigenous people have a space to share, exchange, learn, build networks and solidarity on their issues, plans and visions.	Partners participated in the Indigenous People Day on 7 - 9 August in Telupid Sabah, Malaysia. The theme for this year was Indigenous Youth as Agent of Change for Self-Determination.

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes
<p>Although many Theories of Change (ToC) still hold, a few goals may not be achievable by the end of the programme.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made with ongoing activities like capacity building. Some major changes are expected in 2024 and 2025. SAVE Rivers plans to increase activities with the Upper Baram forest area (UBFA) community, but efforts have been impacted by ongoing advocacy work related to the defamation lawsuit.</p> <p>Good progress has also been made towards participation in policymaking and social movements to protect human rights defenders. While IP&LCs are not yet able to engage in policy making directly, groundwork is being laid through participation in declarations, petitions and engaging supportive political members. These actions are expected to pave the way for increased influence on policy decisions over time.</p>

Gender transformational approach/strategy
<p>Youth from Malaysian GLA landscapes successfully led sessions on eco-friendly agriculture and community resource management in Long Meraan. This followed a five-day community organising training with PACOS Trust in Miri, Sarawak.</p> <p>At the organisational level, the gender action plan is progressing, with partners updating existing policies to incorporate gender-related aspects like sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH).</p>

Philippines

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The GLA Philippines programme works in four major landscapes: Sierra Madres of Luzon, southern Palawan, northern Mindanao and south-central Mindanao and at the national level. There are ten collaborating partners in the country: Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM); Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC); Forest Foundation Philippines; Institute for the Development of Educational and Ecological Alternatives (IDEAS); Kitanglad Integrated NGOs (KIN); Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRC KSK/FOEPHils); Lilak Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights (LILAK); Mabuwaya Foundation; NTFP EP Philippines and Samdhana Philippines.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

The changes in context and risks in 2023 that affected the implementation of the programme are: 1) heightened security risk that resulted in red tagging of some indigenous leaders and halting of work in one area; 2) the barangay elections where some partner indigenous people (IP) leaders lost; 3) increase in prices that led to unsustainable forest activities of some IPs; 4) severe weather disturbances that caused loss of lives and property; and 5) continued mining, destructive projects and land selling leading to the polarisation of IPs. Constant coordination with local government units (LGUs) including with the barangay, military and the police is ongoing. Livelihood support and relief assistance have also been provided directly through GLA or by linking the communities to other groups. Legal avenues are being explored.

The new risks include: 1) amending the constitution to grant foreign ownership to land and business; 2) transferring the powers of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to title lands and conduct FPIC to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); and 3) increasing demand for critical or transition minerals. Awareness raising on these issues and continued advocacy are needed.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
IP&LCs, women and youth in 11 key biodiversity forested areas/ indigenous territories /landscapes install inclusive governance structures and sustainable forest management plans.	IPs, including women and youth, in the 11 landscapes organise themselves into municipal, provincial and/or national federations and present their agenda to government officials.	Higaunon leaders from seven ancestral domains formed the Higaunon forest federation, a network of Higaunon leaders in three provinces to help the IP organisations ensure cultural continuity, work with government, protect the environment and promote genuine IP governance.
	IPs, especially women, in the 11 landscapes work on food security and yield economic benefits from nature-friendly sustainable livelihoods and engagement with local business organisations.	24 community-based enterprises (eight all-women, four women-led) are currently operating in the different GLA landscapes and 13 communities are engaged in agroecology/organic farming. They have been supported by the private sector, LGUs and national government agencies.
The government legally recognises and respects the rights of IP&LCs, women and youth.	LGUs, protected area management boards, river basin councils and other relevant special bodies designate indigenous people, including women and youth as members of multisectoral and local bodies.	The municipal mayor of Malitbog, Bukidnon created the municipal indigenous people development and advisory council (MIPDAC), a body composed mainly of IPs within the municipality tasked to advance IP participation in local governance.

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation		
Government shifts plans away from forest destruction activities, protects human rights and adopts climate-smart and resilient development plans.	Five municipal or provincial governments enact or pass gender transformative policies that protect forests and watersheds particularly in areas threatened by extractive projects.	Seven LGUs affected by mining issued resolutions, ordinances and orders against the entry and/or expansion of mining projects in their respective localities.
Pathway C: Civic space		
Courts uphold the rights of environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs) and women’s rights defenders.	Courts acquit W/EHRD and IP groups in cases filed against them by mining companies.	W/EHRD Marylou Verano was acquitted of two counts of cyber libel while the DESAM leaders were acquitted of criminal cases filed against them by mining companies. The Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of Palawan dismissed the SLAPP suits (Strategic lawsuit against public participation) - two cases of grave coercion, one illegal detention, and one illegal assembly - filed by Ipilan Nickel Corporation against 26 community members in Brooke’s Point.

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

2023 reflects the priority of the Philippine government that mining and other development projects are given a premium over forest conservation. Despite this, the GLA programme in the Philippines has made progress, especially in pathway A as evidenced by the number of IPs, women and youth groups managing their landscapes and at the same time advocating for the issues and challenges they are confronted with (mining, Kaliwa Dam, land selling, working for the recognition of non-Moro in BARMM, security). The country ToC was changed during the midterm review but there are no implications in the overall country outcomes, targets and assumptions as most of the changes are at the strategy level.

Organised IP&LCs, women and youth are important for sustainability. GLA needs to work more closely with the youth and women as they are the ones who have been consistent in the fight for their rights. The programme needs to strengthen IP&LC ownership not only of the results but also of the plans, and to build trust and foster better working relationships with community partners, LGUs, churches, academia and other CSOs to help scale up existing interventions and ensure sustainability and institutionalisation beyond the duration of the GLA.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

Several youth organisations have been formed at the municipal, province and national levels. WEHRD leaders continue to reflect on their situation and participate in dialogues with military and police.

Seven out of ten partners have conducted their organisational gender action plans (GAPs). One partner has updated its organisation’s gender justice framework and sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) policy.

Uganda

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The GLA partnership in Uganda consists of Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA); African Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO); Friends of Zoka (FoZ) and ARUWE, a gender-based organisation to facilitate the gender agenda. The overall aim of the GLA partners is to protect Uganda’s Albertine Rift forest landscapes from oil and gas exploitation and ensure sustainable and inclusive governance of the Albertine Rift.

In 2023, negotiations between ETA and the Itohya Forest concluded, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in early 2024. This MoU paves the way for forest-based activities and halts the proposed land use change from forest to sugarcane cultivation.

In April 2023, the Ugandan cabinet approved a revised national energy policy aimed at reducing pressure on forested landscapes. The policy focuses on expanding access to electricity, promoting clean cooking methods and supporting renewable energy sources.

On December 3, 2023, Uganda’s Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development completed the Bugoma boundary opening report allowing for future forest restoration efforts.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

On August 4, 2023, the UN human rights office in Uganda closed after the Ugandan government chose not to renew the host country agreement. This move has significant negative repercussions for women’s and environmental human rights defenders (W/EHRDs) and the broader political and civic landscapes.

Civil wars in neighbouring countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and South Sudan have led to an influx of refugees into Uganda, placing additional stress on forested landscapes. This pressure is further compounded by population growth due to oil and gas activities.

On May 30, 2023, the President of Uganda signed the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023, leading to various consequences, including a potential decrease in international donor funding. The World Bank, for instance, ceased funding for some projects.

On June 30, 2023, the Ugandan president ordered the immediate suspension of all clearing activities in the Bugoma central forest reserve, aiming to curb the threats to forested areas in the Albertine Graben.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
Government enacts and enforces inclusive and engendered land, environment and natural resources (ENR) and climate change policies and laws.	The Minister of Water and Environment puts in place inclusive and engendered regulations for the 2021 Climate Change Act.	The climate change unit organised a workshop to update stakeholders on the progress of the reviewed report and suggested dates for the disclosure and dissemination of the NDCs report.

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation		
Private sector and financiers comply with national laws, international best practices, frameworks on climate change, and their own ENR and land policies.	CSOs put pressure on the private sector, financiers and government to comply with environmental and human rights standards.	Some European financial institutions have taken a firm stance against funding private sector oil and gas projects that are not aligned with sustainability goals. However, non-compliant financiers, like those from China, are stepping in, casting uncertainty over the sector's future direction.
Pathway C: Civic space		
Government enacts and enforces inclusive and engendered policies and laws that protect civic space for CSOs and (W)EHRDs.	The Ugandan government starts to implement universal periodic review (UPR) recommendations on civic space.	IP&LCs and CSOs have been and continue to be made aware of the UPR recommendations that the Ugandan government received.

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

Overall, the planned outcomes for 2023 were largely achieved, demonstrating that the Theory of Change (ToC) remains relevant. Evidence-based advocacy, research, community education, litigation and dialogue with government institutions and stakeholders were crucial in reaching the 2023 goals, and they continue to be key components for 2024.

Exchange visits among implementing partners proved important in enhancing forest conservation knowledge and strengthening the capacity of IP&LCs. Joint advocacy and coordinated activity implementation helped reduce threats to individual organisations and boosted the legitimacy of the programme's work.

Collaboration with like-minded partners, both among the implementing partners and beyond, has significantly enhanced capacity and streamlined project implementation.

Significant progress has been made in building the capacity of IP&LCs to sustainably govern forested landscapes beyond the project period. Efforts have also extended to district technical and political leaders, as well as government agencies, ensuring broader support for sustainable practices. Some programme activities have been integrated into district development plans for continued impact, and the MoUs signed have timeframes that extend beyond the project's duration, reinforcing long-term sustainability.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

Gender mainstreaming and youth inclusion have seen considerable progress both within implementing organisations and among the indigenous people and local communities (IP&LCs) the Ugandan partners work with. Empowered IP&LC groups are now leading the way in promoting gender equality and inclusiveness in forested landscapes.

One of the notable achievements is the increased participation of women in forest patrols, which were previously dominated by men. Additionally, women now hold key leadership roles in community forest management (CFM) groups, especially in treasury and secretary positions, with efforts underway to further enhance women's representation in higher level roles.

Vietnam

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

GLA Vietnam is active in the Central Highlands, focusing on Srepok river basin in Dak Lak (Tropenbos VN and PanNature), Gia Lai (PanNature and NTFP-EP VN), Kon Tum and Lam Dong (NTFP-EP VN).

In 2023, the central highland government carried out forest land allocation (FLA) to indigenous people and local communities (IP&LCs), acknowledging their forestland use rights. A participatory process involved local authorities, communities, NGOs and consultants, leading to the project’s first ten FLAs, totalling 479 hectares in Kon Tum province.

An application for forest stewardship council (FSC) certification for a 1,100 hectare rubber plantation in Dakruco was submitted and audited in 2023. The high conservation value forest (HCVF) assessment and ecological restoration design were developed in partnership with PanNature.

In 2023, the community rights and governance network (CRGN) expanded its site coverage and membership by conducting site assessments based on standard criteria for indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs). The results were shared within the network and with local authorities, and contributed to the development of a national policy for other effective conservation measures (OECMs).

Changes in context and risks in 2023

Policies like Decree 80, which governs foreign funding, have caused delays in obtaining permits and implementing project activities involving IP&LCs. This challenge was compounded by a riot in Dak Lak province and frequent government staff turnover, creating uncertainty and slowing project adoption. However, new legislation promoting rural development, poverty reduction and ethnic minority advancement often aligns with the project’s goals, supporting green growth and community wellbeing.

Vietnam’s commitment to the Kunming-Montreal biodiversity framework, also known as the 30x30 target (30% of land and water conserved by 2030), offers new opportunities for protected areas, including those in non-state regions (OECMs). The 2023 UNESCO recognition of the Kon Ha Nung plateau world biosphere reserve has encouraged increased biodiversity planning and local participation, providing a platform for advocating biodiversity integration into forest management in Gia Lai.

Climate change threatens the quality and yield of community agricultural products. To address this, educational programmes are raising awareness of the importance of forests and promoting adaptation strategies. The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions also creates investment opportunities in forest protection from international businesses.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities		
DONRE & DARD make a plan to re-zone forest land areas currently in conflicts.	DARD finally verifies the community forest map to allocate to Bana people in Dak Pne commune, Kon Ray district, Kon Tum province.	The Kon Ray district people’s committee (DPC) issued decisions to allocate forest lands totalling 479 hectares to ten ethnic communities of Dak Pne commune in response to their applications for their community forest ownership after a lengthy preparation.
Local authorities (district and commune levels) engage IP&LCs in the decision-making process regarding community forest management (CFM) and forest land use.	Local authorities (district and commune levels) engage IP&LCs in the decision-making process regarding CFM and forest land use.	Based on the knowledge acquired at the ABCD training course in May 2023, IP&LCs in Lak and Krong Bong districts jointly made their community development plan, i.e. restoring traditional craft villages of pottery, raising silkworms, reviving traditional water collection points near watershed forests and planting forestry gardens.

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation

Business sector and authorities increase their awareness about law, forests and local communities.	Private companies change their production to align with biodiversity conservation and the rights of local communities.	Rubber companies in the Central Highlands have received information about the EUDR process and requirements since the law was first promulgated (in June 2023) and they have made initial preparations for this process.
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Pathway C: Civic space

IP&LCs (women and men) have good knowledge of women's rights, gender equality and have appropriate leadership and L&A skills.	NTFP-EP Vietnam staff gain better knowledge in gender analysis and integration of gender equality in the project's activities	To address the recommendation on gender issues in the midterm review, a training workshop was organised in December 2023 in Ho Chi Minh City. It was to improve the knowledge of all eight NTFP-EP Vietnam staff in gender analysis and integration of gender equality in the project's activities
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Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

Overall, the 2023 Theory of Change (ToC) and its assumptions remain valid, with only minor adjustments suggested. For example, focusing policy interventions at the provincial level instead of the national level may be more effective. Regarding sustainability, the development of community-based natural enterprises (CBNEs) and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in 2023 is a notable outcome of continuous efforts in previous years, offering a positive impact on communities, particularly benefitting youth and women. This progress demonstrates the potential for NTFPs to improve local livelihoods, encourage forest-friendly production, and foster forest conservation, while also revitalising local culture. However, the capacity of CBNEs and IP&LCs remains limited, suggesting a need for further support and development.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

- ✔ Women play a key role in the development of CBNEs. In 2023, 151 women received training to improve their leadership and marketing skills, allowing them to actively engage in trade events, exhibitions and workshops. These women now lead community businesses, contributing to local economic growth, creating jobs and promoting sustainable forest management.
- ✔ On December 29, 2023, NTFP EP Vietnam facilitated a dialogue in Lam Dong province where 20 women and youths shared insights on forest management and climate change. The Women's Union has also provided women with opportunities to increase their participation in FLA in Kon Tum.
- ✔ To boost women's involvement in forest management in Kon Phe commune, home to the Bahnar people, PanNature implemented activities in 2023 aimed at addressing the limitations faced by Bahnar women in awareness, participation, education and capacity. A total of 69 women took part in training sessions and community consultations during the year.

The Netherlands

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

There are three GLA Alliance members active in the Netherlands (Milieudefensie; IUCN NL; Tropenbos International) and one technical partner (WECF, working closely with strategic partner GFC).

In 2023, Milieudefensie aimed to establish binding rules to prevent Dutch companies and financial institutions from contributing to human rights violations, deforestation and the climate crisis. Milieudefensie also worked to remove legal barriers that hinder victims' access to justice and remedy. One of the key achievements included the revision of the OECD guidelines, progress on legislation aligning financial sector portfolios with the Paris Agreement and, with IUCN NL, the provisional agreement on the EU's corporate sustainability due diligence directive (CSDDD).

IUCN NL together with Protection International (PI) worked to enhance the territorial protection and security of indigenous people and local communities (IP&LCs) and women environmental and human rights defenders (W/EHRDs) in GLA landscapes. IUCN NL further advocated at different levels for stronger environmental and human rights safeguards for the mining of energy transition minerals with an emphasis on nickel mining in Indonesia, which is linked to major deforestation. IUCN NL also supported CSO consultations for the development of the ASEAN environmental rights framework and published a report on oil palm production and trade in Colombia.

In 2023 Tropenbos International (TBI) worked on developing a better understanding of conflict to strengthen their capacity to address conflicts within their programmes.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

The fall of the Dutch government in the summer of 2023 and the subsequent November elections amplified political voices sceptical about addressing climate change and human rights violations in global value chains. This raised concerns about the progress of binding regulations and delayed processes such as consultations on climate goals for financial institutions and Dutch corporate social responsibility law.

Like much of Europe, the Netherlands is experiencing a rightward political shift, causing concerns among civil society groups advocating for gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights. The rise of the anti-gender movement and broader democratic backsliding threaten the Dutch government's commitment to gender equality and its feminist foreign policy.

Milieudefensie's announcement of a climate court case against a major Dutch financial company attracted attention to the financial sector's role in climate change, deforestation and human rights violations.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities

In 2023, IUCN NL held knowledge sharing sessions with the GLA team and some of its partners on locally-led adaptation (LLA). This initiative led to a series of LLA-focused stories on the IUCN NL and GLA website, among others, on LLA work in Sumatra and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Sharing knowledge within TBI's IPLC network team - both among partners and with outside organisations - has improved understanding of how to address conflicts. Workshops organised with PeaceNexus Foundation helped the first group in the network gain a deeper understanding of conducting conflict analysis, boosting their capacity to manage conflicts within programmes.

Additionally, TBI and other organisations held joint learning sessions to understand different landscape strategies and explore cross-cutting issues related to creating systemic change. These sessions aim to gather insights to inform policymakers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Sessions were held on the people's landscape approach (Oxfam/Novib), the collaborative mission and learning agenda (TBI, PBL), and impact measurement (Commonland).

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation

In June, the OECD released revised guidelines for multinational enterprises, introducing stronger climate provisions aligned with the Paris Agreement that cover the entire value chain. The guidelines also emphasise just transition, biodiversity, deforestation and pollution. They recognise the rights of indigenous peoples, including the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC), as well as marginalised groups, intersectionality and human rights defenders. Milieudefensie actively contributed to these guidelines through extensive written and oral input at various stakeholder consultations organised by the OECD, directly and through OECD Watch and the MVO Platform coalition.

In July, the Dutch central bank, DNB, announced that it would include the 2019 voluntary climate commitments made by Dutch financial institutions in its supervisory mandate. Milieudefensie highlighted the inadequacy of the climate action plans of these institutions through its research, including the first climate crisis index (July 2022), the fair finance guide Netherlands (March 2023), and the second climate crisis index–financial edition (November 2023).

In 2023, IUCN NL, together with its Dutch partner VBDO, organised the seminar: “Responsible Investing in the Energy Transition.” The seminar attracted over 100 financial and investment sector decision makers. IUCN NL also supported the [investor statement regarding nickel supply chains](#). As of March 2024, 31 large investors had signed the [statement](#). IUCN NL collaborated with AidEnvironment on a [report exploring palm oil trade between Colombia and the EU](#), focusing on potential social and environmental issues in Colombia’s palm oil production.

Pathway C: Civic space

In March 2023, the Netherlands accepted [nine recommendations](#) from the universal periodic review (UPR) report by the UN Human Rights Council, addressing links between Dutch business operations and human rights, environmental and climate impacts. These recommendations were initiated by IUCN NL and Milieudefensie.

IUCN NL continued collaborating with PI on safety and security for indigenous communities in Ghana, Uganda, Bolivia, Indonesia and the Philippines. Partners indicated that PI’s training workshops and mentoring are highly valuable, providing crucial insights on handling threats. IUCN NL also facilitated a partner exchange in Uganda and the Philippines to share experiences and lessons learned as environmental human rights defenders.

In December, during the political dialogue in Brussels, the European Council, European Commission and European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on the CSDDD. This agreement includes an ambitious climate plan article aligned with the revised OECD guidelines (2023) and the corporate sustainability reporting directive (CSRD). The proposal also features an article on civil claims which aims to remove obstacles to justice. Milieudefensie and IUCN NL contributed extensive text input for the climate provisions and access to justice article.

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

The successes in 2023 showed the benefits of using multiple strategies to achieve advocacy goals. This included working at the Dutch national and European levels, both in coalitions and independently, with support from academics. Milieudefensie found particular success when stakeholders joined forces to lobby for a common, specific cause as seen with the CSDDD.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

In November 2023, GLA, represented by IUCN NL, WECF and GFC, participated in the Shaping Feminist Foreign Policy Conference with a marketplace stand. Throughout the two-day event, GLA representatives emphasised the importance of indigenous and grassroots women’s leadership and how Dutch foreign policy should avoid driving deforestation because of its gender-specific impacts. WECF facilitated their network partners’ participation at the conference and co-organised a session titled: “Women Making Waves,” connecting with the global focus on water governance in 2023.

Asia regional

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The Asia regional collaboration, comprising alliance members and 26 country partners, focuses on four key areas for joint learning and advocacy as discussed in 2021: 1) Extractive, destructive and intrusive projects and programmes (EDIPP) such as mining, dams and oil palm plantations; 2) Forest governance and tenure rights (FGTR) encompasses social forestry and indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs); 3) Defending environmental/women human rights defenders (W/EHRDS); 4) Food sovereignty/security and community-based livelihoods.

In 2023, several meetings and one learning session were held for FGTR, defending W/EHRDs, and EDIPP. For the fourth priority area (food sovereignty and community-based livelihoods), the most progress came from the work with non-timber forest products (NTFP), as the GLA country partners engaged in this topic are largely from NTFP-focused organisations.

NTFP-EP also launched the youth engagement and empowerment hive (YEEHA) - a regional platform designed to increase youth involvement in forest governance through capacity building and advocacy training for indigenous people and local community (IP&LC) youth.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

Shrinking civic space and security threats continue to pose significant challenges in the region. In Vietnam, human rights defenders and activists have increasingly faced harassment, detention and persecution for their advocacy efforts. As a result, some partners have had to implement extra security measures in their activities, such as rigorous security protocols during campaigns and mobilisations.

However, there was a notable positive development when the timber giant Samling withdrew its lawsuit against Save Rivers, one of the GLA partners in Malaysia. Since 2021, Save Rivers had been heavily impacted by Samling's defamation lawsuit, widely viewed as a strategic litigation against public participation (SLAPP).

The forests and communities across Asia continue to face threats from EDIPPs, including mining, mono cropping plantations and mega dams. These EDIPPs have led to a wide range of social, economic and environmental impacts that disproportionately affect local communities who depend on forests and natural resources for their livelihoods and cultural heritage. The Asia regional collaboration will persist in its efforts to ensure protections, such as free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and customary tenure policies, to safeguard the rights of IP&LCs.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities

On May 25 2023, during the 17th ASEAN working group on social forestry (AWGSF) meeting, member states approved a concept note for a regional FPIC handbook. The meeting, held in a hybrid format, saw the ASEAN secretariat and AWGSF committing to further develop the handbook and recommending its approval to the ASEAN senior officials on forestry (ASOF). Regional advocacy efforts continue to promote the ASEAN guidelines on recognition of customary tenure in forested landscapes. These guidelines aim to create a unified regional framework for recognising customary tenure, setting an ASEAN-wide standard for member states to follow in shaping their national policies. The guidelines also provide a structure that allows IP&LCs to participate in national-level decision making across the ASEAN region.

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation

NTFP facilitated the participation of five women environmental human rights defenders (W/EHRDs) from the Philippines in the women in action on mining in Asia (WAMA) skillshare event, held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in July, 2023. The group consisted of two local community women leaders, two young female leaders and one representative from a GLA country partner. The event, titled: Regional consultation and skillshare on extractivism, climate justice and women's natural resource rights, aimed to empower indigenous and local women by enhancing their nature-based knowledge and strengthening their skills through a peer-to-peer learning process. The participants shared experiences, learned new skills and discussed the impacts of extractive industries on their communities, focusing on the collective responses and actions taken to address these challenges.

In October 2023, a major retail company from Sweden confirmed their interest to move forward with a pilot participatory certification audit with [PGS ROLES \(sustainable rattan\)](#) in Indonesia which paves the way for large corporations to embrace the inclusive and empowering participatory guarantee system and for communities to access markets and improve prices. NTFP-EP Asia has been supporting NTFP-EP Indonesia and other stakeholders in promoting PGS ROLES, an Indonesian participatory certification system for sustainable rattan products which is implemented through a collaboration of institutions and customised to the local context.

Pathway C: Civic space

To improve regional discussions on defending W/EHRDs, a regional learning session on security protection and management took place in May 2023. The session aimed to raise awareness of the risks faced by environmental defenders and provide strategies for reducing those risks. The event was held online. Additionally, the Pastore Rice small grants fund (PRSGF) from NTFP-EP provided a quick response grant to cover legal expenses for nine Peneuntungan Et Ke Pelewanan (PEKP) Pala'wan indigenous leaders from Brooke's Point, including two women and one young person. The leaders faced a lawsuit from Ipilan Nickel Corporation due to a barricade they mounted to protest against the company's mining activities. Two of the nine leaders also filed complaints against the company's security guards, who had unlawfully and violently arrested them during the barricade.

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

In 2023, NTFP-EP faced challenges in maintaining its focus on all four regional collaboration topics due to limited resources and volunteer-based participation from GLA partners and Alliance members. Given these constraints, NTFP-EP will prioritise FGTR and food security and livelihoods for 2024-2025.

The role of youth in amplifying indigenous voices gained significant attention in 2023. NTFP-EP recognises that if provided with the right support and opportunities, youth can play a pivotal role in shaping policy discussions. In many GLA landscapes, IP&LCs have been struggling for decades, underscoring the need for youth inclusion in governance and locally-led actions to address climate change and biodiversity loss.

NTFP-EP will continue its collaboration with GLA country partners in regional advocacy and strengthen its partnership with ASEAN in implementing the guidelines on recognition of customary tenure in forested landscapes, as well as in developing an FPIC handbook with a focus on gender-sensitive policies.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

Gender integration was a key focus across all activities, ensuring that at least 50% of participants were women. Support and resources were provided to facilitate women's involvement, and a gender perspective was applied to policy work. NTFP-EP is also dedicated to implementing its organisational gender action plan (GAP) and promoting it among network members and partners.

Annex E.

Brief summary local-to-global-to-local (LGL) thematic programmes reports 2023

Just Energy Transition (JET)

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

The JET programme connects local to global struggles to address climate change and support a just energy transition (JET), by halting deforestation and related human rights violations in relation to fossil and renewable energy-related (RE) mineral extractivism. During 2023, JET focused on supporting international collaboration in lobbying and advocacy and mutual capacity building, focusing in particular on improved regulation of dirty businesses and their financiers, in order to halt ongoing and expanding fossil support, and to ensure responsible (just) RE alternatives are developed. In 2023 we have worked with the following partners: 1) the JET Africa network with which we worked to support country-based as well as joint regional/international interventions to prevent and stop destructive fossil fuel projects, highlight human rights violations and target the financiers (banks and export credit agencies (ECAs)) supporting the fossil projects; 2) together with FoE Europe, FoE Mozambique (JA!) and Dutch partners: SOMO, Both ENDS, BankTrack and Oxfam Novib, we generated critical press coverage to challenge the 1 billion EUR ECA support provided by Dutch ECA Atradius DSB (ADSB) to the Mozambique LNG project, with many MPs raising their concerns about the Dutch engagement in the MoZgas project; 3) FoE Europe and other European partners, OECD WATCH, as well as southern partners from Latin America and Africa deepened a JET perspective on renewable energy (including mining) and linked this into relevant policy processes, such as Dutch policies (e.g. raw materials and Africa strategy); the EU Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), and the revision of the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

False solutions and continued fossil push. Despite promises to keep 1.5 alive, and increasing impacts of climate change impacts, the programme saw new oil and gas licences being approved by developed countries. During COP28, the global stocktake also committed to phasing out fossil fuels, but this again was not met with finance for developing countries, and it was riddled with loopholes and false solutions.

Shrinking civic space dynamics. The increased successes by partners also lead to increased pressure/intimidation from governments and corporate actors. This makes it more complex and difficult for JET partners to do their work. To address these civic space issues, working in local to global and global to local partnerships remains an important strategy in the JET work.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Output/outcomes planned for 2023	Progress 2023
Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation		
By 2025, (Dutch) investors and financiers move away from adverse investments in the energy/extractive sector (fossil and RE-related) and promote a just transition.	A well coordinated network of northern and southern-based CSOs builds effective pressure on governments and their ECAs towards an ambitious fossil phase out, in line with the Glasgow Commitment.	JET advocacy results in a just transition becoming integrated in the revised OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises. Together with OECD Watch, the programme advocated for better regulation for companies by formulating climate and just transition provisions for the revised OECD guidelines for multinational companies. Based on programme input, in mid-2023 the revised guidelines were adopted, formally taking on just transition and climate in its provisions .

	<p>Increased pressure on European governments and their ECAs via litigation and advocacy strategies to stop financing the LNG projects in Mozambique (FoE Europe, MD).</p>	<p>During 2023, the programme successfully built international pressure on financiers and governments supporting the Moz LNG project. TotalEnergies did not manage to restart the project in 2023. In November 2023, Milieudefensie, SOMO, Both ENDS, BankTrack and Oxfam Novib invited a delegation of Mozambican activists and the journalist Alex Perry to the Netherlands. The programme for the visit included talks by delegation members with funders (including ADSB), MPs, Dutch media and a public event in a packed Pakhuis de Zwijger. This resulted in press coverage and generated a lot of advocacy pressure with many MPs raising their concerns about the Dutch engagement in the MoZgas project. This resulted in a widely supported parliamentary motion demanding that Parliament would be updated on the results of ADSB's reassessment of the ECA support to the LNG project. The MPs also demanded that Parliament would be actively involved in the decision making on whether the ECA support for the project should be released or not.</p>
	<p>The Dutch government contributes to policy coherence by implementing a robust policy that phases out all ECA fossil support abroad, in line with the Glasgow Commitment and Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>During 2023, advocacy towards the Dutch government contributed to 3.7 billion EUR in fossil support being avoided. In early 2023, the Dutch government had decided to support a large fossil project, worth approximately 300 million EUR, off the coast of Brazil. Through cooperation with Brazilian partner FASE, the programme found this out at an early stage and immediately mobilised Dutch MPs and Dutch media. This created considerable public and political pressure (Parliamentary questions). This upheaval at the beginning of 2023 contributed to the government ultimately abandoning most of the fossil projects during the 2023 transition year and a total of 3.7 billion EUR in fossil support was avoided.</p>

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

The JET programme made significant progress towards its key objective of convincing governments to move out of fossil fuels and into sustainable just transition alternatives. Key reflections include: 1) using a concrete local case to address the global driver behind it and mobilising an ever-expanding group of civil society, works very well; 2) despite several of the JET partners having to deal with continued harassment and intimidation, they have made impressive progress. This is because they make use of a broad range of strategies in their work which consistently expand their support and solidarity base. To ensure the sustainability of JET results, JET partners' activities are informed by community needs assessments, ensuring a thoughtful approach for increased community reach, ownership and impact.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

The integration of a gender perspective in the JET work is key. During 2023, a lot was done in this regard. The research [by legal experts on the inadequate human rights measures by TotalEnergies](#), conducted in 2023, highlighted the gendered impacts of the gas development in Cabo Delgado. JET partners repeatedly highlighted the gendered impacts of fossil development and called for gender justice in their advocacy efforts. Also, JET partners made sure women played key and leadership roles in JET. Partners also report that cultural/structural barriers are still impacting women's participation in JET work.

CRDD thematic programme

Where do we work, the problem we work on and our approach

SDI and Milieudéfense work with Friends of the Earth (FoE) groups and structures to promote community rights and challenge deforestation drivers. Friends of the Earth groups and allies from DRC, Liberia, Ghana, Cameroon, Nigeria, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Sierra Leone, Gabon, Paraguay and Brazil are involved. The Alliance links local struggles of indigenous people and local communities (IP&LCs) to international advocacy platforms. 256 local forest monitors and 102 newly trained monitors sent in 544 reports in 2023 on illegal logging, deforestation and human rights violations. This information was used in national and international campaigns and made an impact. Financiers and consumer goods companies divested or suspended connections to harmful agri-business companies. Our civic space work resulted in the release from prison of one community member in Sierra Leone and communication from the UN special rapporteur about the intimidation of two women human rights defenders (HRDs) in Sulawesi. In Malaysia we organised the first SLAPP conference and one emblematic SLAPP was withdrawn.

Changes in context and risks in 2023

The elections in the Netherlands in 2023 had a negative outcome for forests and human rights, with an extreme right wing party winning the elections and a general win for conservative and right wing parties. Climate policy is increasingly undermining biodiversity policy globally. There is an urgent need for greater policy coherence and for the CBD to play a leading and active role in monitoring and raising concerns. There is a proliferation of voluntary initiatives and industry led platforms related to biodiversity offsetting, no net loss and nature positive. We expect to see some mentions of offsetting in CBD COP texts, but the main developments will take place in other informal and non-democratic spaces.

The impact of the ongoing and increasing closing of civic spaces combined with the increasing power of transnational corporations over national governments is being felt at all levels across the African region. More member groups are now faced with national laws that restrict the operations, funding and movement of civil society organisations. In Brazil, the change of government on January 1, 2023 was a positive resumption of the possibilities of social and democratic participation.

Main achieved outcomes 2023

Long-term outcomes (2025)	Progress 2023
Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities	
Decision makers at national and international policy levels strengthen community forest management (CFM), food sovereignty and agroecology initiatives and ensure IP&LCs human rights, social justice and their rights to healthy forest ecosystems are promoted and respected in legal and policy frameworks.	<p>In December 2023, the Dutch government, in collaboration with the European Commission, Germany and France, launched the Teams Europe Initiative and contributed 20 million EUR to tackle root causes of deforestation and implement the European anti-deforestation regulation.</p> <p>The SBSTTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice) to the convention on biological diversity (CBD) included three key demands on biodiversity and climate change in the draft resolution for COP16 from 15-19 October in Nairobi which related to a compilation of studies on adverse impacts of climate-focused interventions, a reference to climate change impacts and a call for investments in biodiversity actions, after FoEI advocacy.</p>
IP&LCs defend their territories and livelihoods against land grabs, rights violations and deforestation as part of grassroots movements.	<p>Indigenous Banen communities in the Ebo forest area organised themselves during 2023 to resist the industrial logging permits using legal and public strategies.</p> <p>Six local CBOs and one fishery CBO, all in the state of Perak, Malaysia, defended their territories and livelihoods. The former were involved in opposing the proposed conversion of the Kledang Saiong forest into a monoculture plantation project, while the fishery CBO in Tanjung Piandang was involved in the planting of 500 mangrove saplings.</p>

Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation	
<p>Regulations for economic sectors which cause deforestation and human rights violations of IP&LCs and environmental defenders are adopted in international policy spaces.</p>	<p>The speaker of the ECOWAS parliament, the president of ECOWAS female parliamentarians and the Association of West Africa Legislative Correspondents (AWALCO) commit to collaborate and enhance FoE Africa struggles against monoculture plantations during the 2023 second ordinary session of the ECOWAS held in Abuja, Nigeria in December 2023.</p>
<p>Local to global social movements connect to collectively resist corporate power, stop harmful projects and frame alternatives.</p>	<p>The commissioner of the National Land Commission of Sierra Leone signed a contract to map all the concession areas from Socfin in collaboration with MALOA and other stakeholders.</p> <p>CoMPaz-Friends of the Earth Brazil, filed a public civil action which, in January 2023, resulted in a precautionary measure suspending the expansion of highway BR 386.</p> <p>Swiss pension funds divest from Bolloré/Socfin; Dutch pension fund PFZW divests from Astra Agro Lestari; Unilever engages Astra Agro Lestari; ten consumer goods companies suspend trade with Astra Agro Lestari; one globally leading pension fund researches two companies from FoE campaigns for potential blacklisting.</p>

Reflections on progress made in 2023 towards outputs/outcomes

To prevent corporate greenwashing, we must continue working on the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and EUDR. There are still a lot of offsetting opportunities in the GBF, which allows for continuous destruction and must be contested in the coming years during the development of indicators. There is a need to ensure the European Commission officially collaborates with forest countries on the underlying causes of deforestation, where the programme’s job is to include CSO and IP&LC voices from the global south. In the EUDR, the review of the banking sector is important for 2024 and beyond. The EUDR will be put to the test by submitting verified complaints to partners. The proliferation of carbon deals, which are the next big land grab of forests, forces an increase in work on this topic.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

For community forest management (CFM), FoEI created a framework for gender justice. This was the outcome of a process that was started in 2021 with the intention of improving the analysis and incorporation of gender justice in this work. The framework’s principal goal is to recognise women’s significant roles in CFM practices and to raise awareness of their active political participation. FoEI will continue to work on this, particularly by creating training materials for FoE groups.

Annex F.

Brief summary International policy dossiers 2023

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

A. Introduction

Following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework (KMGBF) in December 2022, GLA partners have focused on promoting the recognition of indigenous territories for biodiversity protection, framed within ToC pathways A & B. Key contributors include Gaia Amazonas, NTFP EP, IUCN NL, Milieudefensie, SDI (via Friends of the Earth International ((FOEI)), and WECF (via Global Forest Coalition).

In 2023, the GLA alliance engaged in international dialogue from various perspectives.

Local/regional level: Gaia Amazonas, coordinator of the North Amazon Alliance (ANA), highlighted the importance of indigenous territories at the CBD, based on the KMGBF's relevance to this bio-region. NTFP-EP Asia, SDI and MD/FoEI worked to ensure Asian and African indigenous people and local communities (IP&LCs), including women and youth, could advocate for rights-based, inclusive, community-based strategies.

International level: FOEI focused on aligning climate and biodiversity policies and advocated for ICCAs as legitimate conservation alternatives, pushing for business regulations on human rights and deforestation. IUCN NL supported ICCAs and OECMs, monitored and evaluated processes and mobilised resources. WECF/GFC promoted a gender-responsive KMGBF implementation, advocating through the CBD women's caucus and the CBD Alliance.

B. Changes in context and risks in 2023

During the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, it was announced that Colombia was selected to host the next CBD COP16, which will take place in October 2024 in Cali.

In December 2023, the [IUCN red list received an update](#) that included, among other species groups, approximately [4,000 new tree species assessments](#). This brings the total number of tree species on the list to over 40,000, indicating that 70% of tree species now have a published IUCN red list assessment. Notably, the status of big leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*), a highly prized timber tree, has been elevated from vulnerable to endangered. Recent data shows a decline of at least 60% in its population across Central and South America over the past 180 years, driven by unsustainable harvesting practices and the encroachment of agriculture and urban development into its native tropical forest habitat.

C. Key progress/achievements in 2023

Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities

International level
(e.g. UN, EU, etc.)

FOEI participated in the CBD Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), criticising the monitoring framework as inadequate. They coordinated the editing of an ECO bulletin on this issue and organised an action. Negotiations will continue in 2024. FOEI also worked on aligning climate and biodiversity policies in the draft SBSTTA text for the COP. Additionally, FOEI submitted a proposal for the Working Group on Article 8(j) (WG8J) on indigenous issues, which will be revisited at COP16 after being delayed.

[IUCN NL led an event at the UNFCCC Climate Conference \(COP28\) in Dubai](#) on improving climate finance for forests, biodiversity and food security. Local partners included A Rocha Ghana, FOEI, Tropenbos International, GAIA Amazonas, NTFP EP, and IP&LC representatives from the Philippines and DRC.

<p>Regional level</p>	<p>Through the North Amazon Alliance (ANA), Gaia Amazonas has been involved in updating the national biodiversity action plan (NBSAP) in Colombia and other Amazonian countries. ANA promotes a regional perspective to establish relevant commitments and measures for the Amazon's protection.</p> <p>In 2023, Gaia and ANA encouraged Amazonian governments to set regional-specific biodiversity targets, particularly area-based targets 1-3, during the Presidential Summit in Belem do Pará in August. They positioned the Amazon as a leader in formulating regional biodiversity commitments within the Declaration of Belem.</p> <p>ANA and Gaia continue to advocate for biodiversity discussions to highlight key ecosystems and set specific, regionally consistent targets for environmental benefits and services.</p>
<p>Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation</p>	
<p>International level (e.g. UN, EU, etc.)</p>	<p>IUCN NL led a side event at the UN 2023 Water Conference (22-24 March) on the biodiversity-water-climate nexus. Together with Tropenbos International and local partners, they organised From Pledge to Practice: A Roadmap Towards Action, focusing on implementing the freshwater challenge and the UN water action agenda. Local partners included Fundación Natura Bolivia, ECOTRUST Uganda and FCDS Colombia.</p>
<p>Netherlands</p>	<p>IUCN NL contributed to the Netherlands' national biodiversity strategy and action plan by leading non-state actor input for targets 8, 14, 16, 18, 22 and 23, focusing on climate, mainstreaming, ecological footprint, finance, gender and inclusivity.</p>

Gender transformational approach/strategy

During the 25th SBSTTA meeting, GFC advocated against harmful incentives and for closing gender gaps in biodiversity conservation. They published an opinion piece (op-ed) in the Kenyan media during UN consultations on nature-based solutions in Nairobi and two articles in the ECO newsletter. GFC, in collaboration with the CBD women's caucus and CBD Alliance, participated in events and press conferences, delivered negotiation statements, and improved gender-responsive language in the monitoring framework. They also pushed for gender-responsive resource mobilisation, climate justice, and the elimination of perverse incentives in KMGBF implementation.

IUCN NL celebrated the integration of human rights and gender in the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework in a [blog article](#).

United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC)

A. Introduction

GLA aims to achieve that governments and agro-commodity, extractives, energy and infrastructure sectors no longer drive deforestation and address citizen's concerns to protect forests and human rights. Within the GLA's sphere of influence, we put pressure on governments and the private sector to increase transparency about their impact on forest ecosystems, biodiversity, water sources and soil, and ensure the participation of CSOs, IP&LCs and under represented groups (women, youth) in policy development and decision-making structures that affect their lives.

Within the UNFCCC international policy dossier, we seek to influence UN bodies, international advisory bodies (e.g. NDC partnership) and international financial bodies (e.g. regional development banks) in relation to the design and implementation of climate action. In particular, to strengthen the recognition and position of indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LCs) and women and youth in the discussions linked to these. NTFP-EP, TBI, Gaia Amazonas and WECF/GFC are all working on this policy dossier.

B. Changes in context and risks in 2023

2023 was the hottest year on record, shattering astonishing records and leaving no room for weak climate action. The Amazon experienced its worst drought in 50 years. Progress on fossil fuel language was made but falls short of necessary action. COP28 saw a historic Global Stocktake but was tainted by the UAE's use of the conference for fossil fuel deals. The presence of 2,456 fossil fuel lobbyists starkly contrasted with only 316 indigenous representatives, a Guardian report noted. Despite this, COP30 will be held in Belém do Pará, Brazil in 2025, emphasising the Amazon's critical role in global climate discussions following COP16 of Biodiversity in Colombia in 2023.

C. Key progress/achievements in 2023

Relevant to all the pathways, the GLA was present at COP28 and co-hosted a number of side events, two jointly as GLA.

- ☑ During COP28, side events highlighted locally-driven climate policy and finance. On December 4, IUCN NL (lead), Gaia Amazonas, NTFP-EP, Tropenbos International and WECF collaborated on an event in the blue zone and at the IUCN pavilion. It focused on strategies to prevent and address payments for forest and biodiversity loss, underscoring the significance of IPLCs in forest protection and showcasing the effectiveness of locally-led climate actions.
- ☑ The GLA (under the lead of NTFP-EP) co-organised a side event with the Gagga alliance titled: "Gender-just climate policy and finance: from barriers to actionable solutions" on December 3, 2023.
- ☑ COP28 also allowed NTFP-EP and its partners to contribute significantly to climate action dialogue, particularly by amplifying the voices of indigenous youth and women. At the indigenous pavilion, NTFP-EP hosted a side event titled: "Indigenous peoples' rights-based climate solutions."
- ☑ Gaia Amazonas facilitated the participation of Fabio Valencia, an indigenous representative from the indigenous territories of the northeast Colombian Amazon. He engaged in GLA's side event and other discussions, advocating for the recognition of their territorial process by the Colombian government. Fabio also represented his territory, Pirá Paraná, which pursued the first case on carbon credits and indigenous rights violations to reach Colombia's constitutional court.
- ☑ The North Amazon Alliance prioritised the UNFCCC as a global platform for joint advocacy during a face to face meeting in November. The Alliance committed to aligning positions from an Amazonian perspective on climate change for COP30 in Brazil in 2025.

Pathway A: Indigenous people and local communities

- ☒ At the UNFCCC 58th session of the Subsidiary Bodies in June 2023 in Germany, Asami Segundo from the Kalahan Educational Foundation, representing indigenous youth, delivered the indigenous caucus' closing statement. Despite limited representation, support for Asami marked a milestone, amplifying indigenous youth's voice in climate discussions. This marked the first participation of NTFP-EP partner indigenous youth at the Bonn climate change conference. Though new to negotiations, Asami's support provided a platform for engagement on crucial topics like ethical carbon and strengthening indigenous youth's voice. Asami also contributed to proposing the International Indigenous Youth Forum for Climate Change, akin to the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change, representing indigenous peoples at UNFCCC.
- ☒ WECF hosted the 8th Gender Just Climate Solutions ceremony as an official UNFCCC side event, recognising grassroots initiatives promoting gender justice and women's leadership in climate action. Winners included the Paran Women Group from Kenya, honoured for their work in reforestation, eco-friendly briquette making and agroecological food production. The ceremony garnered attention from high level stakeholders, raising awareness of scalable climate solutions.
- ☒ WECF, alongside partners including representatives from Uganda and Indonesia, organised a side event during the intersessional negotiations in Bonn (SB58), focusing on transformative and inclusive climate finance.
- ☒ NTFP-EP Asia played a key role in elevating youth voices and advocating for indigenous rights during the 2023 Asia-Pacific Climate Week (APCW) in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, from November 13-17. This event was crucial for regional stakeholders to address pressing climate change issues, shaping discussions leading up to the first global stocktake at UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai in December 2023.

Pathway B - Drivers of deforestation

- ☒ During negotiations on the Koronivia work plan on agriculture and food security, Annabel Kennedy (WECF) spoke on behalf of the Women and Gender Constituency. She emphasised the need for a holistic, community-led and rights-based approach considering ecosystems, biodiversity and soil health, with a focus on agroecological and agroforestry alternatives often managed by women. Despite numerous meetings, including closed-door talks reducing transparency, parties failed to reach agreement resulting in only an informal note.

Pathway C: Civic space

- ☒ On November 16, 2023, NTFP-EP, a member of Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, supported and co-organised a hybrid coordination meeting among Philippine CSOs and Aksyon Klima members to prepare for COP28. This meeting provided a platform for discussing key COP28 topics and coordinating relevant side events and meetings for potential collaboration among Philippine CSOs attending the event.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

During the GLA side event at COP28, Gaia Amazonas presented on gender-responsive governance from a situated gender approach. Their intervention emphasised the crucial role of women in indigenous food systems for territorial wellbeing as a climate solution.

EU deforestation regulation

A. Introduction

GLA aims to achieve that governments and agro-commodity, extractives, energy and infrastructure sectors no longer drive deforestation and address citizen's concerns to protect forests and human rights. Within the GLA's sphere of influence, we put pressure on governments and the private sector to increase transparency about their impact on forest ecosystems, biodiversity, water sources and soil, and ensure the participation of CSOs, IP&LCs and under represented groups (women, youth) in policy development and decision-making structures that affect their lives.

Within the EU deforestation legislation international policy dossier, we focus on the EU and Dutch action to address deforestation and target in particular the Dutch government, the European Commission, the European Parliament and member states, which are key actors to halt deforestation in supply chains and beyond. We focused on the approval, implementation as well as flanking measures of EU deforestation regulation (EUDR) to minimise the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the European market. Fern, TBI, IUCN NL, Milieudefensie, and GFC are all working on this policy dossier.

In December 2022, the EU passed the EU deforestation-free regulation (EUDR), a groundbreaking law prohibiting certain goods derived from deforestation from entering the EU market. Market analysts noted its significant financial implications, marking the first time environmental harm in forests carries a tangible cost. The EUDR, considered robust, contributed to a notable reduction in Amazon deforestation in 2023.

GLA Alliance members played a pivotal role throughout the process, initially advocating for such legislation since our 2015 report highlighting the EU's deforestation impact. While acknowledging the EUDR's limitations, especially concerning human rights, attention shifted towards ensuring member states prioritise the implementation of EUDR obligations and preparing for the upcoming review in 2024. Efforts also focused on educating partner organisations in producer countries and devising strategies to navigate the new regulations, including safeguarding smallholders from exclusion in the supply chain.

B. Changes in context and risks in 2023

Corruption in our target countries poses significant obstacles to our efforts in land and forest governance, particularly affecting policy work. In Liberia, the political landscape presents challenges as the president shows hostility towards enforcing forest laws against illegal logging. We closely monitor the aftermath of the coup d'état in Gabon, as it may impact our regional operations. The new leadership in Liberia, closely linked to former President Charles Taylor, favours timber companies over community rights, raising concerns. In Indonesia, civil society hesitates to take visible joint actions post-election, hindering effective advocacy.

Additionally, the private sector's persistent and strong lobbies threaten to undermine the EU supply chain regulation, potentially rendering it ineffective. There's a risk of excluding rights holders, including smallholders and women, from supply chains, despite positive language in the regulation. This perceived risk, though still theoretical, requires proactive mitigation efforts given its potential impact.

C. Key progress/achievements in 2023

Pathway B - Drivers of deforestation

- ✔ NGOs and smallholders in producer countries, previously marginalised in law development, now feel empowered to engage with the EU deforestation-free regulation (EUDR). For example, a new network in Cameroon promotes agroecology, while SPKS from Indonesia joins forces with GLA and other CSOs to monitor palm oil companies' compliance. In Colombia, FCDS is working on monitoring factory farming, especially extensive meat production.
- ✔ GLA's advocacy shifted the commission's stance towards recognising and addressing smallholder concerns in EUDR implementation.
- ✔ GLA's efforts have led to increased scrutiny over competent authorities responsible for implementing EU regulations. Fern organised a joint call to EU member states, signed by over 150 NGOs, outlining immediate actions for enforcing the EUDR. Another letter in mid-July reinforced this message. Additionally, Fern co-funded a meeting in London with EU ministries in May 2023 to discuss competent authorities' role.
- ✔ IUCN NL collaborated with supply chain actors and experts in Colombia and other Latin American countries on the EU deforestation-free regulation (EUDR). Together with GLA partners, they advocated for a robust EU partnership proposal with producing countries to support forest conservation, including participation in the EC multi-stakeholder platform on deforestation. Additionally, they pushed for clear and timely guidance to companies for compliance with EUDR.
- ✔ In November, the NGO smallholder coalition (including FERN, TBI, and others) convened on the sidelines of the ADP meeting in Belgium to address smallholders' concerns. Over 40 participants, including representatives from producer countries and organisations like the EC, GIZ, and ADP from Belgium, attended.
- ✔ Success of the EUDR hinges on its ability to empower smallholders and family farmers. GLA members dedicated resources to educate civil society partners and smallholder organisations in producer countries about the EUDR's content and obligations through informational briefings, regular updates, workshops and on-the-ground missions.
- ✔ GLA member partners facilitated outreach to smallholders in countries like Ghana, Ivory Coast, Cameroon, Vietnam and Indonesia. Missions were conducted to develop strategies for EUDR implementation and understand how small producers and CSOs intend to utilise it. Further exploration of the law occurred with partners in Brazil, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Ghana, China and Vietnam.

Gender transformational approach/strategy

As deforestation, biodiversity loss, and depletion/contamination of water sources differently affects poor men, women, youth and children, exacerbating existing inequalities and injustice, the EUDR team of GLA pays special attention to these affected groups to see how joint efforts and opportunities can be used to include a gender transformative lens in the debate and discussions of the EUDR implementation. A guideline to include gender in business practice will be developed this year.

Annex G.

Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) risk analysis and management (updated to annual report 2023)

1. Contextual risks

Risks of an external nature that may directly or indirectly impact the GLA programme, the Alliance and/or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

	Risk description and probability (updated 2022)	Impact on the GLA programme, the Alliance and the ministry	Mitigation strategies
1.1 (new)	<p>Increasingly tense geopolitical power dynamics and growing concerns about the possibility of a supraregional armed conflict. In 2023-24, hotspots are: Israel-Hamas conflict, rising tensions in Philippines-China, Ukraine-Russia.</p> <p>Impact level: Global Probability: Medium Potential impact: High Assessment: Uninsurable, unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Increased prioritisation and spending on military and arms, decreased prioritisation and budget allocation to issues related to ODA, climate change, protection of forests, environment and biodiversity. ☑ Particularly in relation to the Israel-Hamas conflict, pro-Palestinian positioning of the national governments of some GLA countries could potentially lead to decreased support for ODA activities by Pro-Israel governments (e.g. US) and donors. ☑ Rising Philippines-China tensions around territorial disputes in the West Philippine Sea can potentially affect partner communities in GLA landscapes (Zambales and Palawan). The fragile ecosystems in these areas could suffer irreparable harm if tensions escalate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Close monitoring of the situation through several mediums and engaging in diverse platforms. ☑ On Philippines-China tensions, GLA partners from ASEAN-member states engage their respective governments to ensure protection of the area. ☑ Some elements of risk are partly mitigated through actions carried out in Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation
1.2 (adjusted)	<p>Continuation of the energy crisis, albeit more stabilised, linked to Ukraine-Russia conflict.</p> <p>Impact level: Global. Probability: High. Potential impact: Medium Assessment: Uninsurable, unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Governments in producer countries are more willing to open up forested areas for extractive and agricultural industries. ☑ Governments in European countries searching for new fossil fuel and renewable energy sources in Africa, to reduce their dependence on Russian gas. ☑ Increased mining of the transition minerals, over half of which are in Indigenous people and local community (IP&LC) governed lands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Some elements of risk are partly mitigated through actions carried out in Pathway B: Drivers of deforestation. ☑ Production of evidence-based research publications, publishing fact sheets, engaging in public mobilisation and building alliances within other socio-environmental movements to push back on the fossil development myth. ☑ GLA partners will intensify their work on the issue of renewable energy-related mining, by framing what a JET approach to renewable energy should look like in research as well as advocacy at national level (e.g. Philippines, Uganda) or at OECD and EU level.
1.3 (adjusted)	<p>Global economic crisis leads to high inflation rates, rising costs, fluctuations of local currencies against the EUR and USD from late 2021 onwards.</p> <p>Impact level: Global. Probability: High. Potential impact: Medium Assessment: Uninsurable, unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ All these elements have a negative effect on the programme budget and communities. ☑ At country level, the dire economic situation is used by many politicians to promote extractive industries (fossils & minerals) ☑ Women, youth, and other minority groups are hit the hardest by the economic recession because of their disadvantaged position, which further limited their participation in political or social activities because of stress and a focus on day-to-day survival. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Close monitoring of the programme budget and adjustment where necessary as well as looking for ways to reduce costs. ☑ In terms of the communities, programme investments in enabling communities to sustainably manage their land and forest, protecting natural resources and establishing sustainable businesses will reap long-term benefits and make communities more resilient to external shocks like economic crises. ☑ Our focus on women's leadership, youth, Indigenous people and gender equality aims to mitigate the disproportionate effects of the crisis. ☑ Close monitoring of exchange rate fluctuations.
1.4 (adjusted)	<p>Natural disasters (e.g. extreme weather factors, earthquakes and landslides)</p> <p>Impact level: Local. Probability: Low. Potential impact: High Assessment: Uninsurable, unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Loss of livelihood, loss of material goods, loss of life, deterioration of health. ☑ Shift of focus from programme priorities to addressing basic needs, disaster response and recovery. ☑ Disproportionate effects on structurally excluded and disadvantaged groups (e.g. women, ethnic minorities, disabled people, people living in poverty). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Coordination with other actors at the municipal, departmental and national levels and specialised NGOs to support communities and address immediate effects of disaster in GLA focal areas. ☑ Implementation of the Forests for a Just Future (FJF) programme: Our ToC is designed to limit the risk of climate change disasters through reduction of deforestation and sustainable governance of forests.

<p>1.4 (adjusted)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ When GLA areas are affected, provide emergency funds and/or make links between affected communities to groups that provide support and emergency funds for affected IP&LCs. ✔ Highlight the role of ecosystem-based solutions in the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. ✔ Adaptation measures for the communities (e.g. livelihoods, ensuring ecosystem adaptation measures). ✔ To take into account disproportionate effect on vulnerable groups, and a gender responsive and intersectional approach in the programme.
<p>1.5 (adjusted)</p>	<p>Internal conflict associated with illegal economies and global demand of commodities and natural resources and/or presence of illegal armed forces, guerrillas or military in GLA focal areas lead to increased tensions and potential for violent conflict / displacement.</p> <p>Impact level: Local Probability: Low in most countries. In 2023, the situation in DRC worsened and was classified as high. Other exceptions are Colombia, Philippines and Cameroon where the risk is medium to high. Potential impact: Medium to high. Assessment: Unavoidable, uninsurable, acceptable risk given the kind of work GLA does and the long-standing relationships with communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ May impact the implementation of activities, their nature, the security situation for partners and IP&LCs. ✔ May hinder entrance to programme areas and the achievements of the programme at the level of the affected landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Strengthening of longstanding and establishment of new relationships with communities and other institutions in programme areas. ✔ Risk assessment and security planning, self-protection training. ✔ Discuss with local staff the best way to provide support in periods of tension. ✔ Establishment of early warning mechanisms with communities. ✔ In case of conflict or displacement, establish and maintain clear and open communication with community leaders to establish ways to continue support. ✔ Emergency fund for (women) environmental human rights defenders ((W)EHRDs) - provision per Alliance member.
<p>1.6</p>	<p>Outbreak of global/regional pandemic (e.g. completely new, or new strands of Covid-19, Ebola, other)</p> <p>[Replaces prog. Dev. doc risk: Covid-19 and Covid-19 related restrictions].</p> <p>Impact level: Global risk with local variation. Probability: Low. Potential impact: Uncertain. Assessment: Unavoidable, uninsurable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Restrictions to international and local travel, physical meetings and events. ✔ Health (physical and psychosocial) problems affecting staff and/or IP&LCs. ✔ Focus on rapid economic recovery/shift of funding and government priorities and policies at the expense of forests. ✔ Localisation of value chains; decrease in global trade; loss of markets. ✔ Stifling of civic space/protest/ participation under the pretext of health measures. ✔ Reduction of monitoring and enforcement of policy implementation leading to increased illegality/ impunity. ✔ Increased levels of inequality at all levels, associated with growing power imbalances and reduced influence of IP&LCs, women, youth and other underrepresented groups on (land use) decision making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Building in flexibility in the programming, replacing physical meetings with online meetings, addressing the digitalisation gap and gendered impacts of Covid-19 in our lobbying and advocacy. For those places where there is no internet connectivity we look at replacing online outreach with alternatives such as podcasts and community radio. ✔ Strategic impacts of Covid-19 are addressed in the regular learning and planning cycle, based on periodic assessment of changes in context. ✔ More information on our Covid-19 approach can be found in section 4.3. In addition, our work regarding civic space (Pathway C) also relates to shrinking civic space as a result of Covid-19.
<p>1.7</p>	<p>Shrinking civic space for CSOs and women/IP&LCs.</p> <p>Impact level: Global risk with local variation. Probability: High. Potential impact: Medium/high. Assessment: Uninsurable, unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Reduced ability of GLA partners to operate. Increasing difficulty to implement dissenting strategies and mobilise citizens. ✔ Increased risk for priorities of partners/ women/IP&LCs/youth to be ignored/overruled by government/decision makers. ✔ Increased risks for (W)EHRDs as a result of increased criminalisation of their work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Some elements of risk are partly mitigated through actions carried out in Pathway C: Civic space. ✔ Use results and recommendations from the civic space survey and report 2023 to assess how to better mitigate this risk, also at local level. ✔ Coping strategies - adjusting interventions to be effective within restricted environments; ensuring (international) backup and support.
<p>1.8 (adjusted)</p>	<p>Local, national and regional elections (including risks of violence). In 2024, elections are expected in Indonesia (Feb '24), the European Union (Jun '24) and Ghana (Dec '24). In the Netherlands, a new government cabinet is still under discussion at the time of writing following the elections of Nov. 2023 with high degree of uncertainty in relation to ongoing coalition between parties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Change in political dynamics can affect the lobbying work: loss of government contacts, change of policies, change in budget allocation to forest preservation. ✔ Loss of attention from politicians during election periods. ✔ Violence around elections can lead to security risks to our partner CSOs and IP&LCs as well as effective programme implementation. ✔ The EU elections might lead to delays in ongoing legislative processes. E.g. The corporate sustainability due diligence directive (CSDDD). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Adoption of a conflict sensitive approach (refer to programme doc section 4.2.) ✔ In the months leading to the elections, avoid partisan positions. ✔ Inform communities on the impact of the candidates' positions. ✔ Avoid places and times of unrest. ✔ Engage (identify/work with) local champions that may support key aspects of the FfJF ToC and GLA agenda.

	<p>Impact level: Local (EU, regional). Probability: High. Potential impact: Varies locally. Assessment: Unavoidable, uninsurable, acceptable risk.</p> <p>Note: This risk is also perceived as an opportunity. Elections may also be used as a strategy to highlight GLA priorities locally (to be defined locally if relevant).</p>		
1.9 (adjusted)	<p>Rise of authoritarianism and/or populism.</p> <p>Impact level: Global and local. Probability: High. Potential impact: Varies locally. Assessment: Unavoidable, uninsurable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Strengthened emphasis on short-term policies, fast economic growth and benefits to economic and political elites which jeopardises GLA goals. ✔ Further reduction of civic space and loss of access to power structures for IP&LCs, women, youth and other underrepresented groups. ✔ Increased violence against activist (W)EHRDs and IP&LCs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Some elements of risk are partly mitigated through actions carried out in Pathway C: Civic space. ✔ Adoption of a conflict sensitive approach (refer to programme doc section 4.2.) ✔ Highlight GLA values of inclusion and evidence-based decision making as meaningful solutions for the problems faced by people.
1.10	<p>Fraud and corruption by government officials or suppliers.</p> <p>Impact level: Local. Probability: Medium to low. Potential impact: Low. Assessment: Uninsurable, partly unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Loss of resources, inability to obtain services or delays/obstructions in implementations. ✔ Risk of reputational damage of GLA and the ministry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ All Alliance members have anti-fraud policies in place. Adherence to these made us re-evaluate the risk and change it from medium/high to medium/low in 2022). ✔ Creation of networks of trustworthy suppliers and officials. ✔ Implementation of anti-fraud and anti-corruption policies, including regular moral deliberation by partners, will reduce the risk of succumbing to corruption. ✔ Immediate communication with the ministry in the case of fraud or corruption.
1.11 (new)	<p>Negotiations on carbon deals in Liberia and possibly other countries, for instance Malaysia.</p> <p>Impact level: Local. Probability: High Potential impact: High Assessment: Uninsurable, partly unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ Livelihoods of people in the selected areas will be directly affected. ✔ Extinguish community land ownership in the selected areas, while violating peoples' legal right to provide Free, Prior and Informed Consent for any developments on their land. ✔ In Liberia, agreement is such that only Blue Carbon will have the right to decide whether the carbon credits will be sold, and at what price. If they are sold, Liberia will not be able to use the carbon credits to meet its own climate targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✔ In Liberia, Malaysia and other countries through the CRDD thematic programme, partners are closely following the developments surrounding carbon deals, and preparing lobby efforts and campaigns to counter the negative effects of this instrument.

2. Programme risks

Risks associated with the nature of the GLA programme, including risks that may be generated by GLA itself.

	Risk description and probability (updated 2022)	Impact on the GLA programme, the Alliance and the ministry	Mitigation strategies
2.1	<p>Inherent risks from implementation of complex multi-partner, multi-country, multi-million EUR programmes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Coordination risks: the programme involves multiple stakeholders and teams working across different time zones and geographical locations. ☑ Cultural risks: Cultural differences between the various teams involved in these programmes can lead to misunderstandings and difficulties in communication. ☑ Financial risks: Programme involves significant investments of resources and there is always the risk of cost overruns, currency fluctuations, and unexpected financial issues that could impact the programme's viability. <p>Legal risks: e.g. disputes over intellectual property, contracts and liability. Impact level: Organisational/donor. Probability: High. Potential impact: Low. Assessment: Uninsurable, partly unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Challenges in coordination and communication lead to delays and errors in programme implementation and progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Alliance partnership agreement ☑ Joint development and adherence to GLA vision on collaboration and equity (VoCE). With regular reviews when relevant. ☑ Designation of a senior programme coordinator role that is objective and does not participate in individual Alliance member management structures and/or office politics. ☑ Governance structure with implementation committees and advisory working groups that have equal representation of all Alliance members to discuss/address these risks if/when relevant. Including clear description of roles and responsibilities. ☑ Clear guidance in terms of financial management and procedures, solid financial advice by lead financial controller and independent annual financial audits. ☑ Timely communication to donor in case there is the perception that the scale-up of any of these risks could pose a risk to programme implementation and Alliance commitments to the ministry as presented in the grant agreement.
2.2	<p>Exposure to personal risks for (W)EHRDs - resulting from raising issues of human rights abuses and environmental crimes and denouncing violence against (W)EHRDs.</p> <p>Impact level: Local. Probability: Medium to high. Potential impact: High. Assessment: Uninsurable, partly unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ (W)EHRDs and their family and close friends may be physically harmed (including torture, maiming or loss of life) or suffer reputational harm to prevent them from doing their work or advocacy. ☑ Other activists and IP&LCs might not stand up for their rights, because of intimidation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Preserving confidentiality where necessary and implementation of protection mechanisms for high profile (W)EHRDs (Pathway C). ☑ In cases of public denouncing of human and environmental rights abuses, a mitigation measure is the inclusion of guarantor bodies from the UN, (Dutch) embassies, universities, international cooperation and prominent CSOs. ☑ Emergency funds for affected IP&LCs. ☑ Linking (W)EHRDs to legal support, if/when required. ☑ Amplify information on abuses through Alliance networks.
2.3 (adjusted)	<p>Backlash against and criminalisation of CSOs (including lawsuits).</p> <p>Impact level: Local. Probability: Medium. Potential impact: Medium to high. Assessment: Uninsurable, partly unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ GLA achievements that are directly at the expense of corporate or political interests may provoke a backlash specifically directed at GLA (partners). ☑ Partner CSOs may face harassment and administrative restrictions. ☑ CSOs/(W)EHRDs in key positions within the CSOs face lawsuits and are directly sued. ☑ In the NL, concerns with the mentioning of one of our partners in the election programme of the most voted party PVV and what this implies for organisations working on climate and environmental issues, as well as promotion of human rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Some elements of risk are partly mitigated through actions carried out in Pathway C: Civic space. ☑ Careful consideration of intervention strategies based on contextual analysis and conflict analysis. ☑ Anticipate potential response strategies by opponents and engage them if possible. This is a very context specific risk requiring case-by-case strategies. ☑ The strengthening of relationships with civil society, legal and media communities, (Dutch) embassies and the national commissions of human rights will be valuable in addressing such risks. ☑ Differentiation of roles; partners who are more vocal in their advocacy can be supported by other partners with less provocative/risky strategies.

2.4	<p>Gender bias in GLA intervention strategies.</p> <p>Impact level: Global, local. Probability: Medium. Potential impact: High. Assessment: Uninsurable, avoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Exclusion of women participants and neglect of their interests, especially of IP&LC women. ☑ Lack of alignment with GLA principles and values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Implementation of gender and inclusion strategies to address bias. ☑ Support from specialised gender technical partners to identify and address bias. ☑ Ensure partner policies are gender-responsive and include specific sections to address gender-related concerns (e.g. SEAH). ☑ Regular review that strategies are gender-responsive (e.g. annual reporting, MTR).
2.5	<p>Empowering women IP&LCs may increase gender-based violence.</p> <p>Impact level: Global with local variability. Probability: Medium. Potential impact: Medium/high. Assessment: Uninsurable, partly unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Physical harm. ☑ This can lead to IP&LC women no longer wanting to participate in GLA activities. ☑ Potential reputational damage for GLA and ministry if media links gender-based violence to GLA interventions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Adoption of a conflict sensitive approach (refer to programme doc section 4.2.). ☑ Application of monitoring tools to identify backlashes of women's rights, including gender-based violence. ☑ Build local networks that work on gender-based violence to provide support in case it arises as a result of programme implementation. ☑ In case of potential reputational damage to the ministry, the GLA will communicate with the ministry immediately to discuss the situation and introduce mitigation strategies (activating a no surprise policy).
2.6	<p>Inadvertently fuelling existing tensions or conflicts in focal areas.</p> <p>Impact level: Local. Probability: Medium. Potential impact: Medium/high. Assessment: Uninsurable, largely avoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Reduced ability to achieve GLA objectives if GLA's interventions are perceived as biased towards certain economic, cultural, religious or gender interests. ☑ Potential reputational damage to GLA and ministry if project funding is linked to increased conflicts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Adoption of a conflict sensitive approach (refer to programme doc section 4.2.) ☑ Partners strengthen relationships with (potential) allies and strategic high-impact stakeholders, as identified in stakeholder mapping exercise carried out during the baseline. ☑ Partner CSOs are familiar with the intervention area and therefore well placed to identify potential conflicts. ☑ In case of potential reputational damage, the GLA will communicate immediately with the ministry and discuss mitigation strategies together (activating a no surprise policy).
2.7	<p>Misinformation, disinformation or fake news on key issues of the programme, on Alliance members or implementing CSOs.</p> <p>Impact level: Local. Probability: Medium. Potential impact: Medium to high. Assessment: Uninsurable, unavoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Reputational damage to GLA. ☑ Physical and psychosocial harm to people. ☑ Loss of public confidence in NGOs. ☑ Loss of support from partner communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Adapt security risks management techniques. ☑ Development of a communications strategy. ☑ Share verified facts with communities. ☑ Build relationships with media organisations to distribute truthful messaging. ☑ Monitor negative reporting.
2.8	<p>Reputational damage or diplomatic embarrassment of Dutch embassies (EKN) or the ministry caused by GLA activities.</p> <p>Impact level: Local. Probability: Low. Potential impact: Medium. Assessment: Uninsurable, avoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Damage to NL policy interests. ☑ Damaged relationship between GLA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ We realise that the objectives of the Netherlands government (MoFA, embassies) and the GLA (partners) do not always overlap, and in certain cases conflict. In the spirit of good partnership, if GLA identifies a case of potential reputational damage, the GLA will communicate immediately with the ministry and discuss mitigation strategies together (activating a no surprise policy).

3. Organisational risks

Risks associated with own organisational administrative and implementation practices at all levels of programme implementation (alliance members, technical partners, implementing partners, etc.).

	Risk description and probability (updated 2022)	Impact on the GLA programme, the Alliance and the ministry	Mitigation strategies
3.1	<p>Inadequate accountability of programme implementation and expenditure.</p> <p>In terms of accountability, we refer to downward accountability (towards programme participants and other local and regional stakeholders), peer-level accountability (towards the other partners in the programme) and upward accountability (towards the donor and ultimately, the taxpayers).</p> <p>Impact level: Global. Probability: Low. Potential impact: High. Assessment: Uninsurable, largely avoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Loss of resources. ☒ Reputational damage for GLA and/or the ministry. ☒ Exposure to corrective measures and/or fines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Implementation of sound planning and monitoring of programme and expenditure, internal joint planning, reporting and accountability systems. ☒ Inclusion into partner agreements and contracts of appropriate clauses covering financial and technical accountability. ☒ In case of potential reputational damage, the GLA will communicate immediately with the ministry and discuss mitigation strategies together (activating a no surprise policy).
3.2	<p>Corruption, fraud and misuse of funds among partners.</p> <p>Impact level: Global. Probability: Low for alliance members and technical partners. Low to medium for implementing partners. Potential impact: High. Assessment: Uninsurable, largely avoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Loss of resources. ☒ Reputational damage for GLA and/or the ministry. ☒ Exposure to corrective measures and/or fines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Implementation and proper follow up of protocols, internal policies, safeguards and whistleblowing channels among all partners to avoid and prevent fraud and corruption. ☒ Regular periodical internal and external audits that highlight potential risks and facilitate their mitigation before they materialise. ☒ Implementation of due diligence regulations preventing cooperation with or contracting of entities or suppliers that are exposed to financial risks. ☒ Inclusion into partner agreements and contracts of appropriate clauses covering chain responsibility. ☒ Implementing organisation has put appropriate controls and procedures in place to minimise risks at Alliance level. ☒ In case of potential reputational damage, the GLA will communicate immediately with the ministry and discuss mitigation strategies together (activating a no surprise policy).
3.3	<p>Integrity and harassment related breaches (incl. SEAH).</p> <p>Impact level: Global. Probability: Low to medium. Potential impact: High. Assessment: Uninsurable, largely avoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Physical and psychological harm to people. ☒ Exclusion of partners, disruption of (country) partnerships and programmes. ☒ Exposure to corrective measures or lawsuits. ☒ Reputational damage for GLA and/or the ministry. ☒ Loss of public confidence in the development sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Implementation of integrity and safeguarding policies; zero tolerance to inaction policy at Alliance level. ☒ Support in development / strengthening of integrity policies for each GLA partner, including a structure with persons of trust and integrity officers, clear consequences of violation and processes to be followed in case of violation.
3.4	<p>Financial vulnerability of partners including risks of inadequate financial management.</p> <p>Impact level: Local. Probability: Low for alliance members and technical partners. Low to medium for implementing partners. Potential impact: Medium. Assessment: Uninsurable, largely avoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Cash flow problems leading to bankruptcy or delays in salary payments, personnel walkouts and non-delivery of outputs. ☒ Use of project funds for unauthorised purposes. ☒ Loss of partners from the GLA partnership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☒ Some smaller/newer grassroots partners may lack financial capacities. ☒ Collaboration with known and trusted partners and screening of potential partners. ☒ Contract stipulations including sanction policies. ☒ Provision of financial and administrative capacity strengthening if desired. ☒ Prudence in advancing/pre-financing; liquidity provision linked to agreed financial and substantive milestones. ☒ Audits.

4. Risks relating to the use of technology and data

	Risk description and probability (updated 2022)	Impact on the GLA programme, the Alliance and the ministry	Mitigation strategies
4.1 (adjusted)	<p>Data theft, data loss or information leaks. In 2023, for example, the website of Liberian GLA partner The Daylight (nonprofit, environmental news website) was hacked. Also, increased use of AI tools by some organisations and/or individuals, without full understanding of implications.</p> <p>Impact level: Global, local. Probability: Medium. Potential impact: Medium to high. Assessment: Uninsurable, avoidable, acceptable risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Privacy violation. ☑ Online harassment of (W)EHRDs. ☑ In the worst case, exposure of (W)EHRD to high personal risks; prevention of intervention strategies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☑ Programme documents that are finalised and/or confidential are all stored in the Milieudedefensie NextCloud server. ☑ Usage of Project Connect for storage of partner monitoring data (stored in IUCN NL server). ☑ Usage of Smart Survey tool (recommended by Protection International) for collection of confidential survey data. ☑ In case of a breach, prioritise the protection of CSO websites and information. Can be done through hiring a trusted IT company to redesign and build the website with stronger security against cyber-attacks/hacking. Overall, regular monitoring is an essential part of it. ☑ Development of an AI policy for the alliance.