



Green Livelihoods Alliance

Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation
Inclusive Green Growth Department, Team Climate Change
P.O. Box 20061
2500 EB Den Haag

Amsterdam – May 30, 2025

To: Kaj van de Vorstenbosch - Policy Officer Climate IGG
Cc: Roze Pieplensbosch, Finance Controller IGG
General IGG report submissions (IGG-reports@minbuza.nl)

Subject: Cover letter annual report 2024 “Forests for a Just Future” (ref. 4000004338 / 100001236)

Dear Kaj,

On behalf of the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA), we proudly present the 2024 Annual Report of the *Forests for a Just Future* (FfJF) programme. This report reflects the efforts of over 70 civil society organisations working across 11 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as in international policy arenas, to secure inclusive forest governance, climate justice and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs).

In this penultimate year, the Alliance **deepened its impact across all three pathways of change:** strengthening IP&LC-led forest governance, challenging deforestation drivers, and defending civic space in increasingly constrained environments. At the same time, we launched a deliberate, forward-looking phase-out process grounded in the conviction that **the end of a funding cycle must not erase the gains it has enabled**. The combined impact of recent decisions by the Dutch government and other donors to reduce or withdraw civil society funding is already being felt across GLA countries. **As donor support recedes, communities are again exposed to growing threats, just as locally-driven governance and resilience mechanisms are beginning to prove effective. Responsible closure is therefore not a formality but a necessary step to uphold progress and reduce the risk of losing ground.**

Building on this foundation, our phase-out strategy, outlined in Section 6 of the report, goes beyond responsible closure. It sets out a **GLA legacy agenda:** a set of tested models, capacities and alliances that remain highly relevant to Dutch development cooperation well beyond 2025. In light of MoFA’s evolving policy directions, including the planned shift away from the Strategic Partnerships framework, we believe the GLA offers key assets for future consortia and thematic programming:

- **Locally rooted governance frameworks** (e.g. ICCAs, ETIs, CREMAs) that secure community control over forests and natural resources;

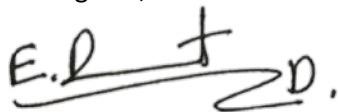
- **Integrated forest-water-livelihood strategies**, linking community-led forest governance with watershed protection and green water governance, food security and climate resilience, an area of growing importance to Dutch foreign policy;
- **Community-led monitoring systems** (e.g. SIGETI, TIMBY, participatory mapping) that strengthen accountability and environmental oversight;
- **Protection and solidarity mechanisms for (W)EHRDs and civil society actors**, which have helped maintain civic space, defend rights, and foster more resilient communities capable of withstanding political and environmental shocks;
- **Cross-regional organising by women and youth**, advancing gender justice and intergenerational equity;
- **PMEL methodologies** that support adaptive, learning-driven programming, including outcome harvesting and horizontal accountability mechanisms;
- **Advocacy infrastructure** linking local priorities to multilateral fora such as the CBD, UNFCCC, and EU policy processes;
- **Expertise in transition mineral governance**, aligning directly with emerging Dutch and EU interests in socially responsible raw materials sourcing.

These capacities align closely with the Dutch foreign policy priorities - from civic space and human rights to climate diplomacy, critical raw materials and inclusive biodiversity and water governance. We therefore see strong potential for this alliance's legacy to inform MoFA's future instruments and international partnerships.

We remain deeply appreciative of the support and collaboration received from MoFA throughout this programme. As we advance in the final year of implementation, we look forward to ongoing dialogue on how best to consolidate results and carry forward the lessons, tools and networks that the GLA has helped bring to life.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any further information.

Kind regards,

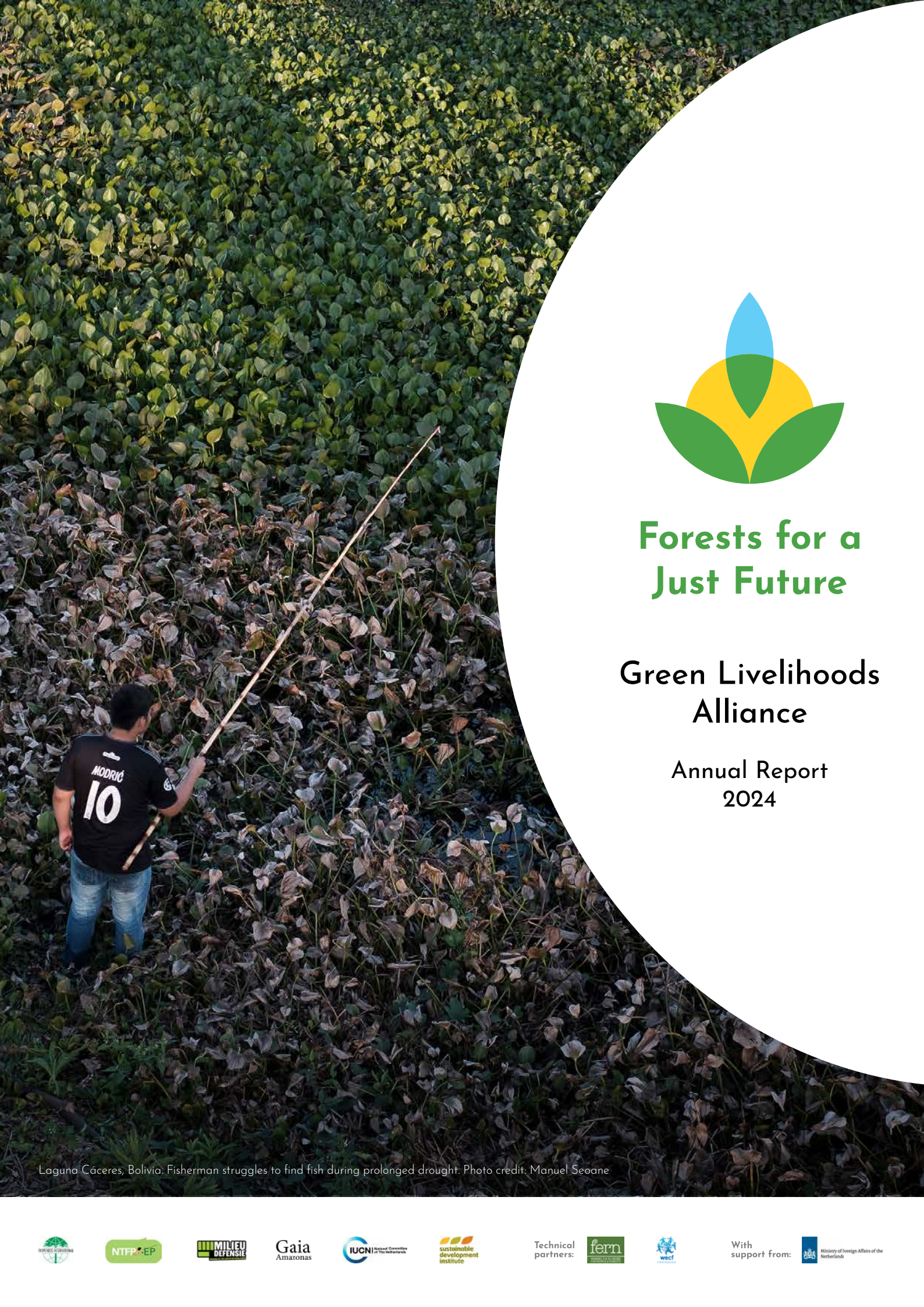


Eva Duarte Davidson
Senior Programme Coordinator - Green Livelihoods Alliance

Mobile: +31 (0) 630749527
Email: evadd@milieudefensie.nl

Attachments sent with this letter:

- Forests for a Just Future programme - Annual narrative report 2024
- Annex A: Forests for a Just Future programme - Annual financial plan 2024
- Annex B: Overview of countries, partners and landscapes (updated AP 2024)
- Annex C: Brief summary country reports 2024 (Bolivia, Cameroon, Colombia, DRC, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Malaysia, The Netherlands, The Philippines, Uganda, Viet Nam)
- Annex D: Brief summary local-to-global-to-local (LGL) thematic programmes reports 2024 [Just energy transition (JET) and Community rights and deforestation drivers (CRDD)]
- Annex E: Brief summary international policy dossiers 2024



Forests for a Just Future

Green Livelihoods Alliance

Annual Report
2024

Laguna Cáceres, Bolivia. Fisherman struggles to find fish during prolonged drought. Photo credit: Manuel Seoane





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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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Laguna Cáceres, Bolivia. Fisherman struggles to find fish during prolonged drought.

Photo credit: Manuel Seoane

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This 2024 annual report of the **Forests for a Just Future (FfJF) programme** highlights the progress made by the **Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA)** during the penultimate year of implementation. The programme aims to ensure tropical forests are sustainably and inclusively governed to mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, uphold human rights, and secure local livelihoods. Guided by an intersectional, gender-transformative [Theory of Change \(ToC\)](#), the GLA works across three pathways: (A) strengthening indigenous peoples and local community (IP&LC) governance; (B) tackling deforestation drivers; and (C) defending civic space and human rights.

In 2024, the GLA focused on deepening impact, advancing programme closure and preparing for sustainability beyond 2025 amid a context marked by shrinking civic space, delayed regulation and rising pressure on forests and defenders.

CONTEXT AND RISKS

Deforestation and climate risks intensified in 2024. Despite a pledge by over 140 countries to halt deforestation by 2030, global forest loss continues to accelerate, driven by rising demand for commodities such as beef, soy, palm oil and transition minerals like nickel. These pressures, combined with increasingly hostile political environments and weak enforcement, are threatening forest-dependent communities and biodiversity hotspots alike.

The year 2024 was the hottest year on record, surpassing 1.5°C warming and amplifying climate impacts across GLA landscapes. Flooding, droughts, wildfire risks, threats to water security and biodiversity loss directly affected communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia, Ghana and the Amazon. GLA partners also raised alarm over the rise of unregulated carbon markets and so-called nature-based solutions implemented without community consent.

Amid political volatility, inflation, civic space restrictions and delays in key regulatory processes such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), the GLA made meaningful progress. A key milestone was achieved at COP16 (CBD), where GLA advocacy contributed to the creation of a permanent Indigenous participation mechanism under Article 8(j), reinforcing community-led conservation as central to global biodiversity governance.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY ToC PATHWAY

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

GLA partners advanced forest tenure and inclusive governance. In the DRC, 600,000 ha of community forests gained legal recognition. In the Philippines, self-declared ICCAs were internationally registered, reinforcing customary governance and community self-determination. Customary claims progressed in Liberia, while in Colombia, four Indigenous governments formalised a joint governance framework. Sustainable livelihoods were strengthened through agroecology and market access models in Viet Nam. Territorial monitoring expanded through digital and participatory tools. At COP16 and COP29, GLA advocacy helped embed IP&LC and gender rights in multilateral frameworks.

Pathway B: Government and key sectors no longer drive deforestation

GLA partners challenged deforestation drivers through monitoring, litigation and policy engagement. In Ghana, advocacy led to steps toward repealing a mining law. In Colombia, GLA exposed reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) schemes linked to armed groups. The Alliance defended the EU Deforestation Regulation through the #HandsOffEUDR campaign and helped shape inclusive implementation guidance. Over 330 community violation reports were submitted under the CRDD programme, supporting legal action and redress. In Uganda, the JET programme mobilised over 17,000 citizens to advocate for a just energy transition. Advocacy on mining was expanded, including a 25-year moratorium in Palawan and there was coordinated pressure on transition mineral governance across regions.

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

GLA partners supported (women) environmental human rights defenders ((W))EHRDs) and defended civic space through legal action, emergency response and advocacy. Rapid support was provided in the Philippines, DRC and Uganda. Strategic lawsuits against participation (SLAPP) were dismissed in Palawan. Uganda's parliament responded to civic space advocacy by mandating a committee inquiry into threats facing Zoka Forest. Bolivia's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle prompted international recommendations. Documentation led to court victories, such as the removal of an illegal dam in Bolivia. GLA contributed to retaining civic space language in COP29 and COP16 outcomes.

Inclusion, gender and youth involvement

Gender justice remained a cross-cutting priority. In Colombia, the Public Forum on Women, Territory and Biodiversity influenced national biodiversity planning and was shared at COP16. Feminist approaches like feminist participatory action research (FPAR) were scaled up in Indonesia. Gender action plans were implemented across most countries. The Irene Dankelman Award recognised young feminist leaders. Youth engagement grew, with Indigenous youth participating in climate forums and camps, including the South East Asia Youth camp (YEEHA).

Sustainability and Phase-Out Planning

In 2024, the GLA launched its phase-out strategy ahead of closure in September 2025, focusing on consolidating results and securing long-term impact. This included outcome harvesting, policy integration, resource mobilisation and embedding models like Indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs) and community monitoring into governance systems. Alliance capacities, such as inclusive organising and participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), are positioned to inform future Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) programming. Despite risks related to staff attrition and sustaining gains, strong progress was made in laying the foundations for the programme's legacy.

CONCLUSION

Despite intensifying environmental, political and economic pressures, the GLA has remained a resilient, values-driven partnership grounded in locally-led action, inclusive governance and systemic change. Across forest landscapes, GLA partners have strengthened self-governance or traditional/customary governance, confronted harmful development models, defended civic space and expanded gender-responsive approaches. These efforts have not only supported climate and biodiversity goals, but also contributed to broader social and ecological resilience - including the protection of water sources, livelihoods and cultural heritage. As the final year of the programme approaches, the Alliance is well positioned to consolidate its results and continue shaping just, inclusive and climate- and water-resilient forest futures well beyond 2025.

Laguna Cáceres, Bolivia. Photo credit: Manuel Seoane

SECTION I

Annual report narrative

1. INTRODUCTION



In preparation for COP16, Indigenous women leaders discuss biodiversity protection and gender integration in Colombian environmental policies. Photo credit: Felipe Rodriguez - Gaia Amazonas

This is the 2024 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 (NTFP-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&LCs) 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](#) (ToC) 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 2024.

The year 2024 marked a critical phase in the FfJF programme, as partners across the GLA worked to consolidate progress and deepen the programme's systemic influence. As the programme entered its fourth of a five-year cycle, efforts focused on sustaining momentum, reinforcing strategic alliances and strengthening the enabling environment for IP&LC-led forest governance and climate justice. The year was shaped by shifting global and national geopolitical contexts including narrowing civic space, evolving donor priorities and the lead-up to key international moments such as the [CBD COP16](#) and [UNFCCC COP29](#), all of which underscored the urgency of our work.

Throughout 2024, GLA partners continued to translate the programme's ToC into action across landscapes, policy spaces and governance platforms. Our collective interventions addressed not only drivers of deforestation, ecosystem degradation and threats to freshwater systems and biodiversity loss, but also their root causes, from unjust land tenure systems and extractive development models to gender inequality and political exclusion. This report offers a comprehensive account of the work undertaken and the change it enabled, providing a window into how diverse actors across regions are contributing to a just, inclusive and climate-resilient future for tropical forests.

AIM AND SCOPE OF THIS REPORT

This report provides an overview of the progress made by the GLA in 2024. We aim to provide a representative oversight of how we have operationalised our ToC, as well as programme progress in general, and particularly in relation to our 2024 annual plan. As input, we used information from:

- ☞ 11 country annual reports, one report focusing on interventions in and from the Netherlands, and two reports from the technical partners;
- ☞ four 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 two international policy dossiers¹: 1) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); 2) EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Throughout the report, illustrative examples are included to highlight key outcomes and lessons. However, these examples are not exhaustive, and the report does not aim to capture the full breadth of all interventions and achievements across the Alliance.

INCLUSIVITY

Gender justice and inclusion are key transversal elements in the implementation 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.

1. This aligns with the [management decision](#) taken on recommendations from the [midterm review](#) (MTR) (2023) where the Alliance will focus primarily on two policy dossiers: (i) EUDR and (ii) CBD and UNFCCC that were brought together in 2024 under one dossier. The work on the UN Binding Treaty and due diligence legislation is now reported within the Netherlands' report. And any progress on nationally determined contributions (NDC), within the corresponding country reports.

SECTIONS AND CHAPTERS

This annual report is structured as follows:

Section I

Gives a general overview of our progress in 2024. 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 2024 financial report and provides a brief narrative financial overview of the main trends. The complete financial report is included as [Annex A](#).

2. CHANGES IN CONTEXT AND RISKS IN 2024



Wildfire from farm burning destroys forests, harms biodiversity, and fuels climate change. Uganda. ETA.

Most of the contextual developments and risks observed in 2024 were detailed in the 2025 annual plan submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in December. A summarised version is presented below. [Annex G](#) provides an updated overview of the GLA risk analysis and mitigation measures in 2024.

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CONTEXT

Despite a pledge by over 140 countries to halt deforestation by 2030, forest loss is accelerating, driven by [rising global demand for commodities](#) such as beef, soy, palm oil and transition minerals like nickel. A 2024 global assessment [Forest Declaration Assessment: Forests under fire](#) warned that these pressures are undermining international targets and compromising climate and biodiversity goals.

The climate emergency continued to escalate in 2024 - it was the [warmest year on record](#), surpassing 2023, and the first calendar year to [breach the 1.5°C warming threshold](#). GLA partners in [Liberia](#), [Cameroon](#), [Indonesia](#) and [the Philippines](#) reported intensifying impacts such as erratic rainfall, flooding, biodiversity loss and wildfire risk, which directly undermined forest resilience and community wellbeing.

In the DRC, [Bolivia](#) and the [Amazon region](#), extreme weather and droughts further compounded food insecurity, particularly for IP&LCs who rely on seasonal cycles and forest resources. In Ghana and Uganda, changing rainfall patterns placed additional pressure on forest-agriculture frontiers, fuelling encroachment and illegal activities, and [straining access to reliable water sources](#) for rural communities. Wildfires in [Bolivia](#) and [Brazil](#), and more generally across the Amazon, were the worst in years - consistent with projections showing [increased fire risk](#), often disproportionately affecting IP&LCs.

Carbon markets and green growth schemes, particularly in [Liberia](#), the Philippines and Colombia, posed increasing threats that prompted GLA partners to adopt proactive strategies. Reports noted that new carbon offset projects - often developed without community consent - contributed to land tenure disputes and weakened trust in climate finance mechanisms. Some GLA partners raised concerns over certain projects presented as nature-based solutions (NbS) being false solutions, and called for stronger safeguards to prevent forest commodification and dispossession.

Meanwhile, global recognition of forests' contribution to water security also grew. The [Economics of Water report](#) highlighted forests' role in sustaining rainfall patterns and green water flows, positioning hydrological cycles as a global common good essential to climate and water resilience.

Despite challenges, IP&LC-led approaches continued to gain traction. In Colombia, Indigenous governance and community monitoring systems received formal recognition to help detect early threats. In the Philippines, over 75,000 ha were (self-) declared Indigenous community conserved areas (ICCAs), while in Ghana, agroecological restoration initiatives expanded. These efforts contributed to both climate resilience and social cohesion, offering tangible alternatives to extractive forest management models.

2.2 GEOPOLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

Economic volatility remained a major cross-cutting challenge. Inflation, currency depreciation and spikes in food and fuel prices were reported in Liberia, Ghana, Uganda, Viet Nam and Cameroon, directly impacting livelihoods and limiting state investment in forest protection. In DRC, resource constraints delayed national land reform, while in Colombia, fiscal austerity policies curtailed environmental enforcement.

At the global level, the 2024 European elections strengthened ultra-conservative parties in the European Parliament, triggering [political backlash against the EU Green Deal](#) and [delaying implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation](#) (EUDR) until 2025. The [EU Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence framework](#) also received pushback. Nationalist narratives gained ground in Bolivia, the Philippines and the Netherlands, with negative implications for civic space and forest governance alike.

While UNFCCC COP29 and CBD COP16 were key advocacy moments, their policy outcomes were mixed. [COP29 fell short](#) of major advances in fossil fuel phase-out, while [CBD finance negotiations were postponed](#) to 2025. COP16, hosted by Colombia, stood out for its unprecedented civil society participation. However, GLA efforts helped secure references to IP&LC rights and gender in both spaces, despite coordinated attempts to weaken this language.

2.3 SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE AND SECURITY RISKS



Nature Ambassador for Sibuyan Island (NASI) joined the Sister Places for Earth initiative, wherein the group beautified the walls of Sto. Nino Parish in Danao, Romblon, Philippines, in celebration of Earth Day 2024.

Civic space further contracted in 2024, with documented threats against environmental defenders, particularly women, Indigenous leaders and youth. Reports from Colombia, DRC, Liberia, the Philippines and Malaysia detailed surveillance, intimidation and legal harassment, all tactics used to silence dissent and disrupt activism.

In the Philippines, civic space remained repressed, with red-tagging and defamation lawsuits continuing under Marcos Jr.'s administration. In Colombia, political volatility within the ruling party created additional risks, especially in forest regions. In DRC, serious escalation of the ongoing conflict displaced communities and endangered staff, requiring partners to shift to remote coordination and local partnerships.

In Europe, civil society also faced significant challenges. The persistent policy of repressing peaceful protests with mass arrests, in particular against climate protests and demonstrations in solidarity with Palestine led CIVICUS to downgrade the Netherlands' civic space to narrowed in its [annual 2024 ratings report](#). Also, the Dutch government announced a substantial [reduction in development aid](#), cutting the budget by over 70% from EUR €1.4 billion to between EUR €390 million and EUR €565 million for the 2026-30 period. This overhaul includes eliminating funding for lobbying activities within the Netherlands and imposing stricter requirements for NGOs to secure government grants. This trend was further exacerbated by similar announcements of aid reductions from other countries, including Sweden, Belgium, Switzerland and the United States, signalling a diminished commitment to international cooperation and civil society engagement.

2.4 OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVOCACY MOMENTUM

Amid ongoing challenges, 2024 presented strategic opportunities for advancing rights-based environmental advocacy. Notably, the CBD COP16 held in Cali, Colombia, served as a pivotal platform for implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted in 2022. COP16 marked significant

progress, including the establishment of a [permanent subsidiary body on Article 8\(j\)](#) to enhance IP&LCs participation in biodiversity governance. Additionally, the conference focused on operationalising the KMGBF's targets, such as the 30 by 30 initiative, which aims to conserve 30% of terrestrial and marine areas by 2030 through effective and equitable management, recognising the vital role of Indigenous and traditional territories.



These developments present substantial opportunities for GLA partners to engage with national governments in advancing and expanding Indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs). By aligning national biodiversity strategies with KMGBF targets, particularly Target 3, GLA partners can advocate for the recognition and support of ICCAs as integral components of conservation efforts.

At the UNFCCC COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan, parties decided to [extend the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender](#) for 10 years. This extension reaffirms the important role of the work programme in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the UN climate change process. Also, the parties agreed to develop a new gender action plan (GAP) in 2025 for adoption at COP30, which will set the direction for concrete implementation of the work programme through specific activities.

Beyond these international developments, GLA-supported advocacy yielded tangible outcomes at various levels. In the Philippines and Colombia, legal victories against mining operations and the expansion of ICCA recognition underscored the effectiveness of community-led conservation initiatives. In Ghana, Viet Nam and Cameroon, early progress in developing national platforms for EUDR readiness demonstrated proactive engagement with international environmental standards. Simultaneously, the [#HandsOffEUDR campaign](#) maintained pressure on EU policymakers to uphold robust deforestation regulations.

GLA partners continued to leverage multilevel coalitions, utilising side events, media engagement and grassroots narratives to safeguard civic space and counteract regulatory rollbacks. Intercultural dialogues, particularly in Bolivia and Colombia, facilitated connections between Indigenous governance structures and national and global forest agendas, reinforcing the importance of inclusive conservation strategies.

2.5 PROGRAMME RESPONSIVENESS AND RISK MITIGATION

Throughout 2024, the GLA demonstrated adaptability in response to evolving challenges. Country teams adjusted plans to address security threats, inflation and political instability, notably in the DRC, Colombia and Liberia. In the Philippines, security protocols were updated to mitigate risks associated with red-tagging, while in Cameroon, election-related tensions necessitated adaptive planning.

At the policy level, the Alliance responded strategically. Thematic and international teams intensified joint advocacy efforts to confront challenges such as delays in the implementation of the EUDR, weakened safeguards in climate finance negotiations, and to strengthen climate and just transition provisions at the OECD level. Coordination among EU-based and tropical forest country partners was crucial in these endeavors.

Importantly, no instances of financial mismanagement, corruption or sexual harassment were reported in 2024. The programme's ability to maintain operational integrity amid increasing volatility underscores the value of long-standing community relationships, flexible funding mechanisms and trust-based partnerships.

In conclusion, while 2024 brought significant challenges, it also reaffirmed the relevance and resilience of the GLA. Political pushback, civic space restrictions and climate and economic shocks affected many aspects of our work and, in some places, made it harder to operate safely or effectively. But across the board, partners adapted. They found new ways to engage, protect community priorities and push for change. This ability to stay grounded while responding to shifting risks is what continues to give the Alliance its strength and makes it well positioned to navigate the final year of the programme.

3. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN 2024



This section provides a synthesis of the progress made under each of the three strategic pathways of the Forests for a Just Future (FfJF) programme during 2024. The overview highlights key contributions and outcomes achieved across the 11 GLA countries, the Netherlands, regional and thematic programmes, and international policy processes. We refer to annexes [Annex 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](#)). Particular attention is given to how GLA partners adapted to the evolving context and capitalised on strategic opportunities to strengthen inclusive forest governance, address drivers of deforestation, and defend civic space. Examples drawn from country and thematic reports are used throughout to illustrate trends, spotlight innovation and highlight lessons that can inform the final year of the programme.

Note that 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 peoples and local communities sustainably govern increased areas of forest.

Under this pathway, GLA partners in all GLA countries support and accompany IP&LCs in a variety of ways to gain agency and strengthen their capacity to govern their lands and claim their (land) rights effectively. Mapping Indigenous lands, consolidating self-defined governance structures, holding horizontal and intercultural dialogues with governmental officials and other key stakeholders, monitoring deforestation and rights violations and enhancing sustainable, green livelihoods 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.

In 2024, progress was achieved across several interlinked domains, reflecting the Theory of Change's ambition to enhance IP&LC control over forests, secure land rights and sustainable livelihoods and amplify grassroots leadership at all levels.

Progress 2024: Consolidated overview monitoring data pathway A

In 2024, the programme contributed to 93 reported changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive governance structures and sustainable IP&LC forest management (GLA indicator 4), in 11 countries and at international level. Of these, 21 policies were adopted, 20 were (better) implemented and 10 policies were blocked or drafted. These changes in policies or practices happened at different government levels, mainly local or sub-national (72%), national (54%), regional (16%) and international (25%), with several policies being relevant at multiple levels, which explains why the percentages add up to more than 100%. In 60 of the 93 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 2024, GLA strengthened the capacity of 113 new CSOs/CBOs (GLA indicator 9), in addition to 187 CSOs/CBOs reported in previous reports. Of the 23 newly strengthened CSOs/CBOs, two are first ring GLA partners and 90 second ring partners.

3.A.1 STRENGTHENING IP&LCS TO GOVERN THEIR LANDS AND CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS

Sustainable forest governance

In 2024, GLA partners advanced sustainable forest governance by strengthening community-based systems, securing legal recognition and promoting participatory conservation models across multiple countries.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, 23 communities in South Kivu gained [legal recognition](#) for over 600,000 hectares of community forests - an important step toward tenure security and locally-led conservation. In **Liberia**, communities reached key milestones in formalising customary land rights, further embedding local authority within national legal frameworks.

The recognition of ICCAs also gained traction. In **the Philippines**, over 75,000 hectares were newly designated as ICCAs in Palawan and the Sierra Madre. These areas are governed through traditional systems that combine conservation, cultural heritage and sustainable resource use.

Local enforcement improved in several landscapes. In **Indonesia**, community monitoring in West Sumatra led to the prosecution of illegal loggers in the Simuncung Nagari Forest, a rare example of grassroots reporting leading to formal legal action.

At the regional level, the **Southeast Asia** programme facilitated learning and coordination on forest tenure reform, social forestry and Indigenous-led conservation. These efforts strengthened policy foundations and promoted more consistent governance approaches across ASEAN GLA landscapes.

Inclusivity in governance structures for the sustainable management of forested landscapes

A core element of the GLA Theory of Change is ensuring inclusive governance of forested landscapes. In 2024, GLA partners reinforced this commitment by mainstreaming participation and creating dedicated spaces for empowerment, particularly for women and youth.

In **Uganda**, newly formed IP&LC associations at district and sub-county levels introduced quotas for women and youth, ensuring representation and influence in forest governance. In **Liberia**, over 100 women participated in land governance through targeted sessions integrated into the formal land rights process, challenging cultural norms and supporting leadership within new community structures.

Empowerment was further supported through training and capacity building. In **Indonesia**, feminist participatory action research (FPAR) enabled women to [organise into farmer groups and resist land grabs](#). In **Malaysia**, community workshops in the [Upper Baram Forest](#) equipped women with leadership, entrepreneurship and health skills. In **Viet Nam**, women and youth led agroecological and artisanal initiatives that doubled as platforms for skill building and local leadership. Gender training and inclusive planning processes helped embed equity into governance frameworks.

Youth influence grew across GLA landscapes. In **the Philippines**, the Indigenous youth network [UGNAYIN PH](#) gained formal registration with the National Youth Commission, securing a seat in national policy making. Youth leaders also championed climate justice and mining-free zones.

A landmark development came from **Colombia**, where four Indigenous governments formally registered as Indigenous territorial entities (ETIs) under a shared governance structure: the associative framework of the [Territories of the Jaguars of Yurupari](#). Recognised as public authorities of the Colombian state, they established legal and institutional frameworks that advance Indigenous-led forest governance. This historic achievement sets a progressive precedent for inclusive, rights-based conservation in the Amazon and beyond.

Sustainable livelihood strategies

In 2024, the integration of sustainable livelihood strategies remained central to reinforcing the autonomy and resilience of IP&LCs across GLA landscapes. Partners supported a wide range of community-driven initiatives that linked ecological sustainability with socio-economic wellbeing, while also addressing critical issues such as water security, land rights and access to markets.

In **Bolivia**, IP&LCs advanced community-based economic alternatives to counter destructive development projects. In Lomerío, forest restoration efforts were rooted in traditional knowledge and stewardship, while in San Lorenzo and TCO Turubó Este, communities acted to [safeguard water and food security](#). In response to agribusiness overexploitation, a locally backed action plan was developed to protect freshwater sources, culminating in broad support for a draft law to restore Laguna Cáceres. At CBD COP16, GLA advocacy further amplified the role of Indigenous leadership in sustaining global water cycles, calling for policy and finance reforms that support community-led forest conservation.

In **Ghana**, GLA partners worked with CREMAs to restore degraded forest reserves and globally significant biodiversity areas (GSBAs) through agroforestry, supporting sustainable cocoa production, food security, and strengthened local governance. Partners also raised awareness of lithium mining-related water risks, linking local concerns to national policy discussions on resource extraction and environmental justice.

In **Viet Nam**, GLA engagement with the private sector [reduced the cost burden of EUDR compliance](#) for smallholder coffee farmers. Around 1,500 farmers registered under the national traceability system, saving an estimated USD 84,000, a practical example of how responsible forest governance can improve market access and economic resilience.

In **the Philippines**, communities linked ICCA recognition with sustainable enterprises including agroforestry, eco-tourism, and non-timber forest product marketing. These initiatives incentivised conservation, particularly in Palawan and the Sierra Madre, and actively engaged youth and women.

Beyond individual country efforts, GLA partners also advanced broader strategies for economic empowerment. Across **Southeast Asia** and **Africa**, initiatives in financial literacy, enterprise development, and local value chains enabled IP&LCs to reduce reliance on extractive models and sustain long-term conservation outcomes.

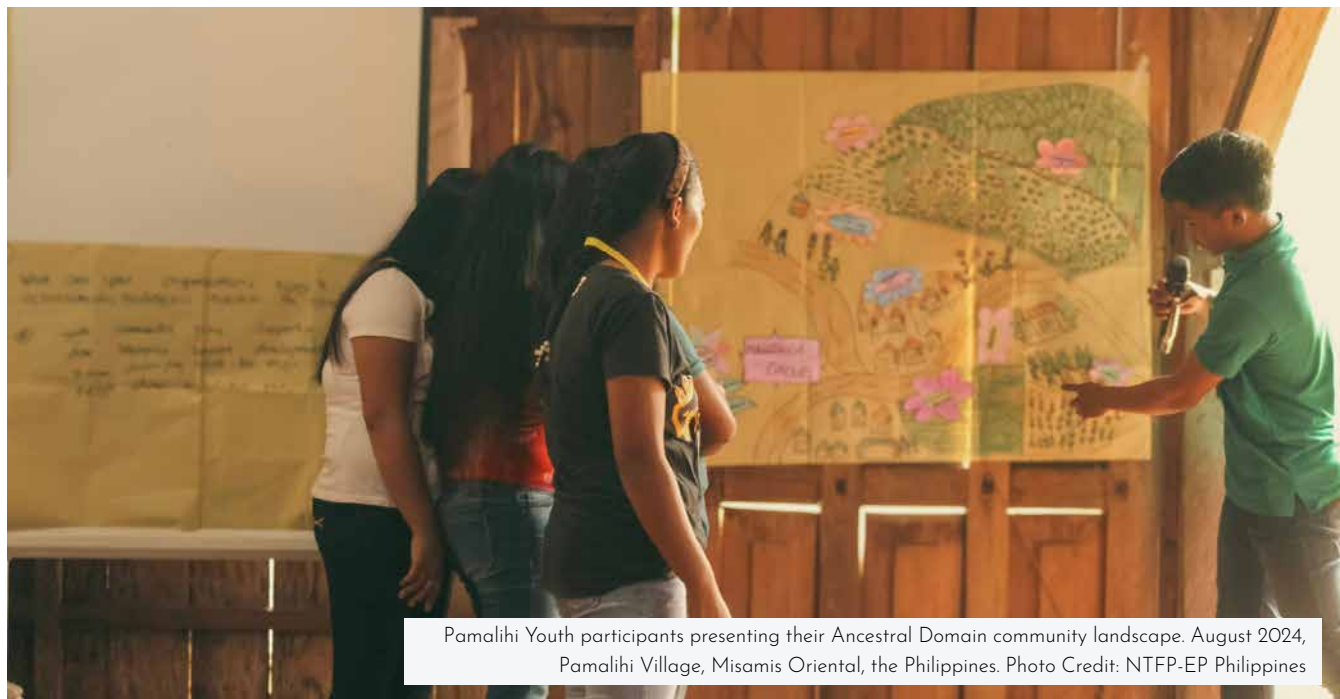
Land mapping and monitoring

Mapping Indigenous and community-owned lands and monitoring deforestation and illegal activities remain central to the GLA Theory of Change. These tools underpin IP&LC land governance and provide critical evidence to support rights claims and expose violations, directly contributing to Pathways B and C.

In 2024, GLA partners expanded participatory mapping and community monitoring to strengthen territorial governance and forest protection. In **Liberia**, nine land-owning communities in Bomi County undertook participatory boundary harmonisation and mapping, culminating in official validation by the Liberia Land Authority. These efforts secured customary claims under the Land Rights Act and improved community awareness of land rights and boundary recognition.

Digital and grassroots monitoring tools were scaled across regions. In **Cameroon**, partners developed training materials and structured monitoring guides to enhance community oversight of logging operations and agribusiness concessions. These systems enabled communities to document violations, engage with local authorities and hold companies accountable.

The **CRDD thematic programme** further supported the use of community-based monitoring in several countries, reinforcing local capacities to track threats and advocate for stronger protections.



Pamalihi Youth participants presenting their Ancestral Domain community landscape. August 2024, Pamalihi Village, Misamis Oriental, the Philippines. Photo Credit: NTFP-EP Philippines

3.A.2 IMPROVED LEGAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF IP&LC RIGHTS

Collaboration and coalition building to exert power

Strengthening collaboration and building strategic coalitions among CSOs and IP&LCs are core strategies for influencing decision makers and are central to the GLA's approach at national, regional and international levels (results 10 and 12). The Alliance itself represents a powerful global coalition of long standing partners, further amplified by thematic programmes such as JET and CRDD that serve as platforms for collective advocacy and learning.

In 2024, GLA partners deepened national coalitions and supported IP&LC, women's and youth networks to advocate more effectively across local, landscape and national levels. In Malaysia, for example, GLA members and technical partners - including PACOS Trust and Sahabat Alam **Malaysia** - joined forces with Indigenous organisations, legal aid groups and environmental NGOs to resist industrial logging in the [Baram Peace Park](#). These coalitions also engaged international allies such as Human Rights Watch to spotlight rights violations and elevate IP&LC voices.

In contexts where civic space is shrinking, such alliances provide not only greater visibility but also protection and solidarity. By coordinating campaigns, sharing messaging and creating joint learning spaces, GLA-supported coalitions strengthened community-led conservation and helped safeguard frontline defenders while reinforcing collective demands for justice, rights and forest protection.

Lobby and advocacy

Ensuring the meaningful participation of IP&LCs in forest governance requires that they know their rights and the policies that influence their communities. In 2024, GLA partners organised workshops, training and exchanges to build the advocacy capacity of IP&LCs and CSOs (result 9). Across contexts, partners demonstrated that informed and organised communities can challenge harmful practices, engage decision makers and shape policy outcomes. GLA's approach combines legal literacy with targeted advocacy, enabling communities to understand frameworks, assess risks, and defend their rights across local, national and global arenas.

In **Viet Nam**, GLA-supported civil society actors worked with provincial governments and companies to [adapt traceability systems to EUDR requirements](#). This improved smallholder inclusion and positioned IP&LCs as actors in trade and climate governance.

In **Ghana**, grassroots campaigns and local consultations pressured the government to begin [repealing Legislative Instrument 2462](#), which had permitted mining in forest reserves. Communities defended GSBA and reaffirmed their stewardship roles.

In **Cameroon**, civil society and Indigenous networks - backed by traditional leaders - mobilised national support for a proposal to grant legal status to villages, advancing recognition of collective land rights and customary governance.

In **the Philippines**, youth and women leaders led advocacy that achieved concrete policy wins. Youth networks gained formal recognition, and grassroots campaigns supported ordinances for [mining moratoria](#) and ICCA recognition in Palawan and the Sierra Madre.

Regional collaboration and advocacy towards ASEAN governments

In 2024, GLA partners in Southeast Asia deepened regional collaboration to strengthen civil society engagement in forest governance, tenure recognition, and climate and biodiversity policy processes. Coordinated by NTFP-EP, the work focused on four thematic pillars: (i) extractive and destructive projects; (ii) forest governance and tenure rights; (iii) defending environmental and women human rights defenders; and (iv) food sovereignty. Learning and advocacy were carried out in coordination with 26 country and landscape partners.

A major milestone was the formal adoption of the **ASEAN regional FPIC handbook** by the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry in October 2024 - an outcome of sustained GLA advocacy. This marked a key step toward operationalising free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and strengthening recognition of customary tenure across ASEAN states.

To amplify civil society perspectives, NTFP-EP Asia convened the [10th CSO Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN](#), held in June in Cambodia. The forum brought together 45 participants from 31 organisations in eight countries and produced the [Bangkoeunphal Declaration](#), a set of joint policy recommendations to advance IP&LC rights and participation in mechanisms such as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

GLA partners also supported the [YEEHA 2024 regional youth camp](#) in Sulawesi, Indonesia, which trained over [30 Indigenous youth](#) from six countries in climate advocacy, community mapping and forest governance. Several participants went on to share their perspectives at major international events, including COP29, where they advocated for Indigenous rights and youth inclusion.

3.A.3 LGL POLICY DOSSIERS RELATED TO PATHWAY A: INTERNATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTION

In 2024, the GLA continued advancing the meaningful participation of IP&LCs in global policy processes, while promoting community-led forest governance as a key strategy in climate and biodiversity action. The Alliance consolidated its international advocacy under the UNFCCC and CBD into a single international policy dossier (IPD), strengthening its local-to-global-to-local (LGL) approach and enabling a more coherent, cross-cutting strategy.

This work took place in a challenging global context shaped by shrinking civic space, growing corporate influence, and ongoing pressure to adopt market-based responses to environmental crises. Despite this, GLA partners sustained a strong presence in global fora, defending IP&LC rights, gender equality and justice-based, non-extractive approaches to forest governance.

Below are selected highlights from 2024.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

At CBD COP16 in Colombia, the GLA organised a **joint side event**, “Enhancing support for IP&LC-led biodiversity conservation in tropical forests to sustain water cycles,” underscoring the critical role forests play in water regulation and resilience. This brought together IP&LC leaders and GLA partners from Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia. The event highlighted how Indigenous and community-led conservation contributes to climate adaptation and water governance, and explored the policy and financial reforms needed to better support these contributions within national biodiversity strategies.

A major outcome of COP16 was the establishment of a **permanent subsidiary body on Article 8(j)**, a landmark decision institutionalising Indigenous participation in global biodiversity governance. GLA partners, including those active in the CBD Alliance and CBD Women’s Caucus, played a key role in shaping the final decision, with proposals on Indigenous knowledge systems, [safeguards](#) and gender-responsive implementation reflected in the outcomes.

GLA members facilitated strong IP&LC participation throughout the negotiations. Amazonian Indigenous leaders engaged directly with delegates, presenting proposals on **Indigenous data sovereignty and traditional knowledge governance**. Civil society coalitions pushed successfully for the recognition of women environmental defenders and for [stronger gender integration across the Global Biodiversity Framework](#).

GLA also contributed to broader advocacy and visibility efforts, including biodiversity finance dialogues, panels on [transition minerals and IP&LC rights](#), and a silent march to honour murdered environmental and human rights defenders, reinforcing the urgent need to protect those on the frontlines of biodiversity conservation.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

At COP29 in Baku, civic space restrictions were severe, yet GLA partners continued to advance rights-based, locally-led climate action. Despite the repressive environment, Indigenous women and youth took part in official sessions, supported by GLA members. [A side event co-organised by GLA partners](#) and the Asia Climate Change Consortium amplified calls for gender-just, grant-based climate finance and recognition of community-led solutions.

GLA participation through the women and gender constituency helped secure the inclusion of gender equality and protections for women environmental defenders in the final negotiated texts. The gender just climate solutions initiative elevated grassroots voices and promoted community-based, gender-responsive approaches to climate action.

GLA members also challenged the growing influence of market-based approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. A coordinated multi-regional delegation engaged in side events, media work and advocacy to expose the risks of offsets, biodiversity credits and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS). These efforts helped re-centre IP&LC rights, environmental integrity and non-market alternatives within COP29 narratives.

Several events focused on the gendered impacts of monoculture plantations and carbon markets, linking biodiversity finance with civic space concerns. GLA advocacy emphasised the need for inclusive, democratic climate finance and protections for those defending forests and community territories.

SUMMARY PATHWAY A STRENGTHENING IP&LC GOVERNANCE

In 2024, GLA partners advanced inclusive forest governance by securing legal recognition of IP&LC territories, expanding ICCA coverage and embedding gender and youth leadership in forest governance structures. From legal victories in DRC and Liberia to innovative community monitoring systems in Colombia and Cameroon, partners helped scale locally driven governance. Women and youth played growing roles in community decision making, policy advocacy and forest-based enterprises. These actions were reinforced by regional collaboration, international advocacy through the CBD and UNFCCC processes, and sustained efforts to link livelihoods, conservation and rights. The Alliance's multi-level approach has continued to consolidate IP&LC control over forests while supporting structural inclusion of historically marginalised groups.



Women engaged in the restoration activities in Kaseeta (Uganda)

STORY OF CHANGE



Wilver and Veronica from the ETJ-OFC reporting on the effects of forest fires in 2024, in their role as heads of the AFIG Forest Monitoring Center.

INDIGENOUS YOUTH LEADERSHIP TAKES ROOT IN FOREST PROTECTION

Until recently, forest management plans in the Indigenous Territory of Guarayos (TCO Guarayos), Bolivia, offered little real protection. Community-managed forests remained exposed to land invasions, forest fires and illegal exploitation. Faced with these growing threats, a group of young Indigenous leaders decided it was time to act.

In 2021, several youth from community forest organisations (OFCs) participated in a territorial governance course run by GLA partner Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF). Inspired and equipped with new knowledge, two young leaders - Wilver Arezabi and Verónica Castro - took the initiative to form the Youth Technical Team of the OFCs (ETJ-OFC) in 2023.

Their first major achievement came soon after. Spotting a funding opportunity focused on nature-based solutions, the team successfully designed and secured support for a community-led territorial monitoring centre. The centre now plays a vital role in detecting, documenting, and responding to threats across TCO Guarayos such as land invasions, illegal logging and forest fires.

Working hand-in-hand with the Indigenous Forestry Association of Guarayos (AFIG), the youth-led ETJ-OFC established the centre to oversee 12 forest management plans. They also built strategic partnerships with key actors including the Forest and Land Authority (ABT), the sub-governance of Guarayos, the municipality of Ascensión and the umbrella Indigenous organisation COPNAG. These collaborations helped build local legitimacy and expanded the role of Indigenous youth in territorial governance.

This story is not just about protecting forests. It is about what happens when young people are given the tools, knowledge and trust to lead. The ETJ-OFC's success is a powerful example of how youth-led action can strengthen forest governance and secure a more just future for their communities.



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 the Alliance targets local and national governments and intergovernmental bodies, as well as private sector initiatives and actors to halt deforestation. The aim is to strengthen the influence of governments over the private sector through regulations and enforcement of environmental and human rights policies. It also seeks 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.

In 2024, GLA partners across Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America contributed to shifts in both practice and policy, applying context-specific strategies to address the drivers of forest loss.

Progress 2024: consolidated overview monitoring data Pathway B

In 2024, the programme contributed to the implementation and compliance or blockage of 76 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. Of these, 37 reflected a change in policies of public actors, eight of private actors, 11 by civil actors, such as community leaders or community groups, and three by civil society actors. Of the 76 changes in policies or practices, 67% were relevant at a local and sub-national level, 53% at national level, 11% covered the regional level and 20% on the international level, comprising several countries (with some issues relevant for multiple levels). In total, 37 policy changes were related to gender and/or inclusiveness.

The programme contributed to the adoption of 19 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). Eleven of these reflect a change in policy of public actors and three policies reflect a change in policy by local (Indigenous) authorities. Eight out of 19 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 and sub-national (58%), national (58%), regional (16%) or international (42%). Multiple levels are possible per issue.

Social movements, constituents and media took up 44 relevant cases covering environmental IP&LCs and deforestation drivers in eight countries, including the Netherlands (GLA indicator 7). Nine cases (20%) explicitly sought to more equally distribute power or access to resources between women and men. Additionally, eight cases (18%) paid explicit attention to differences between men and women, but not to the extent as previously described. In ten cases (23%), gender was mentioned in the agenda but not covered in the analysis, and in 17 cases (39%) gender was not covered at all.

3.B.1 GOVERNMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ACTORS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR DEFORESTATION AND RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Across GLA countries, partners worked with IP&LCs and CSOs to prevent deforestation and hold both governments and private sector actors accountable for forest loss and associated human rights violations (result 3). These efforts combined community-led monitoring (result 8), media engagement (result 7), legal advocacy (result 5), and coalition-building (result 10) to expose wrongdoing, demand redress and shape regulatory frameworks at multiple levels.

In **Colombia**, GLA partners documented how [carbon market initiatives in the Amazon](#) have contributed to social conflict and environmental governance risks, including reports of REDD+ funds being diverted to armed groups. These developments prompted renewed advocacy for traceability mechanisms and community safeguards in forest-related climate finance.

In **Ghana**, GLA partners took joint action to advocate for the [repeal of Legislative Instrument 2462](#), which had permitted mining in forest reserves. Their sustained lobbying contributed to important steps being taken by the government to begin dismantling the legal framework that threatens globally significant biodiversity areas (GSBAs).

In **Indonesia**, civil society coalitions exposed ongoing deforestation linked to [conglomerates such as the Royal Golden Eagle Group](#), underscoring persistent gaps in corporate enforcement and supply chain accountability.

At the international level, GLA partners engaged with EU institutions on the **EU Deforestation Regulation** (EUDR), advocating for robust enforcement and inclusive implementation that protects smallholders, IP&LCs, and women producers from unintended harm. The [2025 Forest 500 report](#) (A Decade of Deforestation Data) underscored the urgency of this advocacy, showing that many companies and financial institutions still lack effective deforestation-free policies, despite a decade of public commitments.

Across these contexts, GLA partners also drew attention to the gendered impacts of deforestation drivers, including the displacement of women from forest-based livelihoods and increased exposure to harm in areas affected by extractive industries. While gender-disaggregated data remains limited in some cases, several trainings and policy consultations ensured women's participation, helping amplify their voices in regulatory reform processes.

Together, these efforts reflect GLA's multi-pronged accountability strategy: linking grassroots documentation with high-level advocacy to challenge impunity and uphold environmental and human rights standards across supply chains.

3.B.2 MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Media engagement remains a vital strategy across all three GLA pathways by supporting community advocacy, demanding accountability from governments and corporations, and amplifying underrepresented voices (result 7). In 2024, GLA partners used independent journalism, investigative reporting and digital campaigns to expose abuses, reinforce local demands, and shape public and political narratives.

In **Liberia**, SDI collaborated with national outlet [The DayLight](#) to publish 13 investigative stories with videos exposing violations by Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL). Articles such as "[GVL Fails to Build Hand Pumps](#)" and

[“No GVL Clinic Despite Protest”](#) gained national traction through syndication by FrontPage Africa and the Daily Observer, prompting corporate responses and greater transparency in GVL’s community engagement.

In **Uganda**, the Environmental Governance Institute (EGI) trained over 40 journalists to report on fossil fuel finance and the human rights impacts of projects like the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). The initiative led to 12 published articles and increased public awareness and resistance to fossil expansion, particularly among communities and women affected by land acquisition and displacement.

In **Ghana**, the GLA combined traditional and digital media to share community-led stories on oil and gas impacts. Media campaigns also played a key role in boosting public opposition to illegal mining and Legislative Instrument 2462, which would have allowed mining in all forest reserves. These efforts, which included youth-generated reports and rights-based toolkits, helped raise awareness and galvanise broader support for stronger environmental protections.

In **Colombia**, Indigenous authorities from the Macro Territory of the Jaguars of Yuruparí launched [SIGETI](#), a culturally grounded and gender-responsive monitoring tool. Developed to support community-led territorial governance, SIGETI enables Indigenous communities to generate and manage their own data, aligned with both ancestral and statutory systems. This model strengthens local oversight over land and resource use while reinforcing Indigenous autonomy in forest governance.

At the regional level, the **JET** thematic programme used radio, print and online channels in Togo to highlight the risks of fossil fuel financing and promote community-driven alternatives. Internationally, GLA partners engaged media and social platforms to counter political and corporate pushback against the EUDR. The [#HandsOffEUDR](#) campaign, supported by the Brussels Deforestation Coalition, spotlighted the exclusion of Southern voices and helped defend the regulation’s integrity.

These efforts show how GLA partners strategically use media to shift narratives, protect civic space and strengthen rights-based forest governance, from grassroots radio to global policy debates.

3.B.3 REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION

At regional and international levels, GLA addressed deforestation drivers through its local-to-global-to-local (LGL) strategy across four main streams: the EUDR policy dossier, the CRDD and JET thematic programmes, and Southeast Asia regional collaboration.

International policy dossier: EU Deforestation Legislation

In 2024, the EUDR faced mounting political backlash, driven by conservative parties, industry lobbies and several EU member states. This culminated in the European Commission’s announcement of a one-year delay in implementation. While a setback, the delay became a rallying point for civil society mobilisation, with GLA partners playing a central role in defending the regulation’s environmental and human rights integrity.

GLA members contributed significantly to the [#HandsOffEUDR](#) campaign, coordinated by FERN and the Brussels Deforestation Coalition. The campaign helped galvanise public and political support at a critical juncture in EU parliamentary debates. FERN led an advocacy tour in Brussels with Southern CSO representatives and engaged with DG ENVI and multiple member states. GLA partners in Cameroon, DRC and Indonesia engaged in national-level advocacy aligned with EUDR priorities.

GLA also shaped the EUDR implementation framework. FERN, IUCN NL, Milieudefensie and Tropenbos International participated in the EC's stakeholder platform and smallholder working group, advocating for gender-responsive, IP&LC-inclusive guidance. Southern partners were supported to submit substantiated concerns, and work began on a civil society implementation guide, to be released in 2025.

GLA also contributed to shaping the [EU's Strategic Framework for International Cooperation](#) under the EUDR. Partners from the CRDD thematic programme engaged in this process, advocating for the integration of social and human rights considerations. Additionally, Southern CSOs, with support from CRDD, campaigned for the inclusion of the financial sector in the EUDR's scope and worked to prevent further weakening of the regulation, ensuring their perspectives were represented in EU policy discussions.

National strategies further reinforced the global dossier. In **Malaysia**, PEMANGKIN engaged the EU Ambassador and participated in Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) task force discussions to align certification with FPIC and IP&LC rights. In **Viet Nam**, NTFP-EP and PanNature facilitated the first successful export of EUDR-compliant rubber, providing a replicable model for smallholder support. In **the Netherlands**, IUCN NL and Tropenbos convened dialogues via the [Dutch Roundtable on Tropical Forests](#), focusing on EUDR-complementary measures and outcomes of COP29 and CBD COP16.

GLA also targeted the private sector. A Milieudefensie investigation into Unilever's weak due diligence on deforestation risks shaped shareholder engagement at the company's 2024 AGM, increasing investor pressure on EUDR compliance.

Despite shrinking civic space at EU level, GLA partners remained outspoken in defending inclusive, rights-based implementation. The exclusion of Indigenous delegates from a key EUDR task force meeting triggered a public response from FERN, Milieudefensie and others, who warned that sidelining IP&LC voices undermines the regulation's legitimacy. GLA supported alternative forums to ensure Southern perspectives remained present in EU discourse.

The EUDR dossier illustrates the Alliance's agility in adapting to shifting political dynamics while staying grounded in justice, equity and forest protection, backed by coordinated advocacy that links local realities to international standards.

Thematic programme: Community rights and deforestation drivers (CRDD)

Through the CRDD thematic programme, Friends of the Earth (FoE) groups work with IP&LCs and allies to connect rights-based struggles against industrial deforestation drivers to national, regional and global fora. The programme focuses on mobilising IP&LC-led social movements and supporting the documentation, exposure and pursuit of grievances linked to corporate deforestation.



Live painting action @FMO on false solutions: financing timber plantations.
Credits: Bas Bogers



False Solutions artwork by Anne van Den Boogaard about harmful tree plantations.

Key achievements in 2024 included:

- ▮ *Financial accountability and divestment:* partners of the CRDD thematic programme drove several high-impact divestments. Dutch pension fund PFZW withdrew from multiple deforestation-linked companies, while the Ethical Commission advised the Norwegian Pension Fund to [exclude Bolloré](#) over human rights violations. In Liberia, pressure on the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) prompted dialogue with the *Société Ivoirienne de Fertilisation et de Cultures Agricoles* (SIFCA) around potential reparations, signalling concrete steps toward corporate responsibility.
- ▮ *Community-led monitoring and local agency:* Over 330 reports were submitted by forest monitors in [Ghana](#), Liberia, Cameroon, [Indonesia](#) and the Philippines, exposing rights violations and deforestation by industrial actors. These reports contributed to legal complaints, national campaigns and strengthened community oversight. Women played a growing role in local monitoring efforts, especially where deforestation directly impacted livelihoods and water access.
- ▮ *Support for environmental defenders and legal action:* Strategic litigation secured compensation for more than 80 farmers in Cameroon. In Indonesia, protective communications were issued by the national Human Rights Commission, while UN Special Rapporteurs intervened on behalf of defenders in Indonesia and El Salvador. Several cases highlighted the gendered risks faced by women defenders, especially those resisting palm oil and mining operations.
- ▮ *Influencing international frameworks:* CRDD actors contributed to the landmark CBD decision establishing a permanent subsidiary body on Article 8(j), and played a key role in blocking the adoption of the long-term approach to mainstreaming (LTAM), which lacked adequate rights safeguards. These actions helped secure stronger space for IP&LC perspectives in global biodiversity governance.
- ▮ *Grassroots mobilisation and transnational organising:* CRDD facilitated the launch of the environmental defenders network in Paraguay, strengthening movement-building across Latin America. Community monitoring data was used to inform global campaigns and challenge the financial drivers behind deforestation and land grabs.

Thematic programme: Just Energy Transition (JET)

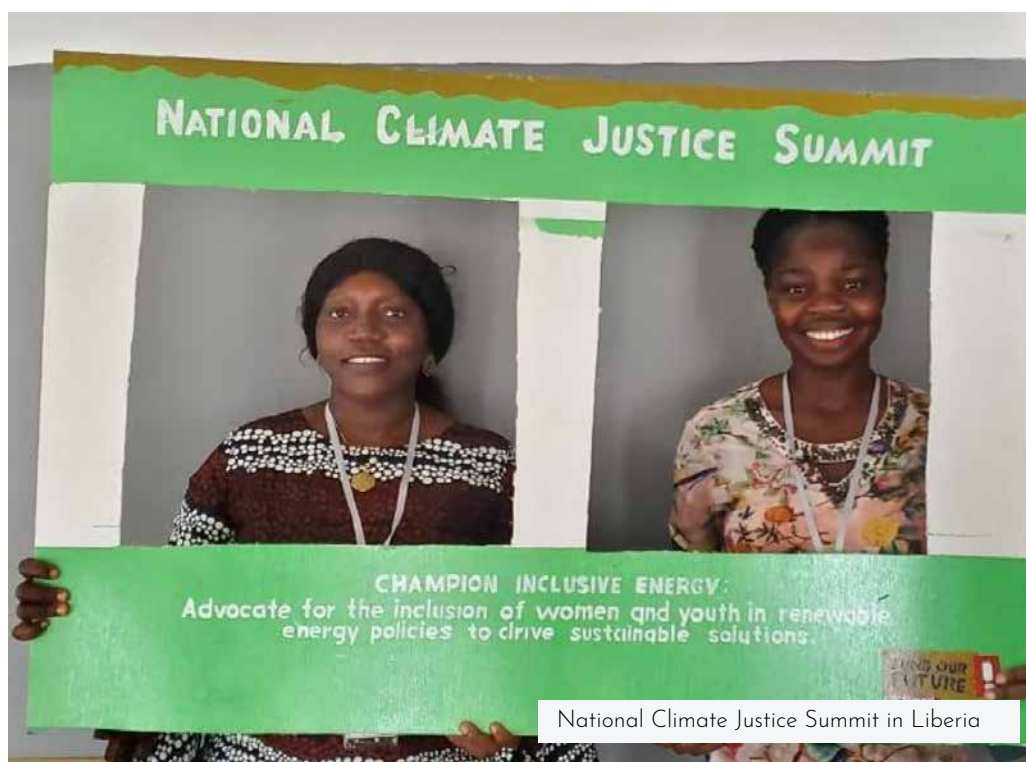
The Just Energy Transition (JET) programme connects local and global struggles to confront climate change by addressing deforestation and rights violations linked to fossil fuels, transition minerals and land-intensive extractives. In 2024, GLA partners deepened their impact by challenging fossil fuel finance, exposing greenwashing and advancing community-led energy alternatives.

Key achievements in 2024 included:

- ▮ *Challenging fossil fuel finance:* GLA partners campaigned to uphold the Glasgow Statement during OECD negotiations, seeking to restrict public financing for oil and gas. While the proposed restrictions were ultimately blocked, sustained pressure contributed to climate-aligned export finance legislation in countries such as Australia, a step forward in holding public finance accountable.
- ▮ *Policy advocacy on critical minerals and just transition frameworks:* Milieudefensie continued working with FoE Europe and European partners (Raw Materials Coalition), OECD Watch and Southern allies from Latin America and Africa to embed just transition perspectives into renewable energy policies, particularly in relation to mining for critical minerals. This informed key policy processes, including the Dutch ECA mandate review and the EU Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), adopted in 2024. GLA contributions also helped shape the [OECD just transition guidelines](#) under development, resulting in broader inclusion of just transition principles across these frameworks.

- Human rights mobilisation in Mozambique:** Ongoing pressure from the MozGas campaign helped stall the controversial TotalEnergies LNG megaproject in Cabo Delgado. The campaign highlighted severe rights violations and forced displacement, generating political and media debate in Europe and garnering international recognition, [earning JA! the 2024 Right Livelihood Award](#).
- Shaping national energy narratives:** Across Africa, GLA-supported mobilisation strengthened civil society voices in energy policy. In Uganda, over 17,000 people participated in consultations on stopping fossil fuel expansion and promoting clean energy alternatives, prompting a direct public response from the Energy Minister at COP29. In Ghana, a civil society memorandum to parliament on lithium mining contributed to increased oversight and strengthened community participation in governance.
- Influencing global discourse:** At COP29, partners of the JET thematic programme pushed back against market-based climate mechanisms, advocating instead for debt cancellation, grant-based finance and the rejection of false solutions such as carbon offsets. These messages reached over 40 media outlets, helping reframe the debate around justice-centred, community-driven climate action.

Through coordinated advocacy, litigation and grassroots organising, the JET programme continues to connect energy, land and justice, and advancing an energy transition led by and for communities, not corporations.



Mining and deforestation

Although not a formal international policy dossier, mining and its link to deforestation gained prominence across the GLA in 2024. The growing global demand for transition minerals such as nickel, bauxite, cobalt and copper has intensified concerns over forest degradation, biodiversity loss and threats to IP&LCs. GLA partners expanded their advocacy, research and mobilisation efforts to confront harmful mining practices and promote rights-based mineral governance.

In **the Philippines**, sustained community mobilisation contributed to landmark local victories: [a 25-year mining moratorium](#) was adopted in Palawan and additional local bans were passed in Eastern Samar, Sibuyan Island and Marinduque. In **Ghana**, civil society partners held national consultations and training to strengthen

dialogue around lithium mining with particular attention to water contamination risks from mining activities. A memorandum to parliament and community advocacy in Ewoyaa raised awareness of environmental and human rights risks linked to Ghana's emerging role in the global lithium supply chain.

In **Uganda**, over 1,500 people accessed public awareness materials on the **EU Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)**, complemented by community training that empowered civil society to engage national policymakers and EU actors on mining-related forest impacts. At the **EU level**, GLA partners influenced final negotiations on the CRMA, advocating for social safeguards, FPIC and just transition principles. These positions were taken into high-level EU and national consultations.

Across **Asia** and **Africa**, GLA supported public events and policy dialogues on the ecological and social costs of transition minerals, including nickel mining in Sulawesi (**Indonesia**). These forums linked local experiences with global demand, calling for more transparent, equitable approaches to the energy transition. Linked to this, IUCN NL with Fern and others organised an event at the IUCN regional conservation forum exposing critical gaps in the EU's Critical Raw Materials Act and co-organised a seminar on [responsible investing in the energy transition](#).

In **Latin America**, GLA partners contributed to a landmark regional process addressing illegal gold mining in the Amazon. From October to November 2024, CSOs from six Amazonian countries, including Colombia, launched the first regional report on [Illegal Gold Mining: Impacts on Human Rights and Biodiversity in the Amazon](#). The findings were presented at COP16 in Colombia and at Georgetown University in Washington DC, where GLA partners engaged the OAS Secretary General to encourage multilateral action. This momentum continued at a November hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, where civil society outlined the human rights impacts of transition mineral extraction in the Andes and the Amazon, emphasising the need for regional coordination and the protection of ecologically connected landscapes such as salt flats and rainforests.

In a collective push toward stronger global safeguards, GLA partners also submitted a motion to the 2025 **IUCN Congress** calling for rights-based governance of transition mineral extraction. The [motion](#) stresses biodiversity protection, Indigenous rights and gender-responsive approaches as essential to any sustainable energy transition.

SUMMARY PATHWAY B - TACKLING DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION

GLA efforts in 2024 targeted governments, industries and financial actors driving deforestation, combining community-level action with coordinated international advocacy. Partners exposed illegal logging in Colombia, challenged corporate deforestation in Indonesia and influenced environmental policy reforms in Ghana and Cameroon. The Alliance played a central role in defending and shaping the EUDR, while also advancing financial accountability through divestment campaigns and shareholder activism. GLA partners continued to connect land justice, energy transition and human rights, while regional collaboration in Southeast Asia contributed to FPIC standard-setting and civic mobilisation. From legal action to media campaigns, GLA actors helped shift policies and narratives toward accountability, transparency and rights-based forest governance.

STORY OF CHANGE



Focus Group Discussion and Outcome Harvesting. Kankyiabo Community, Bia West District, Ghana, January 2024 | Photo credit: ©FoE Ghana

STANDING STRONG: HOW NYAME NTI TURNED THE TIDE AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING

In Ghana's Bia West District, the community of Nyame Nti has become a powerful example of grassroots resistance to environmental destruction. Once vulnerable to the lure of illegal mining - known locally as *galamsey* - the community has transformed into a symbol of resilience and environmental stewardship.

At the centre of this transformation is Nana Kwaku Asiedu Senka, the community's chief. Faced with mounting pressure and even late-night bribe attempts, he remained firm in his refusal to allow illegal mining on community land. His leadership has been key in uniting the community around a shared commitment to sustainability.

This shift was sparked by environmental education provided through the GLA programme by Friends of the Earth Ghana (FoE Ghana). Through these efforts, community members, including traditional leaders, learned about the devastating impacts of *galamsey*, such as deforestation, water pollution and land degradation.

Nyame Nti's economy and identity are rooted in sustainable farming, forest-based livelihoods and traditional agroforestry. Sacred groves, seasonal farming cycles and cultural land-use practices have long helped the community live in balance with nature. Illegal mining posed a direct threat to these ways of life.

Thanks to a deepened understanding of the risks, and the strong leadership of Chief Senka, the people of Nyame Nti took a collective stance. Their story is a powerful reminder of the role education plays in environmental protection and of the influence that traditional leaders can have when equipped with the right knowledge.

As Nyame Nti's experience shows, when communities are informed and united, they can resist exploitation and chart a path toward sustainable development. Strengthening local awareness and leadership will be vital to ensuring that this progress continues and that communities like Nyame Nti remain guardians of their land for generations to come.



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 monitoring and documenting abuses and human rights violations, setting up effective safety and security mechanisms, advocating for improved women and environmental human rights protection and ensuring access to justice for impacted communities and (W)EHRDs.

In 2024, GLA partners continued to push back against shrinking civic space, provided protection and visibility for grassroots actors, and promoted inclusive advocacy in politically sensitive environments.

Progress 2024: consolidated overview monitoring data Pathway C

In 2024, the GLA contributed to at least 54 spaces in eight 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 (3), community-based organisations (3), social movements (3), women's groups (7), indigenous communities (22) and local communities (5). 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.



On March 10, 2024, the Zambales Ecological Network unfurled their banner and held a silent protest against offshore mining and seabed quarrying, calling to protect marine biodiversity and coastal resources. This action is part of the bi-annual Anti-Mining Solidarity Week led by Alyansa Tigil Mina, the Philippines

3.C.1 ADDRESSING CSO AND IP&LC REPRESSION AND INSECURITY

Repression of civil society and IP&LCs remained a pressing concern in 2024, with GLA partners reporting harassment, criminalisation, SLAPPs and other forms of intimidation across multiple countries. In response, the Alliance prioritised protection, legal support and advocacy to defend civic space and safeguard (W)EHRDs.

GLA-supported protection strategies included risk assessments, safety planning and emergency response in **Ghana, Uganda, Bolivia, Indonesia** and **the Philippines**. In the **DRC**, new security training in Goma and Bukavu helped organisations manage threats linked to armed conflict and land disputes.

In **the Philippines**, courts ruled that lawsuits against Indigenous leaders in Palawan constituted SLAPPs, a legal win that forced mining interests to shift from litigation to negotiation. Local governments passed resolutions supporting the Human Rights Defenders Protection Bill, and the national human rights commission launched an investigation into the targeted killings of Indigenous leaders in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

In **Indonesia**, sustained advocacy led to the establishment of a national human rights task force addressing violence against (W)EHRDs. In **Uganda**, grassroots mobilisation helped bring environmental defender issues to national attention, prompting a parliamentary site visit to the contested Zoka Forest Reserve.

GLA partners also engaged in regional mechanisms. A report submitted to the African Commission on human and peoples' rights highlighted violations against IP&LCs and defenders, leading to formal recommendations urging the **Ugandan** government to protect civic space.

Community-led protection mechanisms were further strengthened. In **the Philippines**, Indigenous women developed local threat assessments and collective care strategies, which were formally adopted into barangay development plans and embedding civic protection into local governance.

To reinforce these efforts, GLA partners also provided emergency financial support through decentralised, rapid-response mechanisms.



Community gender orientation last August 10, 2024 in PALATA, Rizal with participants from the different women organizations. The Philippines.

Box 1: Rapid-response emergency support for (W) EHRDs and CSOs in 2024

To support (women) environmental human rights defenders ((W)EHRDs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) in urgent situations, the GLA included emergency funds in its programme budget. These are managed in a decentralised way by Alliance members and technical partners allowing for flexible, rapid response tailored to local needs. Emergency funds typically range from EUR €500 to €5,000 and are used to:

- respond to safety and security threats
- support urgent advocacy and legal defence
- monitor and document environmental violations
- provide seed support for at-risk CSO initiatives
- respond to natural or man-made disasters in GLA landscapes.

In Asia, NTFP-EP manages a quick response grants (QRG) fund with support from IUCN NL. Since the start of the FfJF programme, 20 QRGs have been awarded to IP&LC (W)EHRDs and CSOs, totalling EUR €55,626. In Africa (notably Uganda and DRC) and South America, IUCN NL disbursed emergency support on 18 occasions, totalling EUR €63,400.

These funds have proven essential for responding quickly to repression and threats. In the Philippines, for example, QRGs enabled legal defence and advocacy support for a (W)EHRD facing two cyber libel charges filed by a mining company. The defender was acquitted. Emergency support also contributed to the dismissal of SLAPP suits against Indigenous leaders from Nueva Vizcaya and Palawan.

HIGHLIGHT BOX



Together, these actions reflect GLA's commitment to building long-term, locally grounded protection systems. By combining international advocacy, legal tools and community empowerment, partners across the Alliance are defending the people who protect forests and ancestral lands.

3.C.2 MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION OF RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Monitoring and documenting human rights violations remained a vital strategy for GLA partners in 2024 to protect IP&LCs and (W)EHRDs, raise awareness and facilitate access to justice. Closely linked to Pathway A, this work often provided the first step toward state response, legal redress or policy reform.

In **the Philippines**, documentation led by Indigenous women resulted in community-based threat assessments and protection protocols, which were formally adopted into local development plans, providing essential risk management tools in militarised areas of the Bangsamoro region.

Across GLA countries, legal support was combined with local monitoring systems. In **Liberia**, partners activated grievance mechanisms in concession zones and supported implementation of the [national action plan on business and human rights](#), including legal aid in land disputes and wrongful arrests. In **Malaysia** and **Indonesia**,

defenders facing harassment related to extractive industries received emergency legal support and digital safety training. Coordination with authorities and national protection systems provided additional layers of security.

New models for community-led monitoring also emerged. In **Cameroon**, a pilot initiative in the Dja reserve supported communities in documenting human rights violations linked to land concessions and security forces. Backed by national and international human rights institutions, the initiative strengthened community capacity to collect credible evidence and seek redress.

In **Bolivia**, grassroots mobilisation led to a rare [legal win](#): a judge ordered the demolition of an illegal dam and the restoration of a riverbed, following a community-led lawsuit. The case exemplifies how sustained documentation and legal action can yield tangible environmental justice.

Together, these examples demonstrate how monitoring, documentation and legal empowerment are enabling communities to challenge rights violations and shape more accountable governance systems.

Strengthening corporate accountability and advancing due diligence regulation

GLA partners continued to expose corporate abuse and push for stronger due diligence regulation in 2024, linking local struggles with national and EU policy reform.

In **Liberia**, civil society pressure led the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor pollution in concession areas, while sustained engagement prompted a major palm oil company to drop coercive land acquisition plans. In **Malaysia**, partners challenged Indigenous rights violations through certification bodies and launched public campaigns on logging-related abuses, underscoring the need for enforceable corporate accountability.

At **EU level**, GLA contributions to the corporate sustainability due diligence directive (CSDDD) helped secure provisions on meaningful stakeholder engagement, access to remedy, IP&LC rights, civil liability, administrative enforcement and climate obligations. Dutch GLA members also influenced the draft transposition law and highlighted risks to EHRDs through engagement with MoFA officials and UN mechanisms in Geneva.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how GLA partners are bridging on-the-ground realities with policy change, reinforcing the case for strong, enforceable mandatory human rights due diligence (mHRDD) frameworks.

Universal Periodic Reviews

GLA partners continued to use the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council to spotlight rights violations affecting IP&LCs and environmental defenders.

In **Bolivia**, CSOs, including GLA partners, co-authored a [shadow report](#) for the 4th UPR cycle in 2024, highlighting mercury contamination, deforestation and violence against defenders. This advocacy laid the groundwork for the January 2025 UPR session, during which 28 UN member states called on Bolivia to strengthen judicial independence, protect IP&LC rights and establish mechanisms to safeguard environmental defenders.

In **Liberia**, UPR recommendations informed national policy processes. Civil society groups used them to reinforce advocacy during the rollout of the national action plan on business and human rights, helping to anchor legal protections and improve access to justice for communities affected by land-based concessions.

3.C.3 REGIONAL AND GLOBAL COLLABORATION ON CIVIC SPACE

Regional and transnational collaboration continued to grow as a core element of GLA's civic space strategy in 2024. In **Latin America**, CRDD partners helped launch the environmental defenders network of Asunción and co-produced a citizen manifesto to elevate community voices and rights-based conservation models. In **Southeast Asia**, the regional civic space campaign BERSAMA 2024 and regional protection exchanges fostered cross-country learning on locally-led security protocols and coordinated advocacy.

At the **global level**, CBD COP16 emerged as a landmark moment for GLA's civic space agenda. Held in Colombia, one of the Alliance's focus countries, the COP created a powerful platform for IP&LC rights and civil society engagement. GLA partners played a visible role both inside and outside negotiations, contributing to advocacy that helped secure references to (W)EHRDs, gender equality and Indigenous participation in final texts.

At UNFCCC COP29, GLA partners also pushed back against attempts to weaken rights-based language. Through joint advocacy across constituencies, they helped preserve civic space protections despite pressure to erase them from official outcomes.

These collective efforts strengthened GLA's presence in key global fora and underscored its role as a coordinated, rights-driven alliance defending civic space at all levels.

SUMMARY PATHWAY C - DEFENDING CIVIC SPACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

GLA partners remained on the frontlines of civic space defence in 2024, responding to repression with strategic protection, legal support and community empowerment. Emergency funds supported at-risk (W)EHRDs in countries like the Philippines, while partners in DRC, Liberia and Indonesia developed localised protection protocols. Legal advocacy yielded key wins, including the dismissal of SLAPP suits in Palawan and policy-level recognition of civic space concerns in Uganda and Bolivia. Monitoring and documentation of rights violations triggered institutional responses and informed litigation, while regional and global alliances worked to preserve civic space language in multilateral agreements. Through a blend of grassroots action and global advocacy, GLA helped to ensure that communities and defenders continue to speak out, organise and lead.



During LCOY 2024 in Cochabamba, indigenous youth from Guarayos and Lomerio were able to have their voices heard in the final declaration and joined the National Network of Youth Climate Leadership Organizations (ROC). Youth Summit on Climate Change, Bolivia

STORY OF CHANGE



Citizen journalism training organized by Tropenbos Indonesia for young people in its landscape in Ketapang, West Kalimantan in May of 2024. Photo by Tropenbos Indonesia

VOICES OF THE FOREST: HOW INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN KETAPANG ARE USING MEDIA TO DEFEND CIVIC SPACE

In Ketapang, West Kalimantan, a group of Indigenous youth is reshaping what it means to protect forests and community rights. Through the Ketapang Citizen Journalist Forum, these young leaders have become powerful advocates for environmental justice and civic space, armed not with placards or policies, but with cameras, social media and storytelling.

Supported by Tropenbos Indonesia through the GLA programme, the forum equips youth with practical media and advocacy skills. What began as a platform to amplify community voices has grown into a movement where young people confidently speak out, hold authorities accountable and inspire others to take action.

Their impact is already visible. In 2024, forum members took part in village meetings to push for transparency in governance and budgeting. They led multi-stakeholder tree planting campaigns in Mekar Raya and Muara Jekak villages, helping to restore over 3.5 hectares of degraded land with native fruit trees like durian, langsung and petai.

The forum's Youth Goes to School initiative is also planting seeds of change. Youth members now lead hands-on workshops in local junior high schools, teaching students skills such as organic farming, tree planting and traditional weaving, reviving cultural knowledge while nurturing a new generation of environmental stewards.

Their presence was also felt at the Gawai Dayak Bejujongk XIV festival, where they celebrated local culture, promoted youth participation and introduced photography as a way to tell stories about the environment and Indigenous identity. Online, their social media pages continue to share local news, short films and advocacy content, engaging wider audiences and sparking conversations.

More than just storytellers, these youth have become watchdogs, defending the rights of women, youth, and marginalised groups in their communities. By taking ownership of their narratives and strengthening civic life, they are proving that citizen journalism is a vital tool in the fight to protect forests, cultures and democratic space - especially in times when these are increasingly under threat.



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.

In 2024, GLA partners across all regions continued to strengthen the gender justice and social inclusion dimensions of their work, embedding locally-informed feminist approaches into both grassroots action and international advocacy. Progress was reported in integrating gender considerations into forest governance, amplifying women's leadership, and enabling youth participation in decision-making spaces.

Progress 2024: 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 an organisational level and in the implementation of the programme.

In 2024, 28 GLA partners in 12 countries paid special attention to gender in their strategies and actions. These partners reported a total of 42 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 policies; sustainable livelihood practices; 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, 28 Alliance partners reported 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. Working with Women Engage for a Common Future/Global Forest Coalition (WECF/GFC) at the global level and gender partners at a national level we see this prioritisation is effective in integrating a gender lens across the board (result 11).

4.1 GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMMING AND LEADERSHIP

In 2024, GLA partners made significant progress in integrating gender justice into environmental governance and forest protection efforts. From grassroots action to national and international policy influence, the Alliance continued to centre women's leadership and feminist approaches in forested landscapes.

In **Indonesia**, feminist participatory action research (FPAR) across four landscapes empowered Indigenous women to organise into farmer groups, resist destructive mining and restore customary lands. These outcomes were reinforced by internal shifts across GLA partners, including strengthened gender action plans and organisational policies.

In **Liberia**, the gender action plan catalysed women's participation in customary land governance structures. Over 100 women, including traditional leaders, were involved in land management processes and trained to monitor deforestation using the TIMBY app - expanding their roles in decision making and rights monitoring.

A milestone in **Colombia** was the coordination of the [Public Forum on Women, Territory and Biodiversity ahead of COP16](#). Organised by all four GLA implementing partners in the country, the forum brought together over 50 Indigenous and peasant women from the Andean-Amazonian region to develop gender-focused recommendations for Colombia's updated biodiversity action plan (NBSAP). These recommendations were formally submitted to 17 government agencies and were reflected in the final NBSAP. The process combined months of collaborative work, grassroots perspectives and national policy dialogue that extended into global spaces. Colombian women leaders presented their proposals at COP16 in Cali, including at the Dutch government pavilion and women-and-biodiversity side events, reinforcing the GLA's visibility and influence.

This experience also informed **cross-regional learning** through the GLA Gender Hub, inspiring partners from other regions to further embed gender in biodiversity and climate frameworks. Collectively, these efforts exemplify GLA's commitment to advancing gender-transformative programming, grounded in local realities and aligned with global policy goals.



Group photo of the "Public Forum: Women, Territory and Biodiversity," a space for dialogue and positioning in which women from the Andean-Amazonian region exchanged perspectives on gender, biodiversity and territory. June 2024, Bogotá, Colombia. Photo credit: Censat Agua Viva

4.2 YOUTH AGENCY AND INTERSECTIONALITY

Youth engagement expanded significantly across GLA landscapes in 2024, with young leaders shaping advocacy agendas, advancing rights-based action and influencing programme design.

In **the Philippines**, Indigenous youth networks mobilised around mining-free zones, documented rights violations and developed their own advocacy platforms. Creative initiatives like Sounds Like Change used songwriting and storytelling to elevate Indigenous identities and foster civic engagement.

In **Viet Nam**, youth, particularly young women, played a key role in agroforestry and conservation initiatives linked to sustainable livelihoods. Revised gender policies among GLA partners also reinforced accountability and inclusivity in programme implementation, ensuring youth voices were better represented in planning and delivery.

Two regional youth meetings took place in 2024: one in Sulawesi, **Indonesia** (hosted with NTFP-EP) and another in Suriname, bringing together youth from Suriname, Colombia and Bolivia. These gatherings led to the co-development of the [Youth it or Lose it](#) programme pillars for the Amazon and Southeast Asia. Members of the network actively participated in COP16, where they organised a youth-led event on the transmission of traditional knowledge for biodiversity conservation, and presented their manifesto at the youth pavilion in the Blue Zone. Local Amazonian youth have since begun implementing independent projects that address their own priority concerns.



The Dayaks youth during Gawai Adat (The Dayaks Cultural Festival) March 2025, in Simpang Dua, Ketapang, West Kal, Indonesia

4.3 ALLIANCE-LEVEL FEMINIST ORGANISING AND POLICY INFLUENCE

GLA partners continued to advance feminist advocacy and internal organising across the Alliance in 2024.

At the **international level**, GLA actors played a key role in defending gender language and rights in multilateral agreements. Through the women and gender constituency, partners helped ensure that UNFCCC COP29 and CBD COP16 outcome documents retained commitments to gender equality and women environmental defenders. These efforts also promoted gender-responsive finance, amplified Indigenous women's visibility in UN spaces, and challenged market-based approaches to climate and biodiversity that ignore structural inequalities.

As part of this global advocacy, GLA partners helped launch the inaugural [Irene Dankelman Award](#), an initiative recognising young feminist environmental leaders. The award, created by WECF, IUCN NL and allies, celebrated four young women from diverse regions, whose work exemplifies rights-based, community-led action. [Awardees presented at COP16](#) and other key events, reinforcing the role of feminist leadership in biodiversity and climate governance.

Internally, the **Friends of the Earth International** Gender Justice and Dismantling Patriarchy (GJDP) working group made significant progress. The appointment of regional focal points and a global facilitator strengthened coordination and peer learning. Feminist tools such as the gender justice framework for community forest management are now being adopted and adapted across countries, supporting more consistent feminist practice across the Alliance.

4.4 CHALLENGES AND REFLECTIONS

Persistent patriarchal norms continued to limit women's participation in forest governance and decision-making spaces, particularly in contexts where gender stereotypes remain deeply entrenched. These barriers were especially visible in extractive sectors and energy transition debates, where women defenders face heightened risks and social stigma.

In response, GLA partners invested in creating safer, gender-sensitive spaces for dialogue and leadership. This included targeted training for women human rights defenders (WHRDs), peer exchange platforms and support mechanisms tailored to high-risk environments. These efforts are critical not only for protection, but also for shifting norms and enabling more inclusive, rights-based governance in the long term.

SUMMARY GENDER & INCLUSION

GLA's work in 2024 demonstrated that centering gender justice and social inclusion is not only a matter of equity but a strategic imperative for achieving systemic change. Across diverse contexts, women and youth emerged as powerful agents of environmental governance, legal defence and movement-building. Feminist approaches deepened community resilience, while intersectional strategies helped confront structural drivers of exclusion and violence. Progress remains uneven, with persistent barriers to meaningful participation, but the Alliance has continued to build the capacities, coalitions and leadership pathways necessary to transform these dynamics. As the programme moves into its final year, consolidating these gains and ensuring they are structurally embedded, both in partner institutions and policy frameworks, will be key to securing a just and inclusive future for forests and communities.

STORY OF
CHANGE

BONIKNIK, THE SEED THAT BLOSSOMED: A YOUNG INDIGENOUS LEADER'S JOURNEY FROM CULTURAL PRESERVATION TO NATIONAL ADVOCACY

In the lush Sierra Madre mountains of the Philippines, the Dumagat-Remontado people have lived in deep connection with their ancestral forests. Their culture, identity and livelihood are intimately tied to the land. But their way of life is under threat from land grabs, extractive industries and massive infrastructure projects like the controversial Kaliwa Dam, which endangers sacred forests and risks displacing entire communities.

Among the new generation rising to defend these territories is Boniknik, a young Dumagat-Remontado woman whose leadership journey has inspired many. Once a quiet observer, she grew up learning from her elders through storytelling, cultural revitalisation and forest excursions that strengthened her understanding of her people's spiritual bond with the land. Encouraged by the example of generations of Indigenous women leaders, Boniknik found her voice.

With support from NTFP-EP Philippines, she co-founded Ugnayin, a national network of Indigenous youth leaders committed to defending land rights and revitalising culture. Through this network, Boniknik has helped connect and empower young Indigenous advocates across the country, creating space for shared learning, collective action and stronger leadership.

In 2024, her advocacy gained international recognition when she received the Global Landscapes Forum Restoration Stewards Award. Reflecting on her journey, she shared: "I used to be shy and unsure of my voice. But I realised that the stories of our people, our struggles and our dreams are powerful. We need to tell them ourselves."

Today, Boniknik continues to mobilise Indigenous youth to speak out against threats like the Kaliwa Dam. Under her leadership, Ugnayin is amplifying Indigenous voices at both national and international levels, showing that youth are not just future leaders, they are leading change now.

Her story is a powerful reminder: when Indigenous youth and women are supported to lead, they become fierce protectors of culture, land and community. And in their hands, the future of forests and ancestral territories can truly flourish



Boniknik taking part in one of the biggest activities for the STOP Kaliwa Dam Campaign - Alay Lakad Laban sa Kaliwa Dam in 2023

5. PROGRAMME MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (PMEL)

In 2024, the PMEL team continued to deliver its core responsibilities, including data collection, quality assurance and donor reporting support. In addition, two key areas received special focus: country profiles and programme end-term evaluation.

COUNTRY PROFILES DEVELOPED

In 2024, the GLA PMEL team focused on making better use of data to support learning by creating country profiles with infographics and outcome analysis of the 2023 results. PMEL and gender hub (GH) teams added comments, feedback and questions to enrich the profiles. Each country was assigned a PMEL-GH team to review the data, look back on trends and red flags, provide insights from an external point of view and keep the profiles organised for sharing. The goal was to share thoughts and ideas to country teams and support deeper learning and discussion during the reflection meetings. This was done as part of the annual reporting process during the first half of 2024.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOR FOR THE PROGRAMME END-TERM EVALUATION (ETE)

In the second half of 2024, work began on the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the end-term evaluation (ETE). The PMEL team elaborated on these in early Q3 and followed the guidance sent by MoFA earlier that year. Members of the GLA PMEL team helped brainstorm and carry out two meetings facilitated by Partos to exchange experiences on early stage processes related to the ETE.

At the end of 2024, the PMEL team finalised the [GLA ETE ToR](#) and invited consultants to submit expressions of interest in early 2025.

6. PROGRAMME PHASE-OUT AND FUTURE PROOFING BEYOND 2025

In 2024, the GLA developed a comprehensive programme phase-out strategy to guide the responsible closure of the FfJF programme, scheduled to end in December 2025. The strategy was briefly presented in the annual plan 2025 and we also provided additional information in response to follow-up questions from MoFA.

The strategy emphasises that exit processes are not an afterthought but a strategic investment in sustainability. It provides tailored guidance for Alliance members, technical partners and implementing CSOs to support clear planning, effective communication and thoughtful preparation for how best to future-proof local civil society capacities.



Indigenous women leaders discuss biodiversity protection and gender integration in Colombian environmental policies.
Photo credit: Felipe Rodriguez - Gaia Amazonas

6.1 PHASE-OUT PLANNING AND TIMELINE

The strategy includes a clear timeline recommending that programme implementation wrap up by 30 September 2025, with Q4 dedicated to closure and reporting. COP30 in November is the only exception, remaining a key milestone for GLA engagement.

Guidance includes:

- 📅 internal and external communications on closure
- 📅 deadlines for administrative and financial closure
- 📅 reporting (narrative and financial), end evaluations, validation processes, and audits
- 📅 archiving of programme data and learning products.

To meet donor compliance requirements, partners were asked to integrate additional MEL and reporting into 2025 plans, with support provided by the PMEL working group. For instance, a mid-year data collection process will help finalise programme outcomes well before closure.

6.2 CONSOLIDATING RESULTS AND ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

Recognising that change in forest governance, civic space and gender justice extends beyond funding cycles, the strategy emphasises sustaining results and amplifying learning.

In 2024, this included:

- ✔ outcome harvesting across all levels to identify flagship results and prepare endline reporting and evaluation
- ✔ a learning trajectory on locally-led sustainable development (LLSD), led by TBI, focusing on ownership, equity and local capacities (for additional information, refer to section 7)
- ✔ documentation and dissemination of best practices, such as case studies and policy briefs. For example, partners in **the Philippines** linked forest restoration and conservation outcomes to formal government ordinances, ensuring continuity via integration into local plans and budgets
- ✔ several country teams, including **Uganda, Indonesia** and **Colombia**, advancing gender-responsive conservation models and community-driven approaches that are being institutionalised into their governance systems.

6.3 SUPPORTING LONG-TERM GENDER, INCLUSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Efforts to embed gender justice as a legacy element were strengthened in 2024. Below are some examples.

- ✔ Organisational gender action plans (OGAPs) were completed or further developed in almost all countries.
- ✔ Cross-country gender learning exchanges tackled cultural norms, sexual exploitation abuse and harassment (SEAH) prevention and women's land rights (e.g. in the external learning sessions).
- ✔ In **Indonesia**, over 700 women benefitted from follow-up FPAR training, bolstering local leadership.
- ✔ **Gaia Amazonas**, through the North Amazon Alliance created a working group on gender and Indigenous food systems to carry this agenda forward beyond 2025.

These actions were framed by a broader recognition of ongoing threats such as shrinking civic space, anti-gender movements and, at the end of 2024, increasing pushback on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) which GLA addressed by reaffirming support to WHRDs and women-led organisations in its advocacy.

6.4 STRENGTHENING FUTURE CAPACITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The phase-out process also faces two major challenges: 1) it has now been confirmed that the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will not continue the strategic partnerships framework beyond 2025. This uncertainty has already begun to affect programme teams, with several Alliance members experiencing early staff departures due to the expected end of contracts; 2) these staffing shifts come at a critical time when partners are working to ensure responsible closure and sustain the programme's outcomes. Balancing the loss of key personnel with the need for continuity and careful exit planning remains a concern across the Alliance.

To ensure continued local momentum, GLA provided targeted support for sustainability planning in 2024.

- ☐ Resource mobilisation: **Philippines** partners initiated new proposals and explored embedding GLA initiatives into local government budgets and through [small grants](#). IUCN NL also entered into conversations with Wilde Ganzen to adapt and offer online fundraising training in 2025.
- ☐ Capacity development: **Viet Nam** and **Indonesia** emphasised participatory approaches, community training (e.g. conflict resolution, forest monitoring) and peer learning exchanges.
- ☐ Policy integration: In **Malaysia** and **the Philippines**, efforts continued to institutionalise ICCAs through formal recognition mechanisms, linking legal reform with traditional forest governance.
- ☐ Risk preparedness: Security and civic space protocols were updated in high-risk countries (e.g. **the Philippines**) to protect defenders and support continued engagement post-programme.

These approaches reflect the conviction that responsible exits should reinforce, not dismantle, local ownership, equity and resilience. The final year of the programme will focus on putting the phase-out strategy into practice, including consolidating learning, sharing evidence of impact and supporting partners to continue their work with confidence and clarity beyond 2025.

6.5 THE GLA LEGACY AGENDA: WHAT MUST ENDURE

As the programme moves toward closure, GLA partners are also shaping a forward-looking legacy. The Alliance's investment in rights-based forest governance, feminist organising, inclusive monitoring systems and participatory MEL approaches has yielded models with lasting relevance.

Key elements of this legacy include:

- ☐ institutionalised local governance structures, such as ICCAs and ETIs
- ☐ community-led monitoring tools (e.g. SIGETI, grievance systems, participatory mapping)
- ☐ cross-regional feminist networks and youth leadership pathways
- ☐ collaborative PMEL systems that support adaptive learning and horizontal accountability.

These models are not only effective but replicable. They are ready to inform broader policy agendas and support future consortia and development frameworks.

6.6 PREVENTING BACKSLIDING AND ENSURING FUTURE RELEVANCE

GLA partners have identified critical risks of regression in fragile contexts, particularly around tenure, civic space and gender justice, if programme gains are not structurally embedded. We see a key role for the MoFA in:

- ☐ championing continued political and financial support to secure civic space, rights-based governance and long-term partnerships
- ☐ integrating GLA tools and approaches into future MoFA funding frameworks and bilateral cooperation strategies
- ☐ leveraging GLA's capacities to support Dutch priorities around climate diplomacy, water governance and inclusive just transitions.

The GLA's work has not only achieved results, it has built infrastructure that can serve broader MoFA and multilateral objectives in the years ahead.

7. GLOBAL ALLIANCE COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

7.1 COLLABORATION WITHIN THE GLA

Internal coordination and collaboration among GLA members remained strong throughout 2024. Governing committees and working groups continued to operate constructively, with members demonstrating professionalism, trust and a shared commitment to the Alliance's objectives. Regular coordination meetings supported timely decision making and alignment across programme components, while cross-member collaboration on PMEL, gender and communications maintained coherence and adaptability throughout the year.

In response to recommendations from the midterm review (MTR), several new structures were established in 2024 to strengthen collaboration. The gender hub launched the **Inclusive forests community of practice (InFoCoP)** to facilitate wider Alliance dialogue on gender and inclusion. A new **country coordinators group** convened to define preferred ways of working and share experiences across countries. The **civic space working group** reconvened temporarily to follow up on the civic space survey and develop Alliance-wide responses to shrinking civic space.

At the global programme coordination level, the supervisory board and key staff met in person in June 2024 to review progress, assess key risks and strategise for the programme's final year. This meeting was a pivotal moment to align around the phase-out strategy and exchange early insights on sustainability planning, resource mobilisation and Alliance governance post-2025. The open and forward-looking tone reinforced the strength of Alliance collaboration and laid a strong foundation for closure and future-proofing in 2025.

7.2 REGIONAL COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE

In 2024, regional collaboration remained a cornerstone of GLA's learning and advocacy efforts. Exchange was primarily facilitated through the Asia regional programme, the JET programme in Africa, Gaia Amazonas' work in the Amazon region and other cross-country alliances.

In **Southeast Asia**, GLA partners played a key role in fostering multi-stakeholder learning and policy influence. In June 2024, the 10th Civil Society Forum on Social Forestry in ASEAN convened 45 participants from 31 organisations across eight countries. Coordinated by GLA partners, the forum supported action planning on regional and global frameworks such as NDCs and NBSAPs, and culminated in the [Bangkoeunphal Declaration](#), calling for greater inclusion of IP&LCs and CSOs in forest governance.

Additional regional achievements included the adoption of the **ASEAN regional FPIC handbook** in October 2024, a major step in operationalising Indigenous tenure rights across member states. Youth engagement was also prominent: the [YEEHA 2024 regional youth camp](#) in Indonesia helped build cross-border leadership among Indigenous youth, with some participating in global discussions at COP29.

In South America, through the [North Amazon Alliance \(ANA\)](#), Gaia Amazonas coordinated Indigenous territorial organisations and CSOs to develop a shared regional advocacy agenda focused on ecosystem and sociocultural

connectivity. This effort, closely tied to COP16, involved Amazonian partners from Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil and Colombia. Under the ANA framework, the **IV Amazon Regional Conversations meeting** facilitated reflection on forest monitoring, intercultural governance and Indigenous environmental authority. In Colombia, four Indigenous governments formally registered an associative framework for Indigenous territorial entities in October 2024 and promoted this governance model at COP16, helping consolidate a collective voice for Amazonian Indigenous peoples.

Regional exchange in **Africa** was anchored in the JET programme. In December 2024, GLA partners convened in Amsterdam to reflect on phase-out planning, civic space challenges and shared priorities for 2025. Joint work in Uganda and the DRC focused on raising awareness of the **EU Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)**, reaching over 1,500 stakeholders through dialogue and IEC materials. These efforts linked local mining concerns to broader EU and OECD policy processes and informed joint advocacy at COP29.

GLA also facilitated knowledge **exchange across regions**. A learning session between Southeast Asia and Latin America explored lessons from the Escazú Agreement, focusing on defender protection and Indigenous rights. These **South-South dialogues** supported shared learning across forest justice, civic space and climate advocacy agendas, and helped prepare for global milestones such as UNFCCC COP30.

7.3 COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND EXCHANGE

Exchange and learning sessions (ELS)

The monthly exchange and learning space (ELS) coordinated by TBI remained an active platform for cross-Alliance engagement in 2024, with average participation ranging between 30-55 individuals. Ten sessions were held, covering a diverse range of topics. Three focused on **locally-led sustainable development (LLSD)**, aligning with the broader GLA-wide learning trajectory. Two sessions addressed **gender**, including gender-based violence and the international gender agenda. Other sessions explored **youth leadership** (via local conferences on youth), **small-scale gold mining**, **political economy analysis**, **spatial planning**, and **learning processes** within the Alliance.

These sessions continue to serve as a key space for reflection, exchange and peer learning across regions and thematic areas.

Learning trajectory: locally-led approaches

In response to a recommendation from the midterm review, the GLA launched an Alliance-wide learning trajectory on locally-led sustainable development (LLSD) in 2024. Its objective was to deepen understanding and inspire GLA partners to better support IP&LC-led initiatives through participatory, field-based mutual learning. The process was coordinated by a core team made up of staff from Tropenbos International and IUCN NL.

The trajectory was designed around four sessions, three of which took place in 2024. The first session, held in August, launched the LT with practical examples from the DRC, Uganda, Indonesia and the Philippines. The second session, held in September, was led by country teams in the Philippines, Indonesia, Ghana, DRC, Bolivia and Colombia. These in-country workshops explored the meaning of locally led in practice and examined how community initiatives contribute to forest protection and the livelihoods of IP&LCs. Participants also reflected on what could be learned from each other's experiences and identified common challenges that still need to be addressed.

Following this, the core team analysed the country-level inputs and identified six recurring themes. These themes formed the basis of the final two Alliance-wide sessions. The third session, in December 2024, focused on inclusiveness and participation, particularly the engagement of women and youth in all phases of LLSD initiatives, as well as the interplay between environmental protection and community livelihoods, and the integration of Indigenous knowledge, values and worldviews into programme design. The final session, scheduled for March 2025, explored how to strengthen IP&LC networks, support constructive dialogue between IP&LCs and local authorities and address conflicts involving extractive industries.

The full findings of the learning trajectory will be synthesised in 2025 and are expected to inform future programming, reinforcing the GLA's commitment to equity, ownership and community resilience.

Inclusive forests community of practice (InFoCoP)

Following a pilot in late 2023, the GLA gender hub formally launched the **Inclusive forests community of practice (InFoCoP)** in 2024. Complementing the ELS, this virtual platform creates a safe and participatory space for GLA partners to reflect on gender and youth inclusion, share good practices and exchange strategies for action.

Each two hour session is structured around peer-to-peer learning. The first hour features presentations from two to three partners on a shared theme of their choice; the second hour provides space for wider reflection and dialogue. A summary bulletin is distributed after each session, enabling broader Alliance learning.

- 🇺🇳 In March, partners from DRC and Uganda shared personal motivations for working on gender, and reflected on the barriers women face in their communities, including gender-based violence and exclusion from decision making.
- 🇺🇳 In June, Bolivian and Colombian partners presented on feminist organising in Latin America, including lessons from the Public Forum on Women, Territory and Biodiversity, the women's axis of FOSPA, and participation in CBD intersessional negotiations.
- 🇺🇳 In August, the session focused on gender norms and cultural narratives, with inputs from the DRC, the Philippines and a historical perspective from Peru. Presenters explored how patriarchal gender norms have often been shaped by colonial legacies, and how communities are actively working to challenge these constructs through dialogue and locally-led initiatives.

The InFoCoP has become a valuable mechanism for Alliance-wide feminist reflection and continues to strengthen internal capacity to address structural gender inequality across GLA landscapes.

Other learning initiatives

In 2024, Alliance members and technical partners continued to embed collaborative learning as a core principle of the programme. Learning sessions took place at country, regional, thematic and global levels strengthening capacities, deepening analysis and fostering collective action.

In **the Netherlands**, TBI and IUCN NL revived the [Dutch Roundtable on Tropical Forests](#), convening civil society, government and private sector stakeholders to discuss tropical forest policy. Milieudefensie co-authored a publication on gender and climate justice, which led to a policy dialogue with the MoFA and follow-up discussions with the Directorate-General for Foreign Economic Relations on coherence in 2025.

In **Indonesia**, Tropenbos Indonesia and the Indonesian gender team organised [grassroots women's advocacy training](#) in Ketapang, co-hosted a youth camp and workshop with regional partners and, with NTFP-EP,

supported the [YEEHA 2024 regional youth camp](#) in Sulawesi. The camp equipped over 30 Indigenous youth from six countries with tools for climate advocacy, community mapping and forest governance leadership.

In **the Philippines**, partners offered training on **gender sensitivity, ecofeminism, ICCAs and security protocols**. A songwriting workshop by Ben&Ben Foundation and PhilPOP engaged 29 Indigenous youth to promote unity and identity through music, while Indigenous women's groups led sessions on rights and anti-mining activism.

In **Colombia**, coordinated communications and training linked grassroots women's organisations to government counterparts around the **Women's Forum**. A human rights observatory hosted by Censat Agua Viva supported at-risk defenders and served as a learning and solidarity hub.

The **JET programme** hosted online and in-person sessions, including a joint training on the **Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)** for over 60 community members from Uganda and the DRC. A **two-day strategy** and learning meeting in **Amsterdam** enabled JET Africa partners to assess progress and strengthen planning for sustainability and phase out.

Within the **CRDD programme**, partners facilitated thematic training on feminist economics and organised the African Ecofeminist School, key spaces for linking gender justice with biodiversity and forest struggles and for building long-term collective strategies.

In **South America**, Gaia Amazonas and its partners continued to promote intercultural dialogue and grassroots advocacy around territorial governance and Indigenous rights.

In May 2024, WECF and GFC hosted a two-day **gender strategy meeting** with their in-country technical partners held alongside the **CBD SBI-4 negotiations** in **Nairobi**. The timing enabled participants to connect Alliance learning with global biodiversity discussions. The workshop focused on communication, reporting, and practical support across diverse contexts, strengthening coordination and planning ahead of COP16.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate the diversity and depth of GLA's commitment to co-creating knowledge, strengthening local capacities, and embedding mutual learning within and beyond the programme.

7.4 COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

In addition to strengthening internal collaboration, the GLA continued to invest in strategic partnerships and external engagement. This included active collaboration with NGO and CSO networks, participation in global coalitions and engagement in multi-stakeholder platforms.

In the Netherlands, regular exchanges were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (primarily the IGG department), with a focus on inclusivity by ensuring online participation for non-Dutch partners. Several GLA members also maintained contact with Dutch embassies or consulates in their respective countries. Notably, an MoFA IGG representative visited Indonesia in 2024 and expressed strong appreciation for the Alliance's locally rooted, intersectional approach, highlighting it as a model of effective collaboration amid challenging political developments.

Collaboration with other strategic partnership (SPC) alliances was also undertaken. A joint meeting with GAGGA, VCA, and AACJ was held in early 2024, and ongoing cooperation took place through shared advocacy spaces, learning events and technical exchanges. GLA members also engaged collectively through the many platforms in which they participated and during key international events, including CBD COP16 and UNFCCC COP29, as referenced earlier in this report.

7.5 PLANNING AND REPORTING

In 2024, the following reports and plans were developed and submitted.

Planning and reporting requirements 2024	Period covered	Deadline	Status
IATI		Quarterly publications (Jan 31, April 30, July 31, Oct 30)	Published: financials quarterly, indicators on April 30
Annual narrative and financial report 2023	Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2023	June 1, 2024. With extension approved to July 1, 2024	Sent: June 5, 2024 Approved: Jan 7, 2025
Annual audit 2023	Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2023	June 1, 2024. With extension approved to July 1, 2024	Sent: June 28, 2024 Approved: Jan 7, 2025
Annual plan and budget 2025	Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2025	Dec 1, 2024. With extension approved to Dec 16, 2024	Sent: Dec 18, 2024 Approved: March 26, 2025