



**Green  
Livelihoods  
Alliance**

FORESTS FOR A JUST FUTURE

# End of programme and annual report 2025



NTFP-EP



Gaia  
Amazonas



Technical  
partners:



With  
support from:



**Funding framework**

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY - POWER OF VOICES (POV) PARTNERSHIPS

**Grant reference**

4000004338 / 100001236

**Report type**

FINAL REPORT (INCL. ANNUAL REPORT 2025 SECTION)

**Period covered**

JANUARY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2025

**Report commissioned by**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Inclusive Green Growth (IGG) department - Climate Affairs

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**Date sent**

April 30, 2026

**Cover photo by**

Stephanie Broekarts / IUCN NL



We are grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for its sustained commitment and partnership over these five years. At a time when development funding is under pressure and the space for rights-based, advocacy-oriented work is narrowing, this long-term investment in people-centred forest governance has made a real difference, and we hope this report reflects that.

We thank our CSO partners across all countries for their creativity, perseverance and solidarity. Working in increasingly difficult conditions, they have shown that civil society is not a delivery mechanism, it is a driving force for lasting change.

Our deepest gratitude belongs to the IP&LCs and human rights defenders who stood their ground, often at great risk, to protect their forests, their rights and their futures. In the face of pressure, intimidation and loss, they continued to organise, advocate and lead. This report documents their achievements. The forests still standing, and the rights still defended, are a testament to their courage.

This programme ends. Their work does not.

The GLA Alliance Members

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In a rapidly changing world, the mission of **the Green Livelihoods Alliance** to advance forest protection, Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP&LCs) rights and sustainable livelihoods has become more urgent than ever. Forests are under mounting pressure from agricultural expansion, extractive industries, infrastructure development and climate change, while civic space for forest defenders continues to shrink.

Through the **Forests for a Just Future programme (2021-2025)**, the alliance worked with over 70 civil society partners in 11 countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America to strengthen locally-led forest governance. Guided by an intersectional, gender-transformative Theory of Change, the programme advanced three pathways: strengthening IP&LC forest governance, addressing drivers of deforestation, and defending civic space and human rights.

By building coalitions, supporting local leadership, influencing policies and promoting responsible value chains, partners worked to ensure that forest conservation and management goes hand in hand with social justice, resilient livelihoods and the protection of biodiversity.

In an increasingly complex political and environmental landscape, the programme demonstrated the power of collaboration, solidarity and locally-led action to defend forests and secure a more just future for people and nature.

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## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

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Building on this collective effort, the following key achievements highlight some concrete results and lessons emerging from the programme across its three strategic pathways.

### Locally-led forest governance delivers real, scalable impact

GLA demonstrates that when IP&LCs hold real decision-making power over their territories, forest protection becomes more effective, equitable, and sustainable. Strengthening local governance is the foundation of lasting forest and biodiversity outcomes. Under Pathway A: 'Strengthening IP&LC governance over increased areas of forest', communities secured or strengthened governance over 14.1 million hectares of forest across 11 countries. In Colombia and Bolivia, Indigenous government structures were formalised and territorial governance deepened. In the Philippines and Indonesia, community forest concessions and social forestry permits strengthened locally-led forest management and decision-making, with in Sumatra alone, 37 villages securing village forest rights over 65,000 hectares. More than 262,000 people engaged in sustainable practices and local governance, while 268 decision-making spaces - from village councils in Ghana to Indigenous territorial entities in Colombia - now include stronger participation of IP&LCs and women. Community-led monitoring also delivered tangible results. At global level, engagement under the CBD and UNFCCC further reinforced recognition of IP&LC rights within international biodiversity and climate frameworks, while reinforcing linkages between local governance realities and global policy debates. With these results, GLA also contributed directly to the [IP&LC Forest Tenure Pledge](#), showing how international commitments on community forest tenure can be advanced through locally led governance and sustained civil society action.

## Addressing deforestation requires transforming systems of power

Deforestation is rooted in unequal power, weak enforcement and accountability and unsustainable value chains. GLA's integrated approach shows that combining IP&LC rights and capacities, policy influence, corporate accountability and civic space protection is essential to achieve inclusive and sustainable forest governance. Under Pathway B, 'Government and key sectors no longer drive deforestation', 282 documented outcomes showed changes in policies, corporate practices, and enforcement related to key drivers of deforestation, particularly in forestry, agro-industry, and mining. In Uganda, sustained litigation and public campaigning against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline delayed construction and forced developers to disclose land acquisition processes for the first time. Advocacy also helped halt the expansion of sugarcane operations into forest areas. In the Philippines, the provincial government of Palawan adopted a 50-year mining moratorium, protecting over 200,000 hectares of biodiverse forest after years of sustained civil society advocacy whereas in Ghana, the repeal of a law that would have opened up forest reserves to mining was a landmark victory. At the global level, GLA engagement helped strengthen the EU Deforestation Regulation on human rights, land tenure and smallholder inclusion, directly translating local governance realities into more accountable and inclusive global supply chain policies.

## Protecting civic space is essential for climate and biodiversity goals

Where defenders are silenced, forests are at risk. GLA has shown that safeguarding human rights, civic space and environmental defenders is central to achieving global climate and biodiversity commitments - and is a prerequisite for just transitions. Under Pathway C, focused on ensuring citizens can safely exercise human and women's rights and participate in social movements, 692 people were trained in safety and security across Bolivia, Cameroon, Ghana, Uganda, Indonesia, and the Philippines, including emergency support during the 2024 armed conflict in Goma (DRC), where civil society organisations received protection training amid active conflict. Concrete results also show strengthened protection of civic space: a major SLAPP case in Malaysia was withdrawn after international civil society pressure, and in the Philippines a woman environmental human rights defender was acquitted of cyberlibel charges linked to mining-related advocacy, supported through the GLA emergency response fund. These examples demonstrate that safeguarding defenders and civic space is not secondary, but essential to achieving lasting progress on forests, rights and justice.

## Inclusion, gender and youth involvement

Gender justice remained a central and cross-cutting priority. Women and youth took on growing leadership roles in forest governance, livelihoods and advocacy, from women-led territorial monitoring in Bolivia and Uganda to Indigenous women championing forest protection in the Philippines. In Colombia, a public forum organised by four GLA partners brought together over 50 Indigenous, Afro-descendant and peasant women whose recommendations were reflected in Colombia's gender action plan presented at CBD COP16 in Cali.

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## STRATEGIC LESSONS LEARNED

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Five years of implementation confirm clear lessons. Locally led approaches - where communities set priorities and hold real decision-making power - consistently deliver more durable and just outcomes than externally designed interventions. Trust and long-term partnerships, within the Alliance, between CSOs and with communities, were critical to sustaining progress in increasingly challenging contexts. Technical solutions only create change when paired with political strategies, including sustained advocacy and coalition building. Effective forest governance must reflect the lived realities of communities - livelihoods, care responsibilities, and safety - rather than treating them as secondary. And meaningful inclusion of women and youth demands active efforts to dismantle structural barriers.

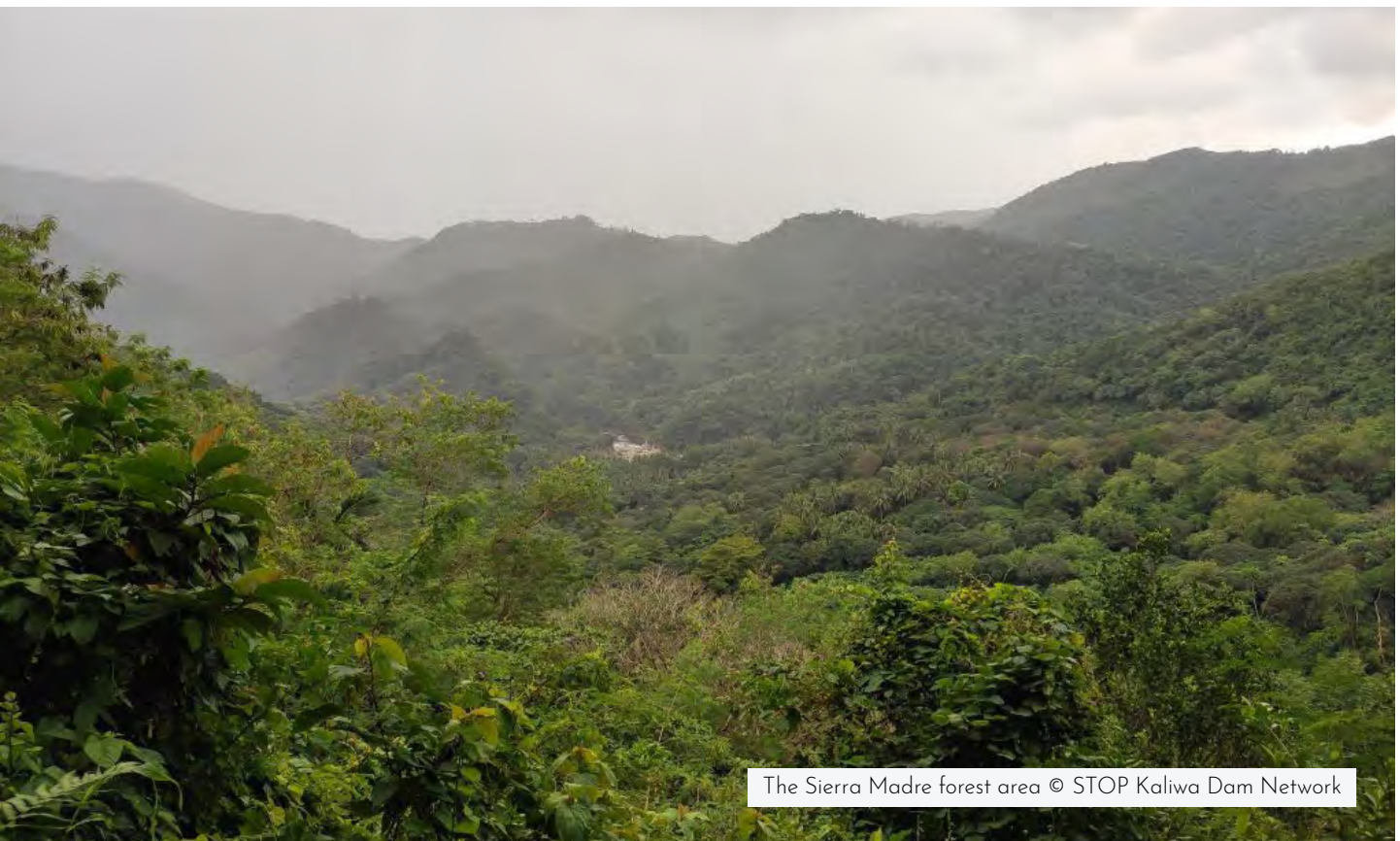
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## CONTINUITY AND FUTURE RELEVANCE

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The GLA programme closes with strong momentum and a clear legacy for continuation. Alliance members have successfully leveraged GLA experience to secure follow-on funding in several countries and GLA landscapes, ensuring continuity of work beyond the programme.

More broadly, the programme confirms the continued relevance of rights-based, community-led forest governance in a context of rising resource pressure, shrinking civic space, and fragile policy gains. It remains one of the most effective and resilient approaches for protecting biodiversity, supporting climate goals and strengthening local livelihoods. Sustaining and scaling this impact requires long-term, flexible investment in people, relationships and locally rooted institutions. GLA has shown what works, the task now is to build on it.



The Sierra Madre forest area © STOP Kaliwa Dam Network

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# INTRODUCTION

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This is the end of the programme report of the **Forests for a Just Future (FfJF) programme** (January 2021–December 2025), implemented by the [Green Livelihoods Alliance](#). It also includes a section that focuses on results in 2025 specifically.

The Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) is a partnership 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.

This programme built on and extended the **GLA Forested Landscapes for Equity programme**<sup>1</sup> that ran from 2016 until 2020, also funded by the Dutch government under the Dialogue and Dissent subsidy framework.

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## AIM AND SCOPE OF THIS REPORT

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The aim of this report is threefold. 1), it provides a consolidated overview of the progress made by the GLA over the full programme period 2021–25. It offers a representative account of how the Theory of Change was operationalised, the progress and changes to which the programme contributed, and key reflections on programme implementation across the five-year period; 2), the report pays particular attention to the work undertaken in 2025, in relation to the 2025 annual plan; 3), the report provides a consolidated overview of programme finances and key financial figures across the full 2021–25 period.

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<sup>1</sup> The previous GLA programme was implemented by three Alliance members (Milieudefensie, IUCN NL and Tropenbos International). The current GLA was expanded to six Alliance members and two technical partners.

The report draws on the following sources.

- Eleven country annual reports per implementing year, one covering interventions in and from the Dutch partners that are not addressed in other reports, and two reports from the technical partners.
- Four local-to-global-to-local (LGL) annual reports per implementing year capturing work that connects local contexts with international policy processes and vice versa. This work is reflected in two thematic programmes led by Milieudefensie and SDI: (i) just energy transition (JET) and (ii) community rights and deforestation drivers (CRDD); and in two international policy dossiers<sup>2</sup>: (i) the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and (ii) the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).
- Participatory consultations with IP&LCs conducted by GLA country partners between March and September 2025, alongside the Alliance's joint learning trajectory on locally led sustainable development, captured in the report [Locally-Led Sustainable Development: Insights and Recommendations from GLA partners](#) (November 2025).

Throughout the report, illustrative examples are used to highlight key outcomes and lessons. These examples are not exhaustive, and the report does not aim to document the full breadth of all interventions and achievements across the Alliance.

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## INCLUSIVITY

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Inclusion and gender justice 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.

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## SECTIONS AND CHAPTERS

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**This report is structured as follows:**

- 📄 **Section I** presents a consolidated overview of the programme, looking back on the full implementation period and reflecting on achievements, challenges and learning across the five years of implementation. The section covers key contextual developments and progress under the three reinforcing pathways of change, as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender justice and inclusion. The narrative is complemented by a series of annexes, including an overview of the landscapes where the programme was implemented (**annex B**), a comparison of baseline, midterm and endline programme indicators (**annex C**).

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<sup>2</sup> This aligns with the [management decision](#) taken on recommendations from the [midterm review](#) (MTR 2023) where the Alliance focused 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.

- ☒ **Section II** focuses specifically on work and progress in 2025. It follows the same overall structure as previous annual reports, aligned with the three pathways of change, while omitting sub-sections and information already presented in Section I to avoid repetition and ensure coherence across the report.
- ☒ **Section III** will be submitted separately from this report. It presents a summary of the 2025 financial report and provides a brief narrative overview of the main financial trends over the final year of implementation. It also provides a high-level overview of full programme finances and key financial figures across the 2021-25 period. The complete financial report is also included in Section III.

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## AN OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO THE OPERATING CONTEXT (2021-25)

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The **Forests for a Just Future** (FfJF) programme was implemented over a five-year period marked by profound and compounding political, environmental and socio-economic shifts. While the programme began in 2021 in a context shaped largely by the COVID-19 pandemic and its immediate impacts, it concluded in 2025 in a significantly more volatile global environment, characterised by shrinking civic space, geopolitical polarisation and intensified pressure on land, forests and those defending them.

Across regions, the operating context did not follow a linear trajectory. Instead, the period 2021-25 was marked by the increasingly evident impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss and global water crisis, gradual structural changes and abrupt political reversals. These dynamics directly influenced programme strategies, pacing and risk management, and shaped both what could be achieved and how change needed to be pursued.

Between 2021 and the end of 2025, the global context for tropical forests combined stronger policy momentum with persistent pressures. Major consumer markets, notably the EU, advanced deforestation-free supply chain rules, while global processes under the CBD and UNFCCC reinforced links between nature and climate. Recognition of IP&LCs - including rights, tenure security and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) - grew in policy spaces and finance initiatives. However, deforestation and degradation continued across the Amazon, Central and West Africa and Southeast Asia, driven by agricultural expansion, infrastructure and mining (especially for critical minerals). Climate extremes (droughts, fires) further intensified forest loss and risks for IP&LCs.



Women in Palawan © Green Livelihoods Alliance

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## FROM PANDEMIC DISRUPTION TO STRUCTURAL VOLATILITY

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In the early years of the programme (2021–22), COVID-19 was a dominant contextual factor. Restrictions on movement, delays in policy processes, and limited access to communities affected programme implementation across countries, including prolonged limitations on community engagement and policy dialogue in most GLA regions. At the same time, the pandemic exposed and exacerbated pre-existing inequalities, particularly for IP&LCs, women, and informal workers dependent on forest-based livelihoods. In several contexts, government responses prioritised extractive and infrastructure projects as engines of economic recovery, accelerating pressure on forests and customary lands, for example through continued expansion of agribusiness and mining concessions.

As pandemic-related restrictions eased, these structural pressures did not recede. Instead, they became embedded in longer-term economic development trajectories. From 2022 onwards, countries across programme regions experienced renewed expansion of agribusiness, mining, energy and large-scale infrastructure, often justified through narratives of food security, energy transition or economic resilience. These dynamics intensified competition over land and natural resources and reinforced long-standing tensions between state, private sector and community land claims.

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## PERSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION GAPS IN FOREST AND CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

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Throughout the programme period, there was a notable expansion of policy frameworks and formal commitments related to forests, climate, biodiversity and land rights at national, regional and international levels (e.g. the [IP&LCs Forest Tenure Pledge](#) launched at UNFCCC COP26 in November 2021; CBD [Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) adopted in December 2022; adoption during CBD COP16 (November 2024) of a permanent body for indigenous peoples and local communities in the CBD process ('SB8j')). However, a consistent trend from 2021 to 2025 was the growing gap between policy commitments and effective implementation. While normative frameworks increasingly referenced participation, rights and sustainability, their translation into enforceable measures at national and sub-national levels remained uneven.

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## SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE AND HEIGHTENED RISKS FOR DEFENDERS

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One of the most significant trends over the full programme period was the [progressive shrinking of civic space](#). While constraints on civil society and human rights defenders were already present in 2021, they intensified markedly between 2023–2025. This trend is reflected in [annual assessments by Global Witness on land and environmental defenders](#), which consistently identify several GLA countries among the most dangerous contexts for such work, including **Colombia**, the **Philippines** and the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, while also noting deteriorating conditions in other parts of **Southeast Asia** and **Central Africa**. Over the same period, some contexts showed limited, localised improvements linked to peace processes or legal reforms, but these were often fragile and reversible.

Across regions, programme partners reported increased legal harassment, surveillance, criminalisation, and administrative restrictions targeting CSOs, IP&LC leaders and (women) environmental human rights defenders ((W)EHRDs). This included, for example, arrests and legal proceedings against community leaders opposing mining and extractive projects and heightened surveillance, intimidation and restrictions on CSO operations in countries such as **Cameroon, Malaysia, Uganda, Indonesia** and the **Philippines**, which limited open engagement with authorities. These dynamics required adaptive approaches such as anonymised documentation, indirect engagement with authorities and enhanced security protocols.

These trends were affirmed by the GLA [civic space survey](#) conducted in 2023, which identified challenges across all civic freedoms, particularly access to information, protection of (W)EHRDs, and freedoms of expression and assembly. Partners and communities experienced diverse forms of retaliation, from physical attacks to political repression, including restrictive legislation, red-tagging, strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs), negative framing, misinformation and cyberbullying. The survey findings informed subsequent risk monitoring and adaptive strategies during the remainder of the programme period.

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## POLICY VOLATILITY AND POLITICAL BACKLASH

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Civic space constraints were most visible in the countries with increasing political volatility, also affecting donor and multilateral contexts. From 2023 onwards, growing polarisation, conservative backlash and strong industry lobbying affected environmental and social policy agendas in Europe and beyond.

The trajectory of the **EU Deforestation Regulation** illustrates this shift of European policymaking (see, for example, [Fern's analysis of the EU Deforestation Regulation](#)). After its adoption in 2023, subsequent years were marked by implementation delays and attempts to weaken key provisions, risking the acceleration of deforestation and needing civil society to resist and continue the fight for an ambitious piece of legislation instead of focusing on EUDR implementation and enforcement.

More broadly, debates around [mandatory European due diligence legislation](#) in the EU highlighted the tension between political ambition on corporate accountability and sustained resistance from parts of industry and some member states, contributing to an increasingly volatile and contested policy environment. Similar dynamics were observed in multilateral climate and biodiversity processes, where ambition was often diluted by geopolitical tensions and competing economic interests.

Between 2021-2025, **global demand for critical minerals** such as nickel, lithium, cobalt, copper and bauxite surged, driven by electric vehicles, geopolitical interests and renewable energy and digital technologies. This boom intensified [deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss](#), including in GLA landscapes where mining often encroached on high biodiversity forests and Indigenous peoples' lands. Mining expansion largely outpaced regulation, making critical mineral extraction a major emerging driver of forest loss and ecosystem degradation in addition to other drivers like agricultural expansion.



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## GENDER JUSTICE UNDER PRESSURE, BUT WITH GROWING LOCAL LEADERSHIP

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While early programme years focused on capacity strengthening, organisational change and integration of gender-responsive approaches, later years were marked by rising anti-rights discourse, reduced funding for feminist and women-led organisations, and political resistance to gender equality measures. This contrasted sharply with earlier momentum around gender equality in development policy, including [the launch of the Dutch Feminist Foreign Policy in 2023](#), which initially created significant political and public visibility but subsequently lost traction.

At the same time women and youth increasingly emerged as leaders in forest governance, livelihoods, advocacy and community organisation. Examples include women-led livelihood initiatives and [territorial monitoring](#) in **Bolivia**, **Colombia** and [the Philippines](#), youth leadership and governance engagement in **Southeast Asia**, and women's growing participation in community decision making and advocacy processes in **Africa**.

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## CLIMATE STRESS AND COMPOUNDING ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

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The period 2023-2025 saw [record global temperatures](#), underscoring the intensifying climate crisis and its impact worldwide.

Communities experienced more frequent and severe floods, droughts, fires and storms, exacerbating livelihood insecurity and governance challenges. These impacts were reported, for example, in flood and drought-prone areas of **Ghana** and **Uganda**, fire-affected forest landscapes in **Indonesia** and [Bolivia](#), and typhoon-impacted communities in the **Philippines**. These events were not isolated environmental shocks but interacted with land tenure insecurity, extractive pressures and limited state support.

By 2025, climate-related stress had become a constant backdrop to programme implementation, reinforcing the urgency of rights-based, locally led forest governance while also constraining the pace and scale of change that could realistically be achieved.

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## GLOBAL CONFLICTS AND INTENSIFYING MILITARISM

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During the programme's lifespan, major conflicts - most notably Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and Israel's alleged genocide in Gaza starting in 2023 - reshaped the global geopolitical landscape. While the programme did not work directly on conflict, these terrible developments triggered immediate knock-on effects such as food insecurity and rising global inflation, negatively impacting how far partners' budgets could stretch. In the midterm, a clear body of research underscores the immense carbon emissions and devastating environmental impact of armed conflicts. A massive increase in spending on arms and defence, and intensified militarism, shifted both attention and already scarce international development budgets away from the equally urgent planetary crises. Finally, violations of international law and human rights treaties, and diminishing faith in multilateral and UN processes, are inevitably harmful to the context in which many GLA partners work, not least the Pathway C on civic space.

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## FUNDING UNCERTAINTY FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

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Between 2021 and 2025, the global development aid landscape shifted considerably. Several major donors reassessed their priorities, leading to reductions or restructuring of development aid. In particular, the termination or downsizing of programmes, for example reductions in funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), created funding gaps for many CSOs. But in many other countries, including **the Netherlands**, official development assistance (ODA) funding shrank as funds were increasingly redirected towards geopolitical priorities such as security, migration management and economic interests. For many CSO partners in the Global South, these changes translated into greater funding uncertainty, shorter funding cycles and increased competition for limited resources.

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## AN END-OF-PROGRAMME CONTEXT DEFINED BY RESILIENCE UNDER CONSTRAINT

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The FfJF programme comes to an end in a context where forests and forest-dependent communities face intensified pressure, civic space is increasingly restricted and policy gains are fragile. At the same time, the programme also closes with clear evidence of strengthened community agency, increasing agency and leadership of women and youth, and resilient coalitions capable of navigating complex and hostile environments.

This context is essential for understanding both the programme's achievements and its limitations, and for situating its outcomes within the broader political, environmental and social dynamics that will continue to shape forest governance beyond 2025.



A man drawing water to use in his garden in Bolivia in the Chiquitani area © Manuel Seoane / IUCN NL

Woman in Palawan © Green Livelihoods Alliance



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SECTION I

# End of programme report

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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This section provides an end of programme reflection on what the Forests for a Just Future (FfJF) programme achieved over the 2021-2025 period. It builds on the programme's [Theory of Change](#), structured around three mutually reinforcing pathways and cross-cutting themes, synthesising evidence generated across the programme to reflect on observed changes, patterns and limitations over the five-year period.

Building on the achievements and lessons learned from the Forested Landscapes for Equity programme ('GLA 1'), **FfJF was designed as a long-term, multi-country effort to support rights-based, locally led forest governance in contexts where the drivers of deforestation are structural and where the ability of communities and civil society to influence decision making is often constrained. The programme's approach combined action at landscape level with national advocacy, regional collaboration and international policy engagement.** Work under **Pathway A** focused on strengthening inclusive, IP&LC-led forest governance and management, including support to land, tenure and resource rights and community-led monitoring. **Pathway B** focused on influencing government and private sector policies and practices linked to deforestation drivers, including through accountability strategies, media engagement and advocacy in international policy processes such as the EU Deforestation Regulation. **Pathway C** focused on strengthening civic space and the safety and security of partners and IP&LCs by addressing repression and insecurity, improving access to justice, supporting (W)EHRDs, and enabling safe participation in social movements. Targeted actions and mainstreaming across interventions strengthened gender justice and the meaningful inclusion of women and youth.

The operating context grew increasingly volatile, shaped by shrinking civic space, heightened risks for (W) EHRDs, climate-related shocks and political and policy volatility. This required continuous adaptation, with strong emphasis on conflict sensitivity, risk-aware implementation and coalition-based strategies, recognising that change is rarely linear and that progress in one area can trigger backlash in another.

This **report presents a synthesis of the Alliance's successes and lessons learned from across the three pathways.** This is based on harvested outcomes, reflections from partners as documented in their contributing reports, insights generated through the Alliance's internal learning trajectory on [locally led sustainable development](#), and findings from participatory consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LCs).

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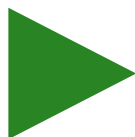
## 2. KEY SUCCESSES ACROSS PATHWAYS

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The section below highlights key patterns of change during the programme and illustrates how the Alliance operated under constrained conditions.

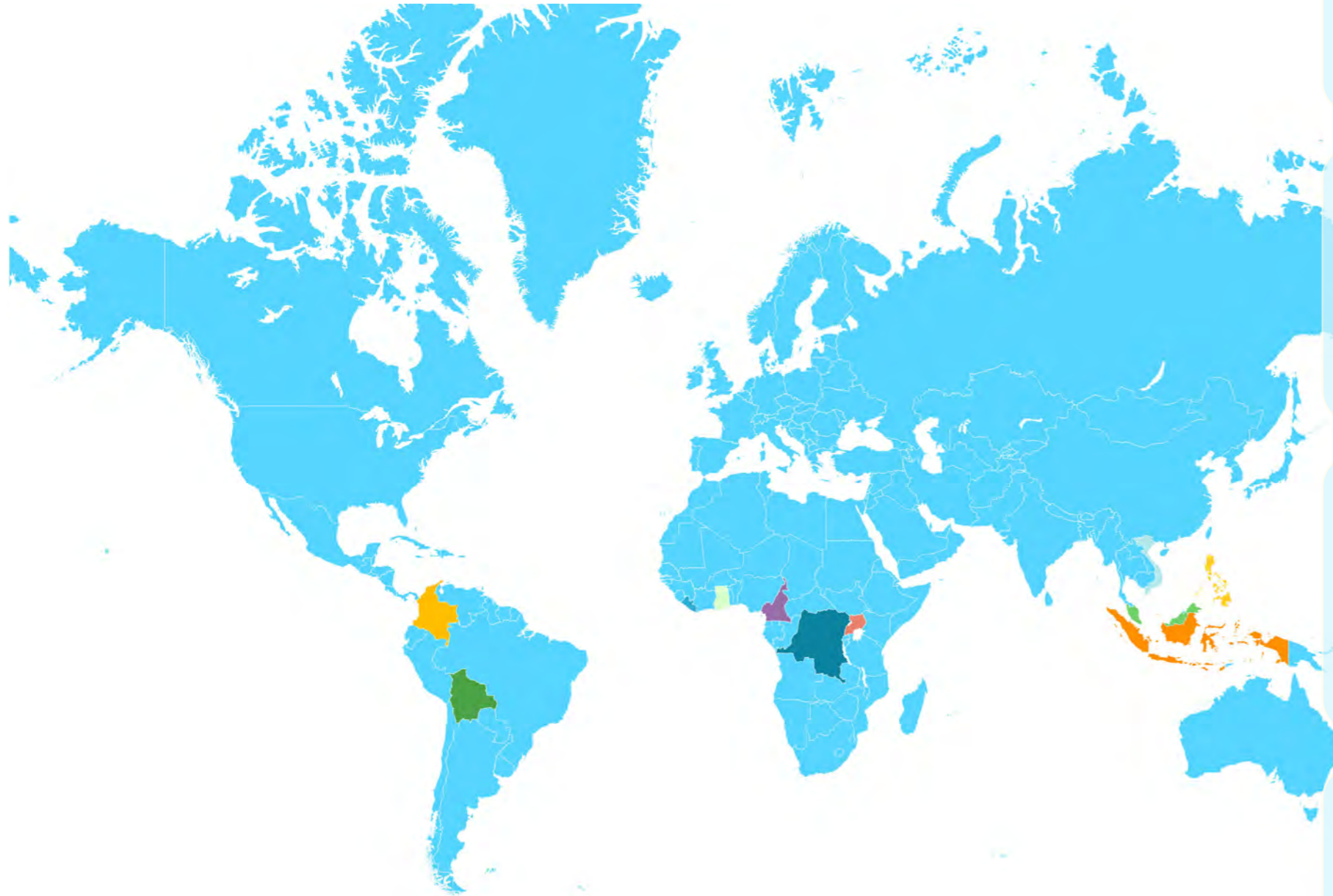
Beyond immediate outputs or policy gains, success also includes strengthened agency, collaboration and practices that support long-term, rights-based forest governance changes identified through community consultations and internal reflection. The synthesis builds on country and thematic reports, outcome harvesting, participatory consultations with IP&LCs, and indicator data (as detailed in chapter 3), highlighting the enabling factors that supported progress across pathways.

### End of Programme video



[Click here to view the  
Green livelihoods Alliance  
End of Programme video](#)

# WHAT DID WE DO?



**Bolivia:** In Bolivia, GLA partners strengthened Indigenous and community territorial rights across the Chiquitania and other priority areas through community-based monitoring (e.g. water, forest deforestation drivers), legal support, and strategic advocacy to municipal, national and international bodies. They supported local environmental governance by helping municipalities and communities draft and advance concrete norms while increasing public and international visibility of illegal deforestation and mercury pollution linked to gold mining. Across these actions, they strengthened civic space and protection for environmental defenders and forests, while advancing gender and youth leadership via strengthening participation in decision-making and international advocacy.

**Cameroon:** In Cameroon, GLA partners advanced Indigenous and community land rights through sustained advocacy on land reform and legal recognition of villages as collective landholders. Their efforts influenced national debates and supported inclusion of community protected areas in new forest legislation. Community-based monitoring expanded across the Dja, Upper Sanaga and Plaine Centrale regions, enabling local observers and journalists to document illegal logging, land grabbing and harmful agribusiness practices. This evidence contributed to concrete outcomes, including suspensions or delays of major agro-industrial projects and ongoing legal challenges in Dja, Plaine Centrale and the Ebo forest. In parallel, GLA partners strengthened environmental defenders and reinforced civic space.

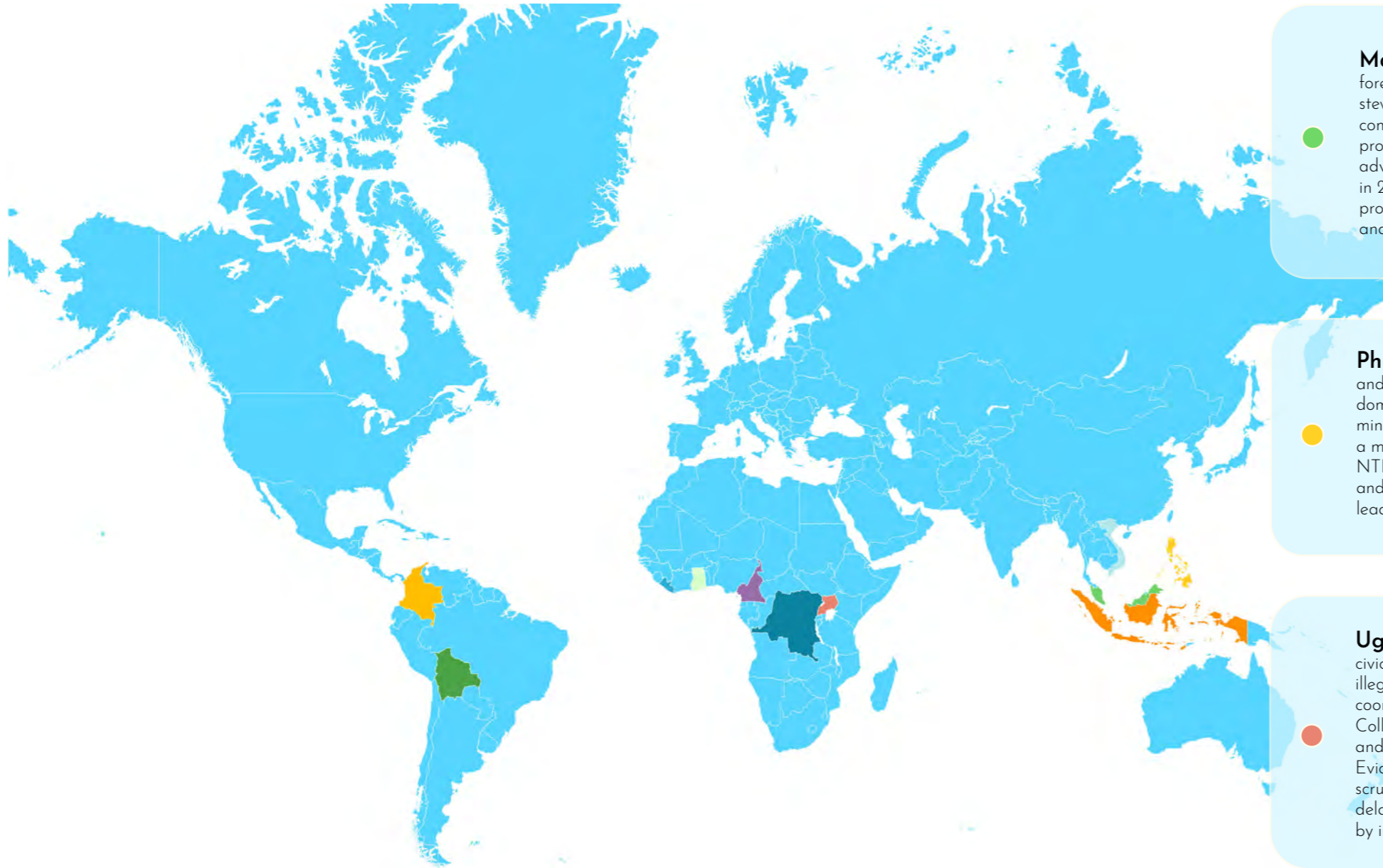
**Colombia:** In Colombia, the four GLA partners positioned territorial priorities, gender perspectives, peasant demands and Indigenous governance approaches in national and international policy spaces. Their advocacy increased recognition of socio-environmental conflicts linked to carbon markets, strengthened alliances, and supported formalisation of Indigenous Territories as Indigenous Territorial Entities at national level, with recognition under the CBD as effective biodiversity management units. These efforts contributed to concrete policy outcomes, including progress in national debates on carbon market regulation, advances on deforestation-free cattle traceability, and emphasis on agrarian reform as a response to the environmental crisis. Together, the partners demonstrated how complementary approaches and knowledge drive collective action.

**DRC:** In the DRC, GLA partners strengthened community forest rights, local governance and civic space in conflict-affected landscapes under extractive pressure. They secured legal recognition of 36 community forest concessions covering nearly one million hectares and supported inclusive governance structures, including gender action plans. Partners challenged illegal resource exploitation, including halting a construction permit in Virunga National Park, and mobilised communities against planned oil and gas extraction. They documented abuses against environmental defenders, trained local monitors and journalists, and worked with authorities on protection frameworks. These efforts reduced pressure on forests, improved cooperation with protected area authorities, and increased participation of women and youth in decision-making.

**Ghana:** In Ghana, GLA partners strengthened community forest governance and sustainable landscape management through legal recognition of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) and the passage of the Wildlife Resources Management Act. Advocacy action and campaigns safeguarded the Atewa Forest Reserve from bauxite mining and challenged mining in Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas including forest reserves. Communities resisted illegal gold mining through CREMA-led action, and cocoa agroforestry expanded in Atewa and Juaboso-Bia landscapes, increasing tree cover and climate resilience.

**Indonesia:** In Indonesia, GLA partners advanced social forestry across four key forest landscapes, enabling communities to secure village and customary forest management rights. Livelihoods were strengthened through community enterprises (NTFPs, agroforestry, organic agriculture) and community-based conservation. This was supported by policy advocacy on sustainable palm oil regulations, village by-laws and protection of (women) Environmental Human Rights Defenders, while empowering women through capacity building using Feminist Participatory Action Research.

# WHAT DID WE DO?



**Liberia:** In Liberia, GLA partners strengthened community land rights and forest governance by advancing customary land formalisation in Bomi and Sinoe counties and supporting women and youth to participate in local decision-making. Through sustained engagement with the Liberia Land Authority and community structures, partners secured legal recognition of more than 72,000 hectares of customary land and supported the Western Region Women Network Association as a key voice in monitoring concessions. Community-based monitoring exposed illegal logging and harmful plantation practices, prompting bans on the Kpokolo timber trade and suspension of disputed permits. These efforts improved oversight, redress and protection of community lands.

**Malaysia:** In Malaysia, GLA partners strengthened Indigenous land rights and community-led forest governance through advocacy, participatory mapping and the revitalisation of adat-based stewardship. Across the Upper Baram, Belaga, Apoh-Tutoh and Simunjan landscapes, communities documented customary territories, mapped sacred sites and developed community protocols to govern land, water and forests. Through the Stop the Chop campaign, Indigenous advocacy led Samling to withdraw from logging in the Gerenai Forest Management Unit in 2024, supporting the continued development of the Baram Peace Park. Partners also promoted sustainable livelihoods and introduced gender-responsive approaches, with women and youth expanding their roles in community governance, mapping and climate resilience.

**Philippines:** In the Philippines, GLA partners strengthened Indigenous Peoples', women's and youth organisations across priority forest landscapes, enabling active forest and ancestral domain governance. Communities advanced advocacy to safeguard forests and IP rights from mining and other extractive projects. These efforts contributed to concrete policy gains, including a mining moratorium in Palawan and local government resolutions rejecting the Kaliwa dam. NTFP-based and agroforestry livelihoods were strengthened, while alliances with churches, CSOs and academia reinforced policy engagement. Community-led security protocols and women's leadership further strengthened protection of Environmental Human Rights Defenders.

**Uganda:** In Uganda, GLA partners strengthened community-led forest governance and civic action in the Albertine Graben, where oil and gas development, agro-commodities, illegal logging and shrinking civic space place heavy pressure on protected areas. Through coordinated advocacy, leadership development and mobilisation, the alliance supported Collaborative Forest Management groups to restore degraded forests and riverbanks and expand sustainable livelihoods such as agroforestry, apiary and tree nurseries. Evidence-based advocacy contributed to halting conversion of Itohya Forest, increasing scrutiny on Zoka Forest Reserve, protecting rights of oil-affected communities and delaying harmful oil infrastructure. GLA partners also advanced gender transformation by increasing women's participation in forest patrols, leadership and enterprises.

**Vietnam:** In Vietnam, GLA partners supported Indigenous and local communities in the Central Highlands to strengthen forest tenure, revive customary governance and develop sustainable livelihoods linking biodiversity and cultural traditions. Communities advanced participatory forest management, applied customary rules in forest protection, and expanded climate-smart agroforestry and PGS-based NTFP production led by women and youth. These efforts increased influence in district and provincial planning and supported clearer procedures for forest allocation and stronger IPLC participation in governance of the Kon Ha Nung Biosphere Reserve. Engagement with state-owned and private companies promoted early compliance with FSC and the EU Deforestation Regulation, encouraging more responsible rubber production nationwide locally.



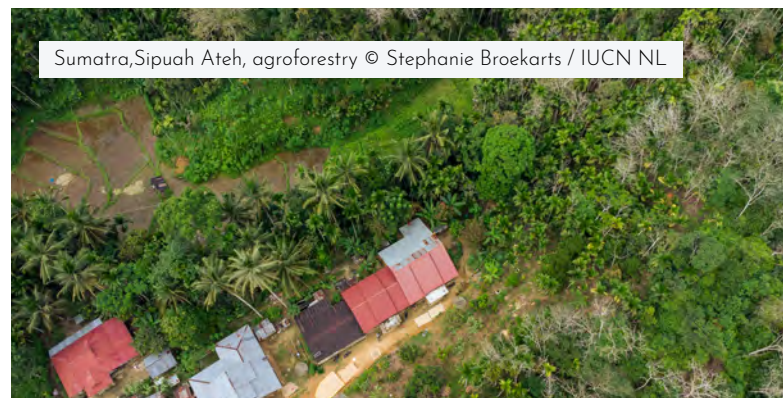
## Pathway A: IP&LC-LED FOREST GOVERNANCE

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

Under this pathway, Alliance members and partners in GLA countries supported IP&LCs in a variety of ways to gain or strengthen their agency and 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 are an important part of this. GLA members, CSO partners and IP&LCs carried 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 participate in decision making.

## WHAT DO THE DATA TELL US?

The programme's work under Pathway A has strengthened the ability of IP&LCs to govern their forests. By 2025, communities had secured or reinforced formal rights over **14.1 million hectares of forest**, often building on existing rights but deepening governance and management practices. For example, in **Colombia** and **Bolivia**, Indigenous government structures were formalised, while in the **Philippines and Indonesia**, community forest concessions empowered local decision making. This reflects the pathway's goal of supporting **IP&LC-led forest governance**, where interventions intensified community agency, legal recognition and sustainable practices.



Sumatra, Sipuah Ateh, agroforestry © Stephanie Broekarts / IUCN NL

In **268 decision-making spaces**, Indigenous communities and women's groups now play a more active role in forest governance. These include village councils in **Ghana**, customary institutions in **Bolivia**, and multi-stakeholder platforms in the **Philippines**, where women, like the **Lomería patrol** unit, now manage dedicated forest areas. These spaces, created or strengthened through advocacy and dialogue, align with the Theory of Change by ensuring that local voices shape policies and practices. The involvement of **262,000 people** in sustainable forest management and governance roles further demonstrates how the programme's support has enabled communities to assert their rights and leadership.

This progress shows that when civil society and IP&LCs are empowered to participate meaningfully, they drive governance systems that are more inclusive and responsive to their needs. The shift from consultation to co-governance is evident in the **72,200 people** now actively practising sustainable activities or participating in governance, including **women-led monitoring teams in Uganda** and Indigenous participation in municipal planning in the **Philippines**. The results confirm the pathway's core principle: **local ownership and participation lead to sustainable forest management**.

In the section below, a number of success stories illustrate some of the many concrete results and impacts achieved under Pathway A, showing how strengthened governance has translated into tangible changes on the ground.



Coffee Cultivation Training in Sirukam Village, Indonesia © WARSI

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES



Canopy in Colombia © IUCN NL

## COMMUNITY VOICES AT THE POLICY TABLE, COLOMBIA

In March 2023, IP&LCs turned dialogue into political action.

During the [Regional Dialogues on Deforestation and Degradation](#), which was convened by CENSAT Agua Viva, the Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (FCDS) and Tropenbos Colombia, IP&LCs articulated shared demands that directly influenced national policy decisions.

Over two days, 142 participants, which included IP&LCs women leaders, students, academics, environmental authorities and legislative advisors, critically examined Colombia's deforestation policies. **They identified regulatory barriers, gendered impacts and crucially, showcased 19 community-led initiatives proving that territorial care is already happening on the ground.** Another 300 people joined virtually, amplifying these conversations nationwide.

The collective insights from this and two earlier dialogue processes (Caquetá and Guaviare, 2022) were systematized and shared with two members of Congress. The result was tangible political impact: amendments to the National Development Plan 2022–2026. Key articles on forestry concessions in Law 2 zones, the Sustainability and Climate Resilience Fund (Fonsurec), and the National Council to Combat Deforestation (Conaldef) were modified to incorporate community perspectives on territorial rights, participation in forest governance and access to climate funding.

These changes mark a major step forward by **formally recognising local communities as essential actors in conservation and strengthening guarantees for access to land and territory.** What started as local dialogue ultimately shaped decisions at the heart of national policy.

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES



Communities receive training on TIMBY app © FOE Ghana

## LOCAL INHABITANTS REPORT ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES, GHANA

Thanks to our advocacy work at the Forestry Commission of Ghana, local inhabitants and civil society organisations can now call people to account for illegal logging and mining operations. The reporting of such abuses means the Forestry Commission is better able to tackle this problem. The Forestry Commission is responsible for the regulation of the conservation and sustainable utilisation of forests in Ghana and is part of the Ghanaese Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources.

### Illegal chainsaw use eradicated, Ghana

Kramokrom is a community on the fringe of the Bia Tributaries North Forest Reserve in Ghana, where illegal logging has increased considerably in recent years. **Use of the Timby app has reduced the illegal use of chainsaws from four days a week to zero.** Timby, which stands for This Is My Backyard, is a mobile app for gathering information on illegal logging, for monitoring forest areas and for sharing information with others such as government authorities. GLA partner Friends of the Earth Ghana provided training on how to use the app.

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES



Women making nut oil in Indonesia © Stephanie Broekarts / IUCN NL

## ADVANCING SOCIAL FORESTRY AND GREEN LIVELIHOODS IN SUMATRA, INDONESIA

**WARSI** advanced social forestry in Jambi and West Sumatra, enabling communities to secure village and customary forest management rights and strengthen livelihoods through community enterprises and conservation.

By the end of 2025, 37 villages had secured hutan desa (village forest) rights, **bringing 65,000+ hectares of forest under community management**. **WARSI** supported communities to establish and manage hutan desa in high-biodiversity forest landscapes in Jambi and West Sumatra, including buffer zones of Kerinci Seblat National Park. Established village forest management groups (VFMGs) lead planning, monitoring, patrols and benefit sharing, and communities **now actively protect the forest from illegal logging and the expansion of plantations and mining**.

In parallel, **WARSI** strengthened NTFP and agroforestry-based value chains and supported 47 community business groups around village forests. Enterprises focused on agarwood, forest honey and candlenut, alongside coffee, rubber and fruit. **Capacity strengthening promoted inclusive participation and leadership in enterprises and VFMG-led governance, with specific support to women's groups**. For example, in Indudur Nagari, women's groups improved candlenut oil production and market access, increasing incomes for eight groups. In Padang Laweh, improved agarwood practices raised quality and income while protecting surrounding forest.

Key success factors were strong village institutions and youth engagement, supporting forest protection and local enterprises.

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# LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINES

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- ☞ **Trust and long-term engagement are the foundation of progress.** In **Liberia**, **SDI** and **CRSF** only formalised community bylaws after years of consistent engagement, including during challenging periods like the rainy season. In **Bolivia**, **IBIF** and **SAVIA's** work with the Monkox women's group gained traction after multiple harvest cycles proved their commitment. The lesson is clear: meaningful change in forest governance requires sustained presence and trust building, not just short-term interventions.
- ☞ **Technical solutions need political strategies to drive impact.** In **Cameroon**, **CED's** GIS training for land claims had no effect until media exposure forced official responses. In **Ghana**, **Friends of the Earth** Ghana's Timby app data only led to enforcement after public pressure on the Forestry Commission. **Indonesia's** social forestry permits succeeded because **Tropenbos Indonesia** and **WARSI** linked them to national advocacy campaigns. The pattern shows that evidence alone changes little without strategies to compel action from decision makers.
- ☞ **Governance improves when leadership development addresses real barriers.** In **Uganda**, **ARUWE's** childcare support expanded women's patrol teams, while in **Bolivia**, **SAVIA's** mentorship stabilised youth groups after earlier top-down training failed. These examples demonstrate that governance improvements come from solving practical participation constraints, not just through capacity-building workshops.



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## Pathway B: DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION

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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 members and partners targeted local and national governments and intergovernmental bodies, as well as private sector initiatives and actors to halt deforestation. The aim is to strengthen regulations and enforcement of environmental and human rights policies and enhance accountability of governments and the private sector. It also seeks to ensure that governments, businesses and investors implement policies which ensure the protection of (environmental) 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.

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## WHAT DO THE DATA TELL US?

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Pathway B focused on addressing the root causes of deforestation by targeting policies, corporate practices and financial flows that drive forest loss. Over the five years, the programme documented **282 outcomes under indicator 3**, which tracks changes in regulations, corporate behaviour and enforcement related to deforestation drivers. These outcomes were concentrated in **forestry (73), agro-industry (67), and mining (32)**, reflecting the programme's focus on sectors with the highest deforestation risks. The peak in 2023 with 76 outcomes reflects a period of heightened advocacy and policy reform, particularly in sectors where deforestation risks are highest.

The results highlight where progress was made in reshaping governance and accountability. In **Uganda**, advocacy stalled sugarcane expansion, while in the **Philippines**, a mining moratorium protected **200,000 hectares in Palawan**. Forestry and agro-industry, responsible for the majority of outcomes with **73 and 67 respectively**, saw significant shifts as advocacy campaigns and legal reforms challenged unsustainable logging, land conversion for commodities and weak enforcement.

In mining, **32 outcomes** demonstrated how pressure on governments and companies led to stricter controls on extractive activities, including the designation of **136,274 hectares as no go zones**.

These changes were not just about halting harmful activities but also about institutionalising sustainability. Advocacy by communities and CSOs pushed public authorities to enforce regulations and adopt new standards, leading to concrete commitments from businesses. For example, sustained pressure on companies and investors resulted in **15,290 hectares** now managed under sustainable private sector commitments, such as **no deforestation, no peat, no exploitation (NDPE) policies**. This shows how civil society action can translate into corporate accountability and improved land use practices.

The programme's focus on policies, enforcement and corporate accountability demonstrates how addressing the drivers of deforestation can contribute to better protection of forests and rights. This reflects the Theory of Change, where systemic change requires both blocking harmful projects and strengthening governance and community rights.

In the section below, a number of success stories illustrate some of the many concrete results and impacts achieved under Pathway B.



## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES



A Rocha Ghana and partners take campaign against (LI) 2462 to the streets © A Rocha Ghana

## REPEAL OF CONTROVERSIAL MINING LAW STRENGTHENS FOREST PROTECTION IN GHANA

In late 2025, [the government of Ghana repealed Legislative Instrument \(L.I.\) 2462](#), reversing a regulation that had opened large areas of forest reserves to mining and restoring legal protection to critical ecosystems, including globally significant biodiversity areas. The repeal represents a major policy success within the GLA programme, reflecting the influence of strengthened civil society advocacy on safeguarding biodiversity, water resources and the livelihoods of local communities.

Through coordinated action since late 2022, **A Rocha Ghana** strengthened the capacity of civil society actors to engage in national forest governance debates, enabling them to align research evidence, community perspectives and legal analysis into coherent advocacy positions. This strengthened civil society's ability to engage constructively with policymakers, increase public visibility of key concerns, and participate more effectively in formal policy processes.

These efforts contributed significantly to a broader civil society coalition including other GLA partners advocating for the revocation of L.I. 2462. The coalition combined technical analysis, media engagement and sustained dialogue with decision makers to highlight the environmental and social risks posed by mining in forest reserves and to call for stronger legal safeguards.

In October 2025, following mounting public pressure and dialogue with civil society, the government tabled a revocation instrument in parliament. Its adoption in December 2025 formally repealed L.I. 2462, closing the legal pathway for mining in forest reserves.

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES



Aerial shot of a mining concession in Brookes Point, Palawan - Marlon Tamsi © ELAC

# MINING MORATORIUM FOR PALAWAN: STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF THE LAST ECOLOGICAL FRONTIER

On 13 March 2025, a hard-won victory for people and nature was secured in the **Philippines**. The provincial government of Palawan adopted Provincial Ordinance No. 3446, establishing a 50-year, extendable moratorium on new mining endorsements and prohibiting expansion into new sites by existing mining companies. **The decision effectively blocks more than 200,000 hectares of planned mining operations linked to around 67 exploration permits across the province.**

Often described as the country's last ecological frontier, Palawan is home to exceptional forests, freshwater systems and coastal ecosystems that sustain local livelihoods, fisheries and food security. For years, communities, Indigenous peoples and environmental advocates warned that expanding mining, particularly for nickel, would irreversibly damage these ecosystems while exposing communities to pollution, flooding and loss of land.

A key role in this success was the **Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC)**, a long-standing GLA partner. Through legal advocacy, public campaigning and sustained engagement with local decision makers, **ELAC and its allies helped translate community concerns into concrete policy change.** As ELAC Executive Director Grizelda Mayo-Anda noted, "This is a historical step towards protecting the remaining forests and natural resources of Palawan and upholding the rights of citizens, Indigenous peoples, farmers and fisherfolk - particularly the right to a safe and healthy environment."

The Palawan moratorium demonstrates how locally led advocacy can reshape governance, safeguard ecosystems and secure more sustainable futures for communities who depend on them.

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES



A Baka cocoa farmer in Ekombité, in southern Cameroon who cultivates a fourhectare field with the support of her husband and family © FERN

## CIVIL SOCIETY SHAPING THE EU DEFORESTATION REGULATION

Despite the more recent EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) implementation delays in 2024 and 2025, joint EUDR advocacy over the past five years by a strong international coalition of CSOs such as [Together4Forests](#), which includes several GLA members, resulted in important policy impacts as well as impacts on the ground in producer countries. The [EUDR adopted in 2023](#) reflects a large number of CSO demands, including human rights, marking a turning point in global trade governance by requiring companies to fulfil due diligence obligations and comply with zero deforestation and legality requirements for seven key deforestation-risk commodities placed on the [EU market](#).

**Advocacy and strategic media work helped push a stronger focus on transparency, inclusive traceability and compliance with local laws, including land tenure rights and the rights of IP&LCs.** It also helped bring greater attention to smallholders and gender inclusion, as well as the need for improved support through complementary measures reflected in Article 30 of the EUDR (a priority for the Netherlands), including living income and fair prices.

On 2 October 2024, the [Strategic Framework for International Cooperation](#) under the EUDR was adopted by the European Commission. The framework, shaped by [CSO advocacy \(including GLA\)](#), serves as an important hook to support smallholders, including women. GLA contributed considerably to this success. Positive EUDR impacts have also been noted in producer countries.

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# LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINES

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- ☒ **Persistent pressure is necessary for change, even when outcomes are uncertain.** In **Uganda**, **Friends of Zoka** and **AFIEGO** spent years pushing back against Kinyara Sugar Works' expansion before achieving policy shifts. In the **Philippines**, **ELAC's** five-year campaign for the Palawan mining moratorium succeeded only after combining legal action, media pressure and community mobilisation. Even then, **Indonesia's WALHI** saw courts dismiss cases despite evidence, highlighting that systemic change demands persistence.
- ☒ **Advocacy gains traction when local struggles connect to broader levers.** In **Ghana**, **A Rocha Ghana** and partners repealed the mining law L.I. 2462 by linking local evidence to international pressure. **Indonesia's WALHI** targeted both national regulators and EU importers in their palm oil campaign, creating accountability on multiple fronts. The **EU Deforestation Regulation** became useful for local groups only when they used it to demand action on the ground, proving that global frameworks work best when tied to local mobilisation.
- ☒ **Preventing harm is a strategic victory, even when full success is elusive.** In the **Philippines**, **ELAC's** advocacy secured the Palawan mining moratorium, blocking 200,000 hectares of mining expansion. In **Uganda**, litigation and public campaigns against the East African crude oil pipeline (**EACOP**) project successfully **delayed construction, increased scrutiny and amplified global opposition**, forcing developers to disclose land acquisition processes for the first time. These cases show that **delaying harmful projects and exposing their risks** can protect forests and rights, even when outright cancellation is not achieved.



## 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 worked together to monitor, secure and expand civic space, which is an important precondition for achieving results under Pathways A and B. Our main approaches are monitoring and documenting abuses and (environmental) 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.

## WHAT DO THE DATA TELL US?

Under Pathway C, Alliance members and partners worked to safeguard and expand civic space as a precondition for achieving results under Pathways A and B. The data reveals how public visibility, participation and advocacy capacity became critical tools in contexts where environmental and human rights defenders face judicial pressure, intimidation or restricted access to decision making. These efforts are reflected in **304 media reports** that sustained attention on forest and rights issues under Indicator 7. There were also **268 instances of increased participation** by IP&LCs and civil society actors in decision-making spaces under Indicator 8. Additionally, **351 instances of advocacy capacity** were strengthened within the Alliance and wider civil society networks under Indicators 9a and 9b.



AFIEGO organised a meeting in Uganda about Bugoma Forest © Andrew Kartende / IUCN NL

A key pattern emerges from the use of international accountability mechanisms to defend civic space. In **Bolivia**, GLA partners engaged with regional human rights bodies to highlight the deterioration of judicial independence and its impact on Indigenous peoples, environmental defenders and journalists. By linking shrinking civic space to extractive pressures and environmental harm, they secured dismissals of legal proceedings against defenders. Similarly, in **Uganda**, partners reinforced civic space through community dialogues, investigative media engagement and coalition building. These efforts enabled IP&LCs and local leaders to demand accountability for illegal logging and land grabbing, resulting in enforcement actions such as arrests of illegal loggers and evictions of encroachers from protected forest areas.

The **692 people trained** in safety and security, including **245 women and 447 men**, demonstrated how the programme institutionalised resilience. For example, in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, safety trainings were organised during the 2024 instability in Goma, equipping **nine civil society organisations (59 men and 13 women)** with tools to navigate threats from armed groups like M23. These gains were not just formal but practical. Communities and defenders gained the ability to organise, speak out and influence decisions affecting their forests.

The withdrawal of a **USD \$1 million** (EUR €853,000) **SLAPP lawsuit** by Malaysian timber giant Samling against **SAVE Rivers in 2023** further illustrates how collective mobilisation and public support can counter corporate intimidation.

Taken together, these results show how **visibility (Indicator 7), participation (Indicator 8) and advocacy capacity (Indicator 9)** jointly protected civic space. By reducing isolation, enabling rapid responses to threats and strengthening access to legal and international mechanisms, Pathway C created the enabling conditions for sustained engagement on forest and rights issues. This underpins the governance and deforestation related results discussed elsewhere in this report.

In the section below, a number of success stories illustrate some of the results achieved under Pathway C.



Oil refinery in Uganda © Andrew Kartende / IUCN NL

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES

Indigenous rights defenders gather in front of Miri High Court ©The Borneo Project



## TIMBER GIANT WITHDRAWS SLAPP LAWSUIT AGAINST SARAWAK ACTIVISTS (MALAYSIA)

In a significant victory for Indigenous rights and environmental justice, **SAVE Rivers**, a GLA partner in **Malaysia**, **successfully pushed back against a high profile SLAPP lawsuit** filed by Malaysian timber giant Samling. After two years of legal pressure and public campaigning, Samling withdrew the case, marking an important precedent for the protection of environmental defenders.

The lawsuit, filed in 2021, sought over USD \$1 million (EUR €853,000) in damages and targeted SAVE Rivers for publishing investigative articles that raised concerns about Samling's logging operations in Sarawak. SAVE Rivers highlighted the company's failure to adequately consult Indigenous communities, including Penan communities, whose customary territories were affected by logging concessions. From the outset, the organisation denounced the case as an attempt to silence community voices and deter public scrutiny.

Rather than retreat, SAVE Rivers mobilised nationally and internationally. Working closely with Indigenous leaders, civil society networks and allies, the organisation helped expose the lawsuit as an abuse of the legal system. More than 160 civil society organisations (CSOs) publicly supported SAVE Rivers' call for the case to be dropped, amplifying pressure on the company.

In September 2023, on the eve of a court hearing, Samling agreed to withdraw the lawsuit. SAVE Rivers retained the right to keep its publications online, affirming the legitimacy of its advocacy.

For SAVE Rivers and GLA, the outcome demonstrates the power of organised communities and persistent civil society action in defending land rights, freedom of expression and forests from corporate intimidation.

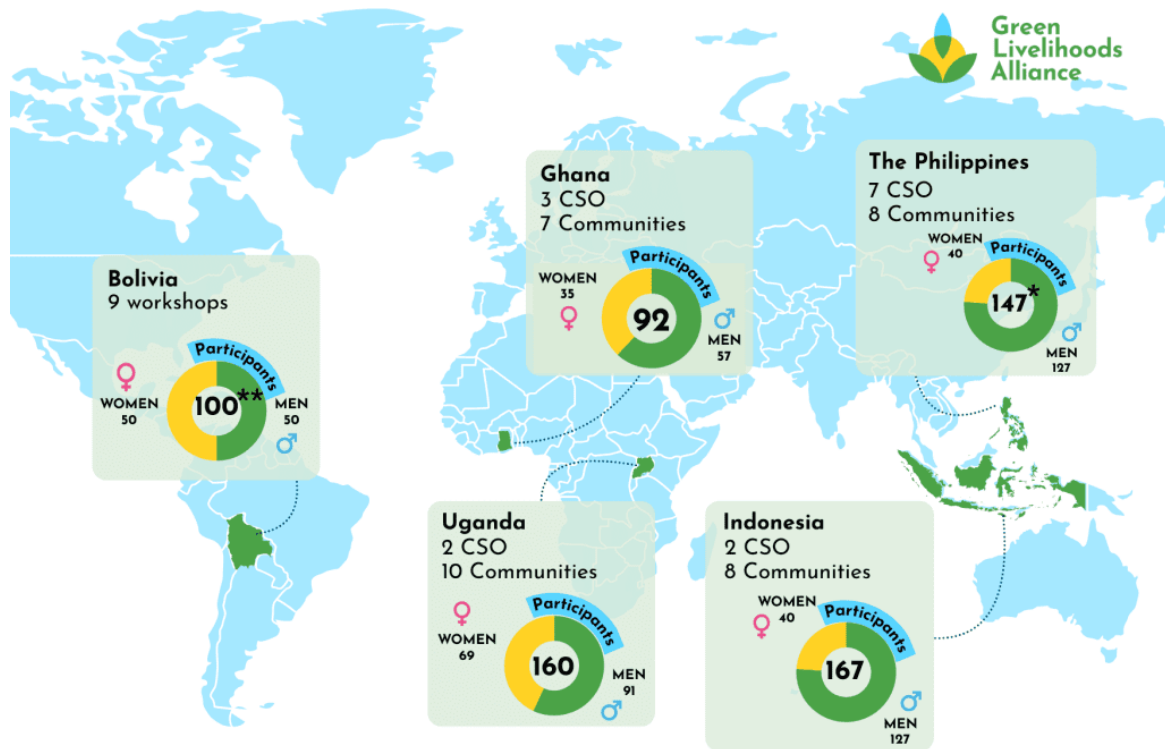
## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES

# STRENGTHENING THE SAFETY AND RESILIENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Environmental human rights defenders (EHRD) are under severe threat globally. To help address this, GLA implemented a three-year trajectory in five countries to strengthen the security and resilience of its partners and the IP&LCs they work with in forest landscapes. IUCN NL partnered with **Protection International** to train and support CSOs and communities to better understand the risks they face and to develop strategies that enhance their (territorial) safety and wellbeing.

With GLA partners in **Bolivia, Cameroon, Ghana, Uganda, Indonesia and the Philippines**, the safety and security trajectory has provided tailored guidance, resources and training to (W)EHRDs and local communities. Activities included risk and needs assessments, workshops and trainings, as well as implementation of safety and security protocols and follow-up mentoring with special attention to (W) EHRDs that are particularly at risk as gender-based violence and socio-cultural norms can limit their ability to advocate. The three-year long training and support helped make safety awareness part of how organisations think and work every day. In total, 692 people were trained (245 women and 447 men). Safety and security trainings were also organised in the DRC in the summer of 2024 when the situation in Goma was very unstable and unsafe because of the [actions of M23](#), a violent rebel group active at the border with Rwanda. At these trainings, nine CSOs were trained consisting of 59 men and 13 women.

Throughout the safety and security strengthening programme, several lessons emerged that offered valuable insight for future initiatives. Each country is dealing with a different context and challenges: from the limited familiarity of human rights concepts in some local communities in Indonesia to the influence of South Sudanese refugees in Uganda and the impact of Chinese mining activities in Ghana. However, some lessons learned are relevant across all contexts as is shown in the graphic below.



\* In The Philippines, due to circumstances we have incomplete data (data only available from 2022 and 2023).

\*\* In Bolivia, the number of women and men that attended the workshop is unknown. © IUCN NL

## LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINES

- 🏡 Civic space thrives when defenders organise collectively and reduce isolation.** In Uganda, **Ecological Trends Alliance** and **Friends of Zoka's** partnership with the Dutch embassy during EACOP protests created rapid response networks for activists under surveillance. In the **Philippines**, **SAVERivers'** SLAPP lawsuit victory against Samling demonstrated how solidarity can counter corporate intimidation. These efforts show that sustained organising expands the space for advocacy, even in high-risk contexts.
- 📄 Documenting violations creates leverage for accountability.** In **DRC**, **ACEDH's** civic space survey led to emergency funds for partners during the Goma crisis, while in **Indonesia**, **WALHI's** documentation of 42 community cases forced legal action on environmental crimes. These examples prove that **systematic evidence collection turns visibility into protection**, enabling defenders to demand action.
- 👥 Inclusion strengthens movements but requires addressing deep-seated barriers.** In Uganda, **ARUWE's** women-only patrols increased female participation in forest monitoring, while in **Liberia**, **RICCE's** women monitors reduced illegal logging by 40%. Yet in Cameroon, women cocoa farmers still lack land rights despite their central role. The lesson is that **inclusion requires both practical support and systemic change** to overcome structural inequalities.



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# TRANSVERSAL TO ALL PATHWAYS: GENDER AND INCLUSION

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## Transversal to all pathways: Gender and inclusion

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

Village meeting in Uganda © Andrew Kartende / IUCN NL



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## WHAT DO THE DATA TELL US?

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Partner reports show that gender and inclusion changes were most visible where women and youth took on new roles in forest management and community governance. In **Uganda**, organisations like ARUWE documented how women who initially participated in meetings as observers or in administrative roles later joined forest patrol groups and community monitoring teams. These shifts often started with peer groups or community dialogue, where women showed their skills in gathering information and mediating with local authorities which led to broader acceptance of their roles.

Another key development came through forest-based livelihoods, which served as a pathway for women and youth to gain influence in decision making. In **Cameroon**, women who were involved in cocoa processing groups gradually moved into leadership roles in producer associations and cooperative boards. While income generation alone did not guarantee decision-making power, it increased women's visibility and credibility, enabling them to participate more actively in community discussions and governance processes.

**Indicator 2a** tracks the number of people who are better prepared and supported in using improved sustainable practices and participate in local governance. Under this indicator, **262,000 people** were supported, made up of **31% women and young women** and **69% men and young men**. **Indicator 2b** measures those who practise improved sustainable activities and actively participate in governance, and experience increased resilience to climate change. Here, **72,200 people** are actively involved, which includes **43% women and girls** and **57% men and boys**. The higher proportion of women in Indicator 2b reflects how the programme's support translated into active participation and leadership in sustainable practices and governance.

At the organisational level, partners introduced internal changes to improve inclusion. In **Uganda**, **ARUWE, AFIEGO, and Friends of Zoka** appointed gender focal persons and adapted training formats to accommodate care responsibilities. In **Vietnam**, organisations like **NFTP-EP Vietnam** implemented codes of conduct to prevent harassment during fieldwork. These adjustments, documented under Indicator 11, helped ensure more consistent participation of women in governance. However, challenges like unequal land ownership and unpaid care work continued to limit full engagement in some areas.

These examples show how the programme's focus on gender equality and youth inclusion strengthened governance. By establishing safe spaces, adapting organisational practices, and elevating marginalised voices, the programme enabled women and youth to take on leadership roles in forest management and decision making.

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES



In Biakoa village, central Cameroon, a widow and mother of five presents her eight-hectare cocoa field © FERN

## WOMEN, THE BACKBONE OF COCOA PRODUCTION IN CAMEROON

In **Cameroon's** cocoa sector, women are far more than just workers, they are the backbone of production yet remain largely invisible and under-recognised in policy and rights frameworks. [A publication by Fern and CED as part of GLA](#), spotlights how women's labour underpins the cocoa economy, even as they face persistent barriers to land, services, markets and decision-making power.

Across smallholder farms, women undertake vital tasks from planting and weeding to harvesting and processing, contributing substantially to national exports. In summary, "there is no cocoa in Cameroon without women." Yet despite their indispensable role, gender norms and structural inequalities restrict their access to land tenure, agricultural inputs, finance and technical support, limiting not only their productivity but also the resilience of the entire cocoa sector. Indigenous Baka women producing cocoa are even more vulnerable and are often subjected to landgrabbing and exploitation.

The analysis argues that the preparation for EUDR implementation offers a crucial opportunity to embed gender-sensitive approaches in national policies and private sector practices, and to recognise women's contributions and empower them through training, technical support and securing women's land rights. Policies and initiatives that fail to address gender gaps, risk reinforcing disparities and increasing poverty while undermining sustainable cocoa production and ultimately driving further deforestation and forest degradation.

**Making women's roles as stakeholders more visible, not just their labour, is key to a more inclusive and sustainable cocoa economy in Cameroon.**

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES



Panel discussion © Gaia Amazonas

## WOMEN, TERRITORY AND BIODIVERSITY: BRINGING TERRITORIAL VOICES INTO NATIONAL POLICY

In June 2024, the four GLA implementing partners in **Colombia (CENSAT Agua Viva, Tropenbos Colombia, Gaia Amazonas and FCDS)**, with support from the GLA gender technical partner, jointly organised the public forum *Women, Territory and Biodiversity* in Bogotá. The initiative aimed to bring the perspectives of women from forest territories into national biodiversity policy discussions ahead of COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which was hosted by Colombia later that year.

**More than 50 Indigenous, Afro-descendant and peasant women from the Andean-Amazonian region participated.** In the morning session, the women gathered in closed dialogue tables where they exchanged experiences and collectively identified priorities and recommendations related to gender equality, territorial governance and biodiversity protection. These discussions focused in particular on inputs for Colombia's gender action plan under the CBD.

In the afternoon, the recommendations were presented during a public forum attended by representatives of 17 governmental institutions, including the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The women leaders directly handed over their proposals to the government authorities present.

Several of the recommendations emerging from this process were later reflected in Colombia's gender action plan presented at COP16 in Cali. The forum demonstrated how collaboration between GLA partners can create spaces where women from forest territories can influence national policy agendas and global biodiversity processes.

Making women's roles as stakeholders more visible, not just their labour, is key to a more inclusive and sustainable cocoa economy in Cameroon.

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT: SELECTED SUCCESSES



© LILAK

## “DEFENDING OUR FORESTS IS DEFENDING OUR LIVES”: INDIGENOUS WOMEN PROTECTING FORESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

In the **Philippines**, some of the world’s most biodiverse forests overlap with ancestral lands of Indigenous peoples. These territories are increasingly under pressure from mining and other extractive activities, as the country holds large reserves of minerals such as nickel, copper and gold which are in high global demand.

Indigenous women are often among those most affected by these developments, yet they are also among the strongest defenders of their forests and communities. Across the country, women leaders are organising, raising awareness and mobilising their communities to protect their ancestral territories and the ecosystems on which their livelihoods depend.

Through initiatives supported by partners of the Forests for a Just Future programme, Indigenous women have strengthened their networks and advocacy capacities. Organisations such as LILAK work closely with women leaders to support their rights, **amplify their voices and promote gender-just approaches to forest governance**. These efforts help ensure that women defenders are recognised not only as community members affected by environmental degradation, but as key actors in protecting forests and advancing environmental justice.

Their message is simple but powerful: defending forests is inseparable from defending the lives, cultures and futures of the communities who depend on them.

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# LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINES

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- ☒ Gender and inclusion changes become visible when everyday roles in forest management or community governance shift in practice. In **Uganda**, **ARUWE** describes how women transitioned from supportive roles to leading forest patrol groups. In **Indonesia**, **WALHI**'s feminist action research enabled women to challenge traditional leadership structures, resulting in the first female-led land use plans in three districts. In **Colombia**, **CENSAT**'s work with Afro-Colombian women in the Chocó region led to their inclusion in territorial planning committees for the first time, demonstrating that **small, targeted interventions can reshape power dynamics** over time.
- ☒ Forest-based livelihoods serve as entry points for women and youth to access wider decision-making spaces. In **Cameroon**, women in cocoa cooperatives moved from post-harvest processing roles to leadership positions within producer associations. These shifts highlight that **economic participation can open doors to political influence**, though it does not guarantee decision-making power without additional support.
- ☒ Gender transformative approaches require addressing both practical constraints and cultural norms. In **Uganda**, **ARUWE**'s childcare support enabled women to join patrol teams, while in **Liberia**, **RICCE**'s women-only monitoring groups reduced illegal logging by 40%. However, in **Cameroon**, women cocoa farmers still lack land rights despite their economic contributions. The lesson is that **inclusion requires dismantling structural barriers**, and not just about creating opportunities.

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# 3. GLA 2021-2025 OVERALL PROGRESS ON PROGRAMME INDICATORS

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This section presents the programme-wide results against the agreed monitoring indicators for the 2021-2025 period. It shows quantitative progress across the programme and identifies trends that are visible when looking at the full programme period. We intend to provide a consolidated view of what changed at outcome level and how these changes progressed, rather than documenting country interventions or activities. Qualitative insights from partners and communities are reflected in Section 2, while structural constraints that influence performance are discussed in Section 6c.

The indicator framework tracks progress across key areas: environmental governance, rights protection, civic space, gender equality and organisational capacity. Some indicators measure direct outcomes, such as land area under improved management or the number of people adopting sustainable practices. Others assess systemic changes, including shifts in policies and governance, participation in decision making and the strength of civil society actors. Together, these indicators demonstrate the programme's contributions to institutional, behavioural and environmental changes.

Data for the different indicators was collected using different methods and at different moments in time:

- ☑ **Indicators 1, 2a and 2b** were measured at baseline, midterm review (MTR) and endline, and indicate the area covered and the number of people involved.
- ☑ **Indicators 3, 4 and 5** were collected annually and drawn from the outcome harvesting database, tracking policy, governance and civic space changes between 2021 and 2025.
- ☑ **Indicator 6** is based on a dedicated civic space survey conducted during the programme period, with results reported in 2023.
- ☑ **Indicators 7, 8, 9 and 11** were collected annually through structured reporting, allowing trends to be tracked over the full programme period.

Because the indicators were measured at specific moments and in different ways, they are analysed separately below. Indicators 1 and 2 can be compared at baseline, midterm and endline. Indicators 7, 8, 9 and 11 are reported annually and are presented year by year. Indicators 3, 4, and 5 are based on tagged outcome harvesting and are presented as trends over the programme period, using annual counts and breakdowns by actor type and driver category. A full overview of the indicator results can be found in Annex C.

#	Full description of indicators
1	Area of land (hectares) under improved sustainable forest and ecosystem management or under improved practices contributing to decreased deforestation.
2a	Number of people (women, men, young men and young women) who are enabled to adopt climate-resilient and sustainable practices and to participate in local governance.
2b	Number of people (women, men, young men and young women) who experience increased adaptive capacity (resilience) to climate change.
3	Number and nature of policies, agreements, investments and private-sector commitments that recognise IP&LC rights and the rights of environmental and human rights defenders (EHRDs).
4	Number and nature of changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IP&LC forest management.
5	Number and nature of changes in policies, agreements, investments and private-sector commitments that are implemented in a gender-responsive way and protect the rights of (W)EHRDs.
6	Extent to which men and women IP&LCs, men and women EHRDs, youth and other groups experience increased civic space, human rights and women's rights (survey-based, treated separately).
7	Degree to which environmental, IP&LC and deforestation driver issues receive public attention and are on the agenda of social movements, constituents and media.
8	Number of spaces in which IP&LCs, including women and youth, influence decision-making and policy processes that are recognised by governments at national and international level.
9a	Degree to which civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) have increased their own organisational capacity to advocate effectively and/or improved their ability to activate and strengthen the capacity of other civil actors (internal or first ring).
9b	Degree to which other CSOs and CBOs have been supported to increase their capacity to advocate effectively and/or improve their ability to activate and strengthen the capacity of other civil actors (indirect partners).
11	Degree to which actions by Alliance members and CSO partners are gender transformative.
12	Degree to which Alliance members adhere to the principles in the GLA vision of collaboration.

Table 1: GLA II indicator framework: full indicator descriptions

## Methodological note

All results in this section derive from partner-reported data, including annual or periodic reports for Indicators 1, 2a/2b, 7, 8, 9 and 11; the outcome harvesting database of approximately 1,830 outcomes (2021-2025) for Indicators 3, 4 and 5; and a 2023 survey of 97 respondents for Indicator 6. This reliance on partner reporting creates three important considerations for interpretation: 1), variability in monitoring capacities among partners led to differences in data completeness and detail across regions and years; 2), some reported changes likely involved contributions from other actors, such as local initiatives or government policies, working in parallel with GLA's interventions; 3), external factors such as political changes, economic conditions and environmental pressures influenced results alongside programme activities. Despite these contextual factors, the data provides meaningful insights into programme trends and impacts when considered within their proper context.

### 3.1 COVERAGE AND SCOPE (INDICATORS 1, 2A AND 2B)

The GLA FfJF programme operated across diverse landscapes and contexts. Indicators 1 and 2a/2b measure scale and show the area covered and the number of people reached or involved.

Indicator 1 measures the area of land under improved sustainable forest and ecosystem management or under improved practices contributing to reduced deforestation. Indicators 2a and 2b measure the number of people enabled to adopt climate-resilient and sustainable practices and the number of people experiencing increased adaptive capacity, respectively. These indicators were measured at baseline, midterm and endline. Due to diverse partner contexts, varying landscape scales and focuses, and differing interpretations of indicators, cross-country comparisons are not straightforward. Figures show contextualised outcomes that are best viewed alongside partners' specific targets and qualitative reports. However, there are still relevant trends to note.

**Indicator 1:** Area of land (hectares) under improved sustainable forest management or other improved practices contributing to decreased deforestation.

As of 2025, the GLA programme has influenced an area of over 41,231,000 hectares (41,231M ha) of forested landscapes. This is a significant increase from baseline (29M ha) and MTR (33.8M ha), largely fulfilling the target set at the beginning of the programme (41,622M ha), despite significant data gaps in specific countries. Partners' work varied fundamentally by landscape. Colombia and Bolivia strengthened governance of existing Indigenous-managed areas through the formalisation of Indigenous government structures while also improving the monitoring of protected areas and their buffer zones against deforestation, and of these Indigenous territories through innovative information systems with data collected by communities that not only increased effective territorial management but strengthened sovereignty over data and information. Ghana streamlined cocoa agroforestry on 3,500 ha and strengthened community fire squads to better prevent and act upon wildfires. The Philippines, Indonesia, DRC, Vietnam and Liberia formalised large areas under the control of IP&LCs, through different mechanisms such as certificates of ancestral domain (CADT) approvals, Indigenous customary area (ICCA) establishment or community forest concessions (CFCLs). Major successes were reported on the protection or stalling of major deforestation threats through the creation of no-go zones for mining operation in Malaysia and Indonesia, stalling specific infrastructure projects in Uganda and the Philippines, and avoided forest destruction for agro-commodity production in Uganda (against sugarcane expansion) and Cameroon (rubber and logging).

When looking at aggregate figures (figure 1) across countries, partners report roughly 22M ha under improved agricultural practices, restoration and community forest arrangements in the programme landscapes, 14.1M ha under secure IP&LC control, and almost 5M ha of protected areas with better protection and monitoring mechanisms in place.



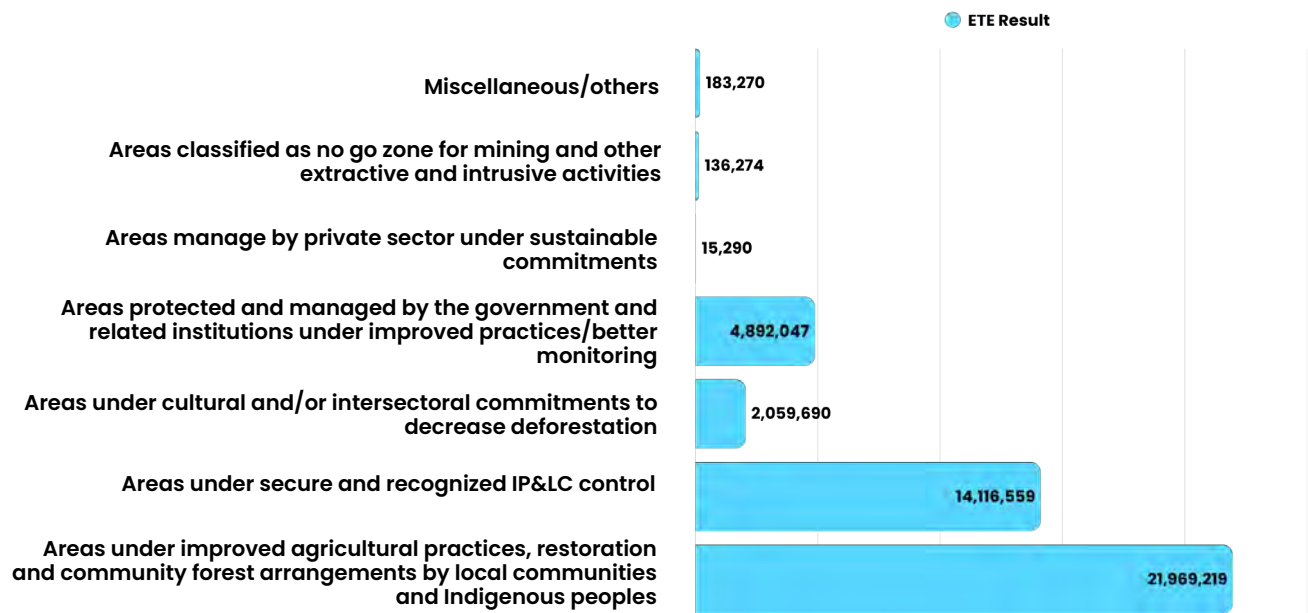


Figure 1: Aggregate figures per sub-indicator. (Note: there is small degree of overlap between sub-indicators, so they should not be totalled)

**Indicator 2a:** Number of people (women, men, young men and young women) who are better prepared and/or supported to use improved sustainable practices and to participate in (local) governance.

Overall, the GLA programme reached more than 262,700 people, comprising 68,300 women, 152,300 men, 13,200 young women and 28,900 young men, slightly surpassing the programme target. However, women and youth fell below their respective sub-targets while men exceeded theirs. Uganda drove much of this imbalance, reflecting men’s dominant role in forest management and ecotourism there. In most other countries, participation was more evenly distributed.

Engagement strategies varied by context - from intensive engagement of smaller groups to the wider public through mass media strategies. Ghana, the Philippines, Bolivia and Colombia centred on intensive, face to face training. In Ghana, community extension agents cascaded climate-smart cocoa and CREMA governance to over 15,000 farmers, while in Bolivia and Colombia, territorial governance workshops, specific courses and women’s forums built political literacy and prepared communities to better represent themselves and fight for their rights. Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia strengthened technical skills and market access, training thousands of mainly ethnic minority participants in NTFP product development, digital marketing, social forestry planning and the use of agroforestry practices. Some partners in Malaysia and the Philippines focused on intensive free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) training with Indigenous leaders, public officials and companies. Uganda and DRC structured radio programmes and held public forums, often in difficult and insecure contexts.

Among those reached, partners report that over 60% are likely to feel strong positive effects in terms of access to resources, food security, the capacity to participate in governance and improved income.

**Indicator 2b:** Number of people (women, men, young men and young women) who practise (improved) sustainable activities and/or actively participate in (local) governance and experience increased adaptive capacity (resilience) to climate change.

As of 2025, there were 72,200 people who were recorded to have adopted improved sustainable practices in agriculture and forestry (29%) or to be actively involved in local governance processes (71%). This is a major increase from what has been reported at the MTR (26,000), and means that the programme target (44,000) has been significantly surpassed. Men represented 44% of the people reported, women 35%, and young men and young women 7% and 13% respectively.

Ghana, Uganda and the Philippines show large numbers of community members moving into concrete governance and protection roles: fire monitors in Ghana; community forest patrols and women-led monitoring teams in Uganda; Lomería women managing a dedicated forest area and patrol unit (Bolivia); and Indigenous peoples participating in municipal-level planning and territorial enforcement in the Philippines. Vietnam, Indonesia and DRC showed strong efforts to streamline sustainable management practices. These results show that beyond the headline totals, the programme helped shift everyday decision-making power over forests and livelihoods into the hands of communities. On the other hand, the programme showed strong efforts to streamline sustainable management practices in forest management and agricultural production. In the DRC, community representatives and farmers now apply climate-resilient methods on thousands of hectares of community forest concessions and agricultural areas in the buffer zones of major national parks such as Virunga. In Indonesia, social forestry groups have access to sustainable livelihood alternatives, and in Ghana, there is evidence of wide adoption of improved cocoa agroforestry practices involving thousands of farmers and their respective cooperatives.

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## 3.2 POLICY AND GOVERNANCE OUTCOMES (INDICATORS 3, 4 AND 5)

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Indicators 3, 4, and 5 track policy, governance and civic space changes from 2021 to 2025, aligned with ToC Pathways A (IP&LC governance), B (deforestation drivers), and C (civic space). Indicator 3 documents changes to addressing deforestation drivers and unsustainable commodity production. Indicator 4 tracks shifts in governance, including inclusive decision making and recognition of IP&LC roles and rights. Indicator 5 assesses changes in policies, agreements and investments protecting (W)EHRDs. All three indicators include a gender-responsive classification, as partners evaluated whether reported outcomes advanced gender justice or inclusiveness during outcome harvesting. These indicators use the outcome harvesting database to document changes across the programme.

### Trends over the programme period

The number of reported outcomes under these indicators increased from 2021 onwards and peaked in 2023 and 2024. Indicators 3 and 4 account for the most documented outcomes, showing engagement in policy processes and governance arrangements that recognise IP&LC roles in forest management and decision making. Indicator 5 is numerically lower but present throughout the period. A lower count is visible for 2025, which might be due to the shorter reporting year rather than a substantive decline (figure 2).

Annual policy-related outcomes

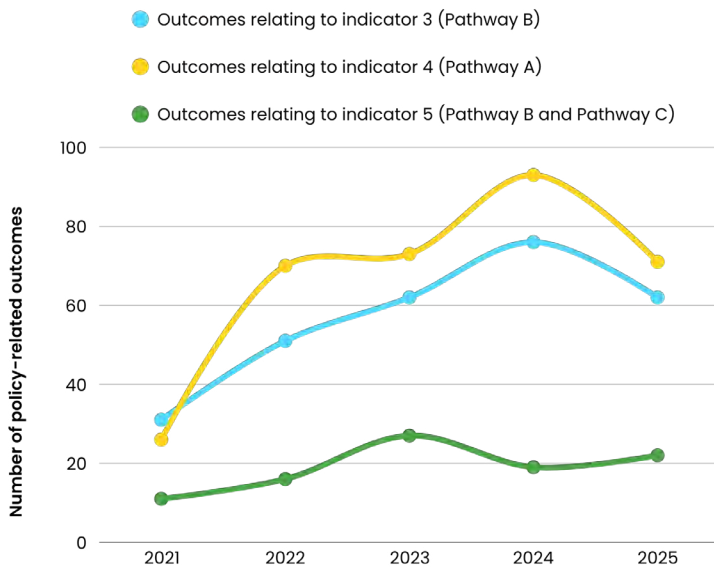


Figure 2: Annual counts for Indicators 3, 4 and 5 across the programme period.

### Actors involved

In most instances, public authorities are one of the main actors involved (figure3). This is consistent with the nature of policy and regulatory change, as public authorities hold formal mandates for drafting, adopting, withdrawing and enforcing laws, standards and governance arrangements. Public actors are also central where compliance mechanisms, implementation measures or administrative decisions are involved.

Communities and CSOs also appear frequently, particularly in outcomes related to governance reforms, customary land-use arrangements, community forest management and participation in multi-stakeholder platforms. This shows the programme did not focus only on formal policy change, but also on representation, effective participation, consultation and local organisation. Private sector involvement is smaller but consistent, mainly in instances concerning value-chain regulation, responsible sourcing, traceability and certification standards.

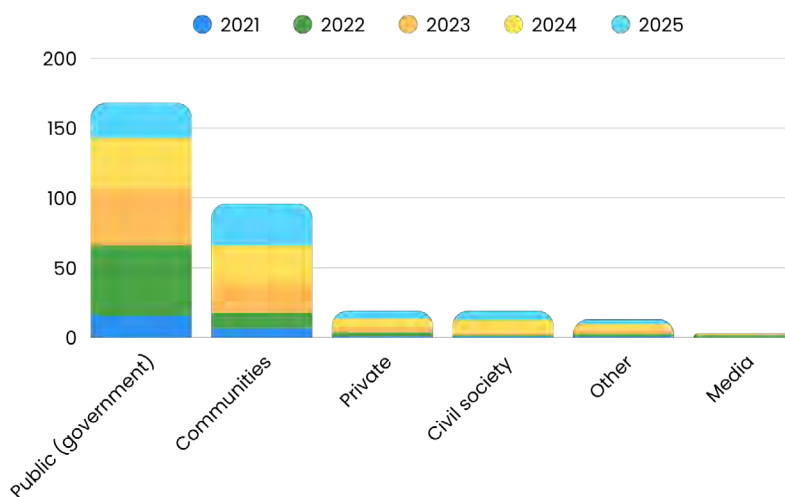


Figure 3: Distribution of actor types associated with Indicators 3, 4 and 5.

These patterns show that many of the programme's results were linked to formal government decisions, while communities and CSOs were regularly involved in these processes. This demonstrates that addressing deforestation drivers often requires engagement with government institutions, while sustainable governance typically depends on the participation of IP&LCs and civil society actors in decision making.

## Distribution across deforestation drivers

In this section, drivers refers to economic sectors and activities that put pressure on forests, such as large-scale agriculture, logging, mining and infrastructure development. When the data is grouped by sector, it shows which deforestation drivers were most often addressed under Indicators 3, 4 and 5 during the programme period (figure 4). Most reported outcomes relate to forestry and agro-industry, indicating a strong focus on logging practices and agricultural expansion in forest areas. Mining, infrastructure and finance appear less frequently, but remain relevant in contexts where extractive activities, transport projects or financial investments influence forest loss.

The other category mainly includes cross-sector or multi-sector issues that did not fit a single predefined driver, such as energy and fossil fuel activities, large infrastructure projects or broader regulatory frameworks that apply across sectors. This is important because it shows how dynamics on the ground intersect, and it is difficult not to correlate one driver to the other. A limited number of entries classified under forestry refer to forest management or restoration interventions rather than direct logging pressures. The overall distribution provides a reasonable indication of where programme efforts were concentrated.

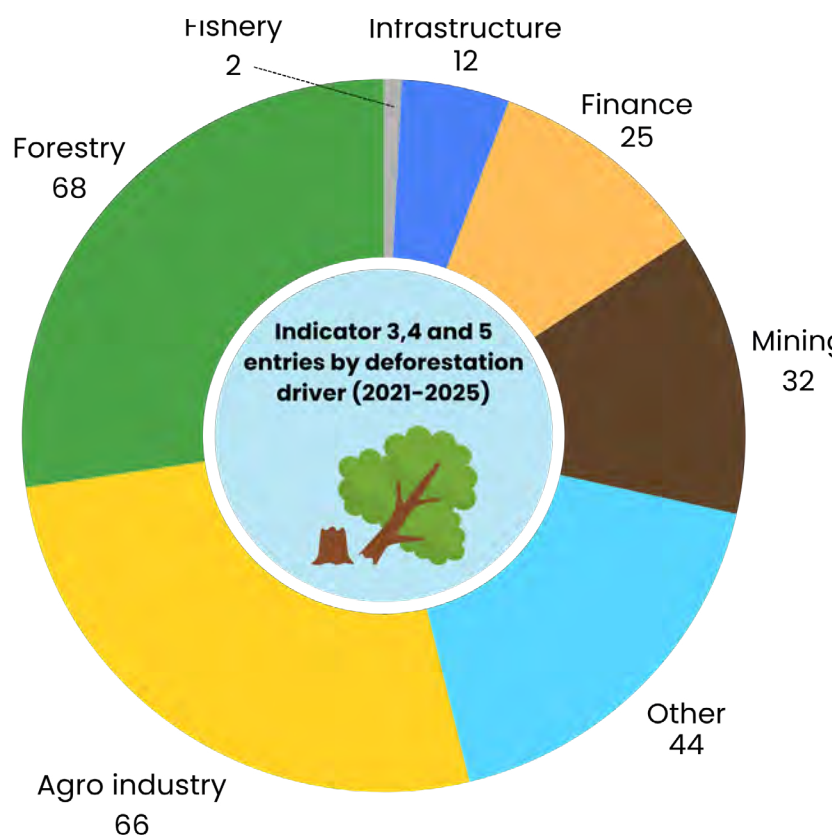


Figure 4: Distribution of Indicator 3, 4 and 5 entries across sectoral drivers.

### 3.3 CIVIC VISIBILITY, PARTICIPATION AND ADVOCACY CAPACITIES (INDICATORS 7, 8 AND 9)

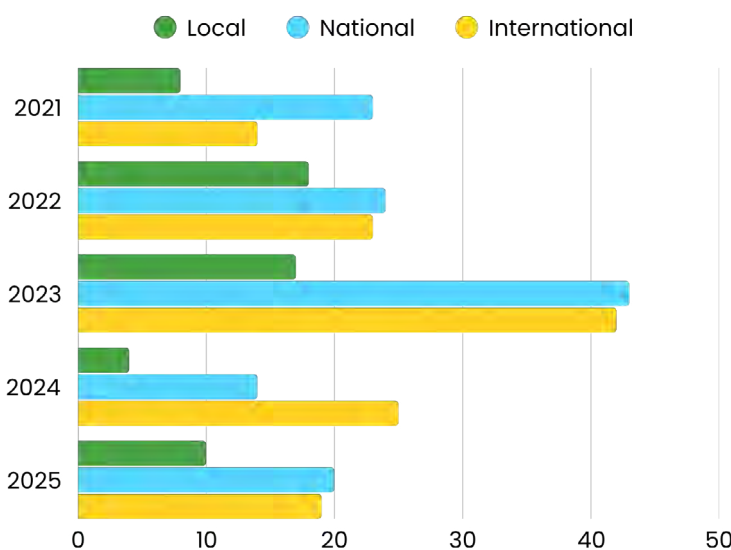
Indicators 7, 8 and 9 tracked how civil society and IP&LCs engaged in public debate, participated in decision-making spaces and strengthened their advocacy capacities during the programme period. Together, they showed enabling conditions for policy influence and rights protection. Although the underlying data sources differ, the indicators focus on similar aspects of civic agency and align primarily with ToC Pathway C on civic space and human rights, and partially with Pathway A on IP&LC governance. Grouping them together highlights how visibility, participation and capacity contribute to the programme’s pathways of change.

Indicator 11, which concerns gender transformative action by Alliance members and CSO partners, was also collected annually and relates to enabling conditions, but is addressed in a separate section given its cross-cutting character.

#### Visibility and public attention to forest and rights issues (Indicator 7)

Between 2021 and 2025, partners reported 304 media reports related to forests, extractives, climate and civic space. Coverage peaked in 2023. National outlets carried most of the coverage across all years. International outlets became more active during 2022 to 2024, particularly on deforestation drivers and civic space restrictions, as well as some associated with international policy scenarios. This indicates that the topics addressed by the programme received attention both domestically and internationally at different moments during the period, as shown in figure 5. This supports the ToC assumption that visibility enables influence by sustaining public attention on environmental and rights issues.

**Media Coverage by outlet level per year (2021–2025)**



Most of the documented media coverage was positive or neutral, with only limited negative coverage across the period. Gender considerations were present in a minority of outings, although explicit gender references increased between 2023 and 2025. Overall, Indicator 7 shows that environmental and rights issues remained visible in public debate during the programme period, even if the intensity of coverage varied over time.

Figure 5: Media outings by outlet level (2021 to 2025).

## PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING SPACES (INDICATOR 8)

Indicator 8 tracks increased participation of IP&LCs and civil society actors in decision-making spaces. Between 2021 and 2025, 268 instances of increased participation were reported. Most participation took place at local, sub-national and national levels and involved Indigenous communities, local communities, women’s groups, CSOs and CBOs. These spaces included village councils, customary institutions and community forest management bodies, municipal planning processes and local consultations on land use or development and provincial, sub-national and national policy platforms. Outcomes also tracked consistent efforts to increase IP&LC participation in regional and global policy discussion scenarios, recognising that two Amazonian countries hosted the two more influential environmental policy scenarios in two consecutive years (CBD COP16 held in Cali, Colombia in 2024, and UNFCCC COP30 held in Belém do Pará, Brazil in 2025), and both marked a milestone regarding civil society and IP&LC participation in the history of Conferences of Parties. The distribution of participation by actor type and governance level is shown in figure 6. This pattern aligns with the ToC expectation that participation tends to increase first at local and national levels before influencing wider policy processes.

### 268 spaces with increased participation by civil society actors

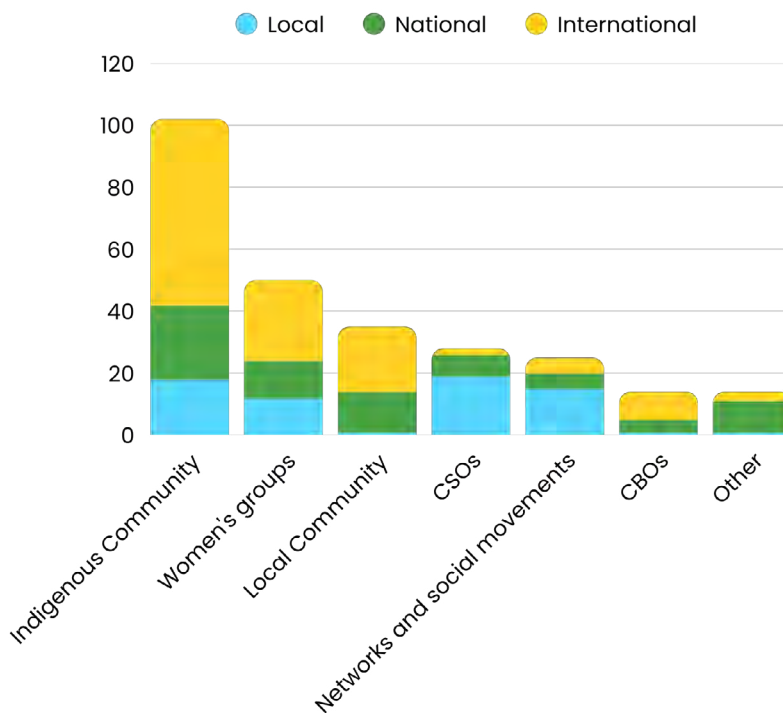


Figure 6: Increased participation in decision-making spaces by actor type and level

Gender integration varied across instances. Approximately 43% aimed to redistribute power or access between women and men. Around 30% addressed gender differences without explicitly redistributing power. The remainder had limited or no attention to gender. These results show that participation gains were present but not uniform across contexts or groups.

Participation occurred in a range of political settings, including contexts with restricted civic space. In several countries, local and sectoral forums offered entry points for participation even where broader democratic conditions remained constrained. This shows variation in how participation is institutionalised at different governance levels and sectors. These findings support ToC Pathway A, which strengthens IP&LC roles in governance, and contribute to Pathway C through engagement in public decision making.

## ADVOCACY CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND IP&LCS (INDICATOR 9A AND 9B)

Indicator 9 examines the extent to which civil society organisations, community-based organisations and IP&LC groups increased their capacity to advocate effectively (9a) and strengthened the capacity of other civil actors (9b). These dimensions show both internal capability strengthening and wider diffusion of advocacy skills within civil society, which are in line with assumptions in the Theory of Change regarding sustained policy influence and protection of civic space.

Across Alliance members and direct partners (first ring), partners reported strengthening 351 types of advocacy capacity across seven assessed areas during the programme period. Self-assessed scores increased across all areas between the start and end of the programme. The largest absolute increase was reported for abilities and skills to develop tailor-made advocacy according to the interests of target groups. Several other areas, including leadership skills and issue-based advocacy knowledge, also showed improvements of similar magnitude, of around 1.4 to 1.5 points on a five-point scale. Average baseline scores ranged roughly between 2.7 and 3.5, while endline scores ranged between approximately 4.3 and 4.7, indicating progress from foundational to more advanced competence, as seen in figure 7.

**Average capacity scores at start and end of the programme**

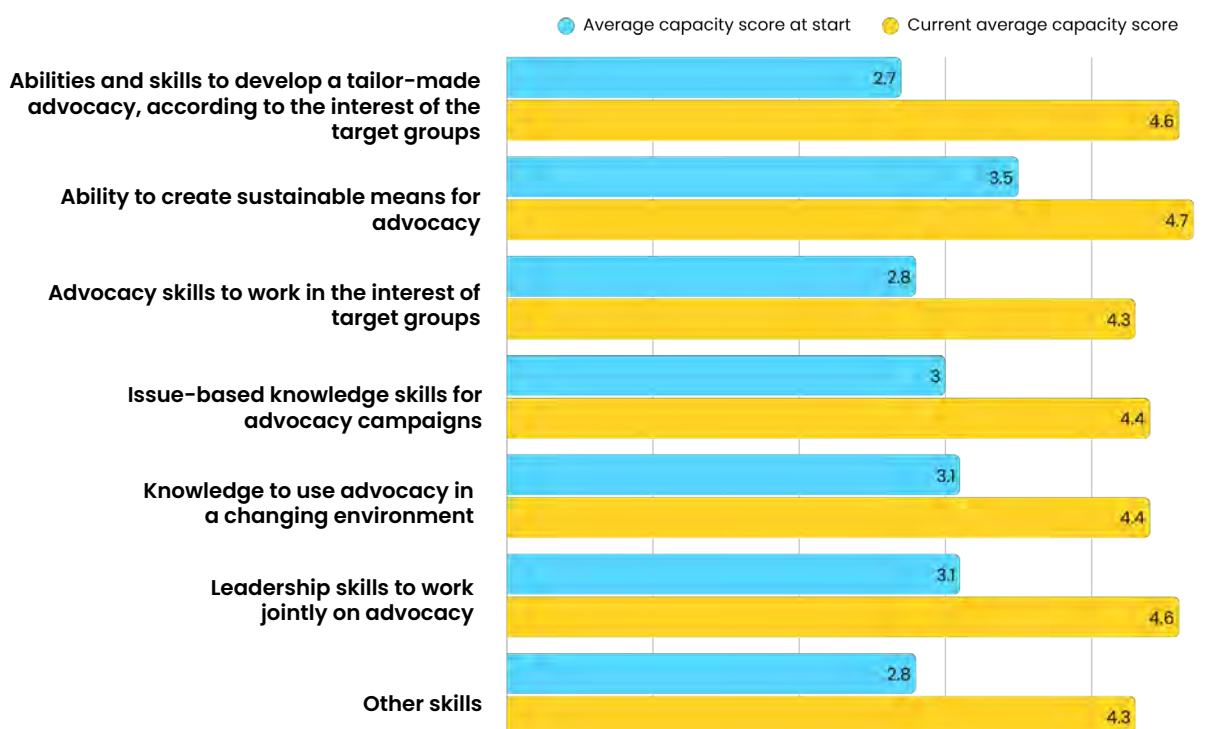


Figure 7: Average internal CSO and IP&LC advocacy capacity scores at start and end of the programme (Indicator 9a).

The programme also supported capacity strengthening among a wider set of civil society stakeholders (indirect partners), including CSOs, Indigenous organisations, CBOs, community networks and women's groups. This demonstrates an effort to enable coalition building and advocacy ecosystems beyond the Alliance itself. Figure 8 shows the distribution of indirect partner types that reported strengthened advocacy capacities during the programme period.

**168 types of indirect partners civil society actors with strengthened advocacy capacity**

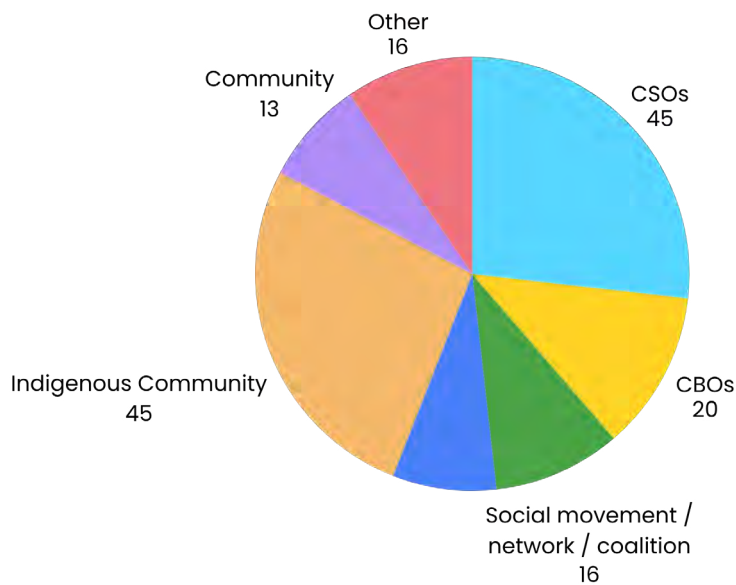


Figure 8: Types of indirect partners that received advocacy capacity strengthening (Indicator 9b).

The pattern of improvement in Indicator 9a shows that the programme strengthened advocacy capacity across several areas, instead of just in a narrow technical area. Competencies related to tailoring advocacy to target groups, leadership and issue-based knowledge all show comparable gains, which indicates that partners grew both in how they frame issues and in how they organise and lead advocacy efforts. This combination is important for pathways that rely on coalition building, coordinated messaging and context-specific engagement with public and private actors.

The composition of indirect partners in Indicator 9b shows that capacity strengthening extended beyond the Alliance and its immediate partners into broader civil society, including IP&LC organisations and women's groups. This indicates an intention to support advocacy ecosystems rather than only individual organisations. From a Theory of Change perspective, this supports the assumption that enduring civic influence depends on both capable organisations and diversified networks, especially in contexts where civic space restrictions make collective action and alliance building more important.

As these results are based on self-assessed scores, they reflect perceived capacity rather than externally verified proficiency. However, the consistency of improvements across organisations, geographies and areas, combined with the number of distinct capacity changes reported, provides reasonable grounds to conclude that advocacy capacities within and around the Alliance increased over the programme period.

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## INDICATOR 6: EXTENT TO WHICH MEN AND WOMEN IP&LCS, MEN AND WOMEN (W)EHRDS, AND CSOS EXPERIENCE INCREASED CIVIC SPACE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

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The 2023 civic space survey, conducted as part of the GLA programme, provides a quantitative snapshot of the challenges faced by partners and communities in exercising their civic rights. As of 2023, the survey results indicate persistent and significant restrictions across the programme's 11 countries of operation.

Partners reported widespread difficulties in key areas of civic space. Access to information emerged as the most common challenge, with 46 out of 97 respondents reporting obstacles in obtaining necessary data and documentation. Funding constraints were another major issue, affecting 34 respondents, while 19 partners faced barriers to including marginalised groups in public consultations and decision-making processes. These figures reflect ongoing structural limitations in the operating environments of IP&LCs and CSOs.

Retaliation against partners and communities was a recurring theme. Incidents of arrests were reported in Bolivia, DRC, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, the Philippines and Uganda, while physical attacks occurred in Bolivia, DRC, Indonesia, Liberia, the Philippines and Uganda. Legal harassment, including SLAPPs, was documented in Bolivia, Cameroon, Malaysia, the Philippines and Uganda. Gender-based violence was specifically noted in the Philippines and Uganda, highlighting the particular risks faced by women (W)EHRDs.

Regional disparities were evident in the survey results. In Africa, partners reported the highest incidence of funding constraints, with 13 out of 64 responses citing this as a major issue, alongside frequent physical attacks (13 out of 41 incidents). In Southeast Asia, red-tagging and digital security threats were most prevalent, with 11 out of 29 incidents involving deliberate attempts to discredit or intimidate activists and organisations. Latin America saw concentrated legal obstruction, including the use of national laws to dissolve NGOs, particularly in Bolivia.

Participation in public decision-making processes remained a significant challenge. 57 partners noted a lack of timely and detailed information for consultations, while 51 partners reported unequal opportunities for participation. Additionally, 38 partners experienced deliberate obstruction during policy discussions, undermining their ability to influence decisions affecting their communities.

In terms of safety, half of the respondents described their communities as operating in environments that were 'moderately unsafe' or 'very unsafe.' Thirty percent of partners rated their communities as 'exposed' or 'very exposed' to dangerous situations, reflecting the precarious conditions under which many IP&LCs and CSOs must work.

The survey confirmed the analysis outlined in the GLA programme's Theory of Change regarding shrinking civic space and persistent power inequalities. In response, the GLA established a civic space task force to address the recommendations. Key actions included sharing emergency funding guidance with partners, outlining available support within the Alliance and from external organisations. On 23 January 2025, an exchange and learning space (ELS) session on SLAPP cases was held, focusing on defamation-related risks and introducing an international lawyers' group to provide strategic litigation support for environmental cases.

## LANDSCAPE-LEVEL DEFORESTATION TRENDS (CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS)

To complement the indicator results presented above, [a spatial analysis of forest cover change was conducted for 27 GLA landscapes across 10 countries](#). Using satellite-derived data, average annual deforestation rates during the GLA FfJF period from 2021-2024 were compared with a longer historical reference period (2001-2020). Based on this comparison, each landscape was classified as experiencing accelerating, stationary or decelerating deforestation trends. This approach allows for a programme-level view of how forest loss dynamics during the programme period relate to longer-term historical patterns.

### Comparison of deforestation trends in GLA II Landscapes before and during programme period

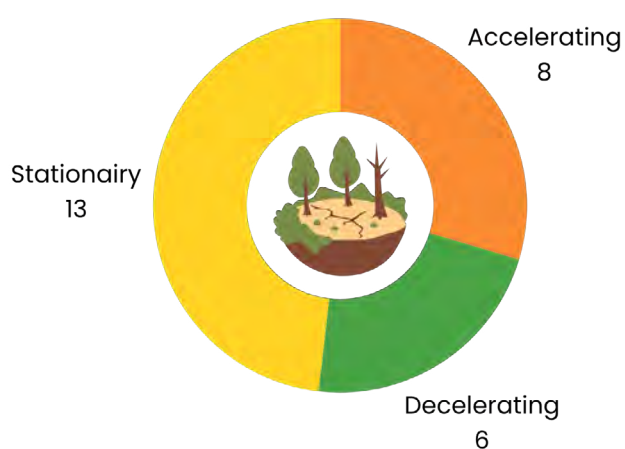


Figure 9: Distribution of GLA landscapes by deforestation trend category. \*\*Forest loss trend classification: Accelerating = deforestation rate increased substantially (>0.2% points and >30% increase); Stationary = deforestation rate remained relatively stable (changes within data uncertainty); Decelerating = deforestation rate decreased noticeably (>0.05% points decrease).

As shown in figure 9, a majority of GLA landscapes fall into the stationary or accelerating categories, while a smaller number experienced decelerating forest loss during the programme period. This indicates that GLA interventions took place in landscapes facing very different forest pressure dynamics. In some contexts, deforestation pressures intensified during the GLA FfJF years, while in others forest loss rates were broadly stable or moderate relative to historical trends. These observed patterns cannot be attributed to GLA interventions. Deforestation outcomes are shaped by a wide range of external factors, including commodity markets, infrastructure development, enforcement capacity and national policy frameworks, and geopolitical developments. The spatial analysis is therefore **not used as a performance measure**, but as **contextual information to support interpretation of the indicator results in this section**.

By securing legal recognition of community rights, strengthening civil society capacity, protecting environmental defenders and influencing policies, FfJF has helped institutionalise governance structures and accountability mechanisms. These are widely recognised as foundational conditions for durable forest conservation. Such structural shifts often take years to translate into measurable reductions in deforestation but are critical steps for sustained impact. This reinforces the importance of interpreting indicator results in relation to their operating context and of viewing environmental change as the outcome of cumulative, multi-actor processes over time rather than short-term programme effects.

☞ A detailed overview of deforestation trends per landscape is provided in [the GLA forest cover assessment](#).

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## 4. CHALLENGES AND BOTTLENECKS

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This section focuses on a limited set of structural and recurring challenges that influenced the programme period. Rather than revisiting the broader contextual trends already described, it looks at how these dynamics constrained programme strategies, pacing and sustainability across countries and pathways.

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### 4.1 STRUCTURAL PRESSURE ON LAND, FORESTS AND CUSTOMARY RIGHTS

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Across all regions, one of the most persistent challenges was the scale and intensity of external pressure on forests and customary lands. Expansion of agribusiness, extractives, energy and large-scale infrastructure continued throughout the programme period, often accelerating after the COVID-19 pandemic as governments prioritised economic recovery. At the same time, partners noted that COVID-19 restrictions sometimes limited civic oversight and participation, allowing contested land-use decisions and development projects to move forward more rapidly. Country reports from all GLA regions consistently highlight how these pressures limited the pace and depth of progress under Pathways A and B, even where governance capacities and advocacy strategies were strengthened. A recurrent bottleneck was the coexistence of progressive policy frameworks with parallel concession regimes that undermined community rights in practice. Despite formal recognition of participation, safeguards or tenure rights, weak enforcement and competing land-use priorities continued to constrain outcomes. Against this backdrop GLA partners intensified joint advocacy efforts. In September 2024, GLA partners sent formal letters urging governments to uphold the rights of Indigenous and local communities and to address escalating corporate encroachment on forests and customary territories, particularly in West and Central Africa. These communications were directed both to [national governments in Liberia, Cameroon and Gabon](#), and to the [Netherlands, United Kingdom, Norway, Germany, the United States and the Central African Forest Initiative](#), highlighting the transnational nature of the threats and the need for coordinated policy responses..

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### 4.2 SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE AND RISKS FOR DEFENDERS

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While risks to civil society and human rights defenders were already present at the start of the programme, country and thematic reports indicate that repression, criminalisation and administrative restrictions intensified markedly from 2023 onwards.

Partners reported increased surveillance, legal harassment and intimidation of CSOs, IP&LC leaders and women environmental human rights defenders ((W))EHRD), particularly in contexts of active resistance to extractive or agribusiness projects. In Uganda, [this included the arrest and detention of community members and staff of AFIEGO](#), in connection with protests and advocacy opposing the EACOP, reflecting a broader contraction of civic space around oil and infrastructure developments. In the Philippines, a W/EHRDr received crucial support from GLA through a quick response grant, advocacy efforts and legal assistance.

This support led to the acquittal of the W/EHRD on two counts of cyberlibel that had been filed against her by a mining company. Cyberlibel is the act of spreading false information about another person, group or organisation through a computer network. Civic space in Cameroon is severely restricted by the targeting of journalists, activists and CSOs through arbitrary arrests, suspensions and surveillance. The civic space situation in the Anglophone part of the country, marked for years by violent conflict, is particularly bad. Civic space for environmental rights defenders in Cameroon is [considered repressed](#) and has reached alarming levels of restriction. Defenders, including those working on land rights, climate justice and against extractive industries, face significant threats, including surveillance, arbitrary arrests and the suspension of their organisations. The government uses anti-terrorism and cybersecurity laws to suppress dissent, particularly targeting human rights defenders and independent media.

Not only in tropical forest countries but also in Europe and in the United States [civil society organisations are increasingly under attack](#). EU pressure on NGOs has intensified significantly, driven by right-wing political factions in the European Parliament aiming to restrict funding and increase oversight, particularly targeting environmental and advocacy groups. These examples illustrate how these dynamics limited open engagement with authorities, delayed activities and required adaptation of advocacy strategies. Therefore GLA members and partners invested in sustained protection mechanisms, legal support and international advocacy. At the same time, this constrained visibility, public mobilisation and the scalability of successful local initiatives, representing a bottleneck for rights-based forest governance.

### Emergency funding as a lifeline for forest defenders

As part of the FfJF programme, IUCN NL and NTFP-EP established a **flexible emergency fund model to provide immediate support to IP&LCs**, GLA partners and (W)EHRDs across GLA landscapes. In Asia, the quick response grants disbursed grants ranging from EUR €500 (USD \$584) to EUR €5,000 (USD \$5,840) to address urgent safety, security, legal and disaster-related needs. Funds support monitoring and documenting environmental cases, legal defence against SLAPPs, and relief following natural or human-made disasters.

We provided emergency funds to 33 organisations and individuals for legal support and safety and security measures to (W)EHRDs, and for urgent natural disaster relief. Examples illustrate the impact: in the Philippines, a W/EHRD received quick response funding for legal assistance, resulting in her acquittal on two counts of cyberlibel filed by a mining company. The emergency funds were crucial in ensuring the continued protection of critical conservation areas, providing much-needed security and legal aid. Disaster relief is another key focus: in the Philippines emergency funds assisted Indigenous communities after super Typhoon Rai (Odette) in 2021 and a 7.0 magnitude earthquake in the Cordillera region in 2022, helping rebuild homes, rice fields and irrigation systems. In Bolivia, funds supported firefighting and recovery for communities affected by forest fires, while in the DRC they helped provide aid after the Nyiragongo volcano eruption in Goma.

The 2023 [GLA civic space survey](#) highlighted ongoing threats to partners' freedoms, including restricted access to information, attacks on (W)EHRDs, misinformation and legal harassment. Quick response grants have proven essential in ensuring immediate protection, legal defence and relief support, strengthening the resilience of communities and environmental defenders facing urgent risks across GLA landscapes.

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## 4.3 NON-LINEAR POLICY PROCESSES AND VOLATILE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENTS

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Another challenge concerned the unpredictability of policy processes. Even where the programme engaged with an increasing number of forest, climate, biodiversity and due-diligence frameworks, progress often depended on shifting political agendas, lobbying pressure and changing government priorities.

Work on international policy dossiers, including the **EU Deforestation Regulation** and **UNFCCC and CBD** processes, illustrated how gains achieved through sustained advocacy could be subjected to strategic manoeuvres and partially reversed as political and private sector pressure unfolded. In the EUDR context, core elements of the text which were adopted in 2023 and related to due diligence obligations were threatened by political and private sector lobby groups, while internationally, outcomes in the **UNFCCC** and the **CBD** were frequently shaped more by geopolitical trade-offs than by scientific consensus. GLA partners used the momentum around the hosting of COPs in Latin America to push forward agendas related to tropical forest protection (for example, see the [toolkit developed to inform decision making with a connectivity perspective](#) developed by partners in Colombia and their allies in Brazil and other Amazonian countries).

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## 4.4 FUNDING UNCERTAINTY AND SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES

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Finally, uncertainty around future funding became a growing constraint as the programme approached its final phase. The USAID freeze in early 2025, together with earlier shifts in the development cooperation policy, in **the Netherlands** and in other countries (including Germany, the UK, Belgium and Denmark), as well as broader reductions in funding for advocacy and rights-based work, created uncertainty for partners seeking to sustain coalitions, staff capacity and long-term engagement beyond 2025. Also at EU level financial support to CSOs in Europe and outside Europe is increasingly restricted.

While the Alliance took steps to strengthen partner autonomy and diversify donor relationships, country and thematic programme reports indicate that limited access to flexible, long-term funding remains a significant constraint. This affected not only the prospects for continuation of specific initiatives, but also the ability of partners to retain experienced staff and maintain engagement in policy processes that require sustained presence over time.

The challenges outlined above highlight the importance of maintaining realistic expectations, applying adaptive strategies and investing over the long term in people, relationships, and institutions to advance rights-based, locally-led forest governance in increasingly complex contexts.

## 5. LESSONS, BEST PRACTICES AND UNEXPECTED FINDINGS

Over the course of the programme, certain ways of working proved more robust than others in the face of growing political, environmental and civic challenges. This section draws out a selected number of lessons and best practices that partners and communities repeatedly identified as making a difference in practice, and reflects on how these insights can inform future work. Particular attention is given to insights from the Alliance's joint learning trajectory on [locally led sustainable development](#), which helped make sense of recurring patterns across countries, themes and pathways.



Palawan women doing Rainforestation (planting of native trees) in Brookes Point, Palawan © NTFP-EP Ph Jonas Vertudez

### LEARNING EXCHANGES

The Alliance also invested in consolidating and documenting learning, including through outcome harvesting, thematic learning trajectories and South-South exchanges (see text box below). These processes were intended not only to inform reporting and evaluation, but to support partners in articulating their own narratives of change and positioning themselves for future collaboration and resource mobilisation.

The GLA exchange and learning space (ELS) continued to function as an Alliance-wide platform bringing together partners from all regions for shared reflection, peer learning and strategic exchange. Monthly online meetings were organised for GLA partners, with a total of 28 ELS sessions held since 2022. These sessions responded directly to thematic priorities and emerging risks affecting civil society and community-led forest governance. Topics included SLAPPs, where partners shared legal experiences, collective defence strategies and practical risk-mitigation approaches; Young Views of the Amazon (Colombia), which foregrounded youth perspectives on territorial governance, intergenerational leadership and movement renewal; and the role of artificial intelligence, which explored both the risks of surveillance and disinformation and the potential opportunities for civil society advocacy, research and campaigning. Learning in the GLA knew many different forms but one of the most memorable examples was a South-South exchange facilitated by **Gaia Amazonas** and **NTFP-EP** (see story below).



Communities share knowledge rooted in their forests and territories © Felipe Rodríguez Vázquez

## THE POWER OF SOUTH-SOUTH EXCHANGES: BRIDGING FOREST VOICES FROM THE COLOMBIAN AMAZON TO THE PHILIPPINES

In May 2025, more than 35 Indigenous leaders from Colombia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Vietnam gathered in Palawan, the Philippines for a South-South learning exchange on Indigenous economies, governance and territorial autonomy. The exchange, organised by Gaia Amazonas and NTFP-EP, **brought together communities from the Amazon and Southeast Asia to share knowledge rooted in their forests and territories.**

Over five days, participants visited Indigenous communities in Brooke's Point, where the Pala'wan people demonstrated traditional tapping of Almaciga resin, an ancestral practice linking forest stewardship with local livelihoods. Delegates from the Colombian Amazon shared experiences with community-based value chains such as chili production, while representatives from Myanmar and Vietnam reflected on struggles for Indigenous recognition and territorial governance.

Despite different languages and contexts, participants recognised strong common ground. Across regions, Indigenous economies are not only about income generation but about maintaining cultural values, collective governance and care for the territory. Exchanges highlighted shared challenges, including climate change, youth engagement, market access and high transport costs from remote forest areas.

The gathering strengthened relationships across continents and reinforced a shared vision: Indigenous peoples are building economies and governance systems rooted in ecological balance, cultural continuity and collective wellbeing.

👉 **The insights, lessons and memories from this exchange were captured in [this following document](#).**

👉 [Link to video](#)



CFM groups reap forest benefits, Uganda © Jonah Butsatsa

## LOCALLY LED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GLA PARTNERS

**What does it really mean for development to be locally led?** A report developed through the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) brings together the experiences of 39 civil society organisations across 11 tropical countries working alongside IP&LCs to protect forests and sustain livelihoods.

Through workshops and exchanges facilitated by Tropenbos International and IUCN NL, partners reflected on what makes development initiatives genuinely locally led. A central insight was that successful initiatives start from locally identified needs and priorities. Communities help design, implement and monitor activities themselves, ensuring that decision-making power remains close to the people most directly connected to the land.

Participants emphasised that local knowledge and traditional practices are essential foundations for sustainable forest management. When communities have the space and authority to lead, initiatives are better adapted to local realities and are more likely to create lasting environmental and social benefits. At the same time, partners noted that making development truly locally led requires changes from donors and international organisations, in particular, more flexible funding, longer timeframes and genuine trust in local leadership.

[The report highlights](#) that shifting power towards IP&LCs is not just a principle but a practical pathway to more resilient forests, stronger livelihoods and more effective conservation.

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## SHIFTING DECISION-MAKING TO EMPOWER LOCAL AUTHORITIES STRENGTHENS SUSTAINABILITY OF OUTCOMES

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Across countries and themes, partners consistently concluded that initiatives were most effective and durable when they were **rooted in locally identified priorities, knowledge systems and decision-making processes**. Participatory consultations with IP&LCs confirmed that externally defined objectives, indicators or timelines often failed to align with community realities, particularly in contexts of livelihood insecurity, conflict or environmental stress.

A recurring lesson was the importance of recognising Indigenous and local knowledge and agendas as a foundation for governance, livelihoods and environmental stewardship, rather than as an add-on to externally designed interventions. For example, the [SIGETI](#), an information system developed by and for Indigenous governments in the Colombian Amazon is an example of decision making rooted in the priorities and perspectives of IP&LCs, and as a means to increase sovereignty over data management. The Alliance's learning trajectory on locally led sustainable development reinforced this insight, highlighting that shifting decision-making power is a prerequisite for lasting outcomes, not a by-product of project implementation.

This lesson also underscored the importance of long-term accompaniment. Communities emphasised that trust, continuity and the presence of committed partner organisations were critical in enabling collective decision making, internal accountability and sustained engagement with external actors over time.

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## SUSTAINED ENGAGEMENT DEPENDS ON ADDRESSING LIVED REALITIES

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Another consistent lesson was that meaningful engagement in forest governance and rights advocacy depends on a **communities' ability to address immediate lived realities, including livelihoods, care responsibilities and safety**. Where communities faced acute food insecurity, income loss or heightened insecurity, longer-term objectives related to forest protection or policy change were necessarily deprioritised.

Country and thematic reports show that integrating livelihood-oriented support, particularly for women and youth, strengthened participation, confidence and leadership over time. Examples from **Ghana, the Philippines** and other parts of **Southeast Asia** illustrate how such activities created entry points for broader engagement in governance and advocacy processes. Rather than diverting attention from sustainability, addressing basic needs often enabled communities to engage more consistently and strategically in collective action.

Insights from participatory consultations reinforced this finding, highlighting that communities valued approaches that recognised the interdependence between rights, livelihoods and wellbeing, rather than treating them as separate or sequential objectives.

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## INCLUSION REQUIRES INTENTIONAL PRACTICE, FLEXIBILITY AND TIME

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While inclusion was a core principle of the programme, implementation confirmed that **meaningful participation of women, youth and marginalised groups required far more than formal representation**. Across contexts, inclusive processes demanded adaptation of methodologies, timelines and formats to local social norms, care responsibilities, language needs and security considerations.

Practical measures – such as organising separate spaces for women and youth, facilitating participation in local languages, accommodating care responsibilities and allowing additional time for trust building – were repeatedly identified as essential for genuine inclusion. Experiences from **Colombia, Indonesia** and **Uganda** demonstrate that such adaptations, while resource-intensive, contributed to stronger ownership, internal accountability and sustainability of outcomes. Evidence of this can be found regarding the public forum organised by Colombian partners before CBD COP16 took place in Cali, Colombia in 2024. This forum brought together over 50 female representatives of IP&LCs and women organisations from the Andean-Amazon region, who collectively identified recommendations and priorities that were presented to 17 governmental institutions and included in the Colombian gender action plan for CBD.

This lesson reinforced that inclusion is not a technical add-on, but a relational and political process that requires deliberate choices and sustained investment and dedication.

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## RELATIONSHIPS AND COALITIONS ENABLE CHANGE EVEN UNDER CONSTRAINT

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A final, cross-cutting lesson was the **central role of relationships and coalitions in sustaining action including under increasingly constrained conditions**. Partners came to view long-term trust, continuity and solidarity not simply as enabling factors, but as foundational conditions for any form of sustained advocacy and for leveraging impact.

South-South exchanges, Alliance-wide collaboration and peer learning were valued less for immediate technical gains and more for their role in strengthening collective confidence, shared analysis and strategic alignment. Experience across country and international policy work confirmed that advocacy progress is rarely linear; gains were often incremental, contested or defensive in nature. Under such conditions, coalitions functioned as buffers against isolation, fatigue and risk, enabling actors to sustain pressure, adapt strategies and absorb setbacks over time and gain more impact and visibility.

The programme highlighted the strong resilience and leadership shown by communities, women and youth, even in contexts of shrinking civic space, security risks and funding uncertainty. Participatory consultations highlighted that, for many communities, the most valued outcomes were not specific projects or policy wins, but increased confidence, collective organisation and the ability to engage with external actors on their own terms and through horizontal dialogues.

Taken together, these lessons and observations point to the importance of flexibility, humility and long-term commitment when working to advance rights-based, locally led forest governance. They also underscore that meaningful change often lies in strengthened capacities and relationships that may not be immediately visible in conventional indicators, but which shape a community's ability to navigate uncertainty and assert their rights beyond the life of the programme.

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# 6. PROGRAMME PHASE-OUT AND FUTURE PROOFING BEYOND 2025

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This section reflects on how the Forests for a Just Future (FfJF) programme approached its final phase and how sustainability and continuity were addressed in a context of increasing political, financial and social uncertainty. It draws on annual plans, follow-up exchanges with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and concrete experiences reported by country programmes, thematic programmes and international policy dossiers during the final implementation year.

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## 6.1 PHASE-OUT AND CLOSURE APPROACH

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Sustainability and programme phase-out were considered from the outset in the original programme document and treated as a deliberate, resourced process rather than an administrative afterthought. Building on earlier planning and on recommendations from the 2023 [midterm review](#) and corresponding [management response](#), a dedicated phase-out approach was developed in 2024 and embedded in the 2025 annual planning. This approach was used as a living reference throughout the final year to guide Alliance members, technical partners and country teams.

The phase-out approach also translated into clear timelines for completing substantive programme activities by September 2025, followed by a defined period for reporting, evaluation and administrative closure. Several country teams explicitly adjusted their annual plans to frontload advocacy and community processes in the first half of 2025, allowing space for structured handover, documentation and reflection later in the year. **Gaia Amazonas** developed a landing page titled [Gaia Amazonas in GLA2](#) which was launched, as a public proof of fact of what the organisation did in the framework of GLA through live interviews with key stakeholders and op-eds by strategic allies. This intends to be a tool for transparency that will engage other key stakeholders and potential funders in processes leveraged by GLA2 over the 2021-2025 period in Colombia and the Amazon region.

Particular attention was given to closure-critical functions, including planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning (PMEL), finance and coordination. Across the Alliance, teams prioritised continuity in these roles to reduce risks linked to staff turnover and loss of institutional memory. This included early identification of staff whose roles were essential for outcome harvesting, financial reconciliation and donor reporting, as well as coordinated planning between global and country teams to manage transitions.

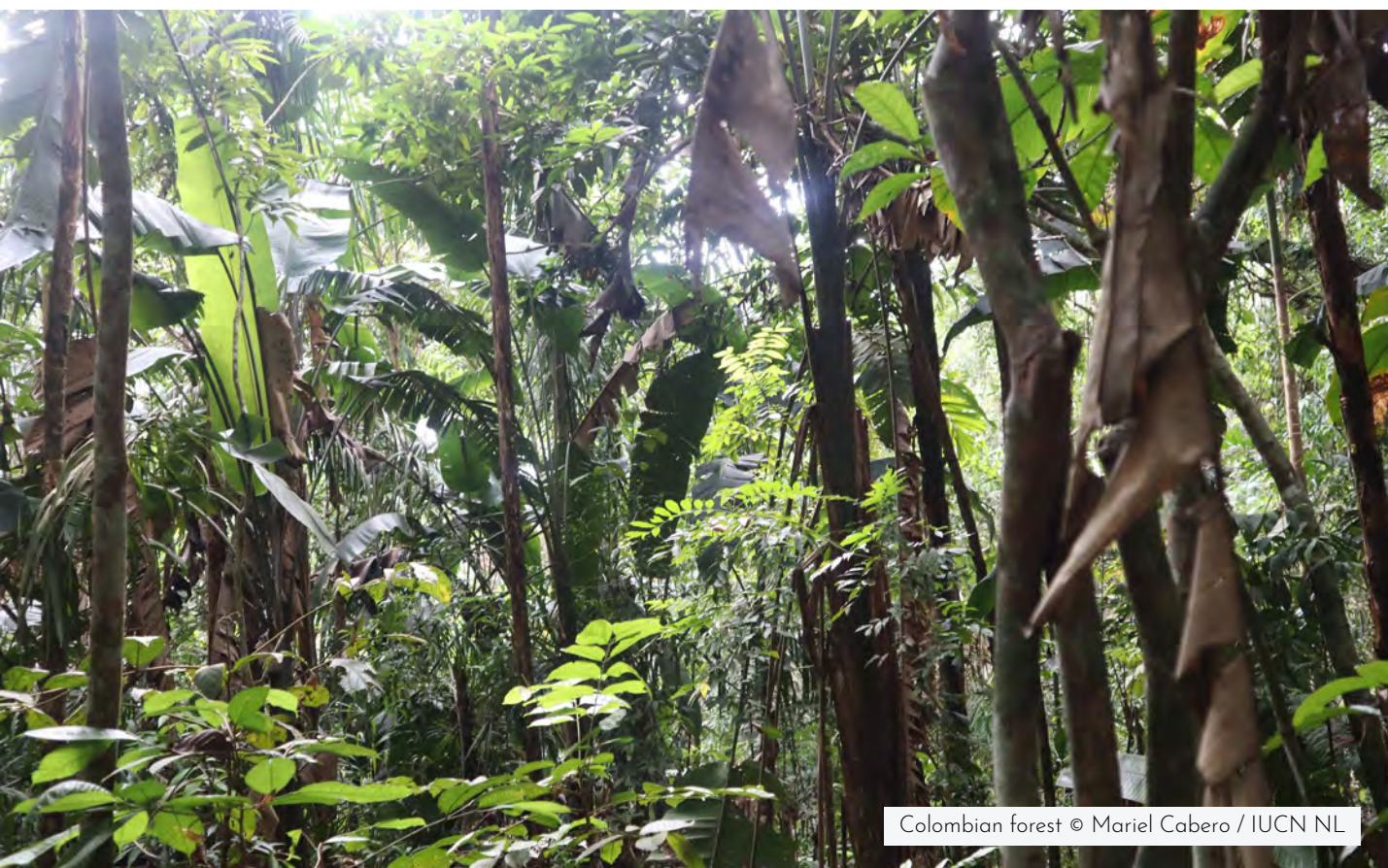
Beyond administrative and compliance requirements, the phase-out approach actively involved community partners through transparent communication on the programme's timeframe and funding outlook, joint reflection and the distillation of lessons learned, and forward-looking planning on how to sustain results and maintain locally driven initiatives. In light of the confirmation during 2025 that no follow-up MoFA SCS framework would be forthcoming, Alliance members and CSO partners proactively intensified fundraising efforts aimed at sustaining and continuing priority interventions in key GLA landscapes (See section 6.3).

## 6.2 SUSTAINABILITY AS CAPACITY, RELATIONSHIPS AND POSITIONING

Across Alliance reflections and country-level reporting, sustainability was consistently understood less as the continuation of specific activities and more as the strengthening of capacities, relationships and institutional positioning that enable partners and IP&LCs to continue their work beyond the programme timeframe.

Concrete examples of this approach can be seen across regions. In **Colombia**, this was reflected in sustained support to Indigenous organisations to complete long-running governance processes that had been pending since the 1991 Constitution. **Gaia Amazonas** worked alongside Indigenous authorities to turn legal recognition into functioning territorial institutions, including the consolidation of Indigenous territorial entities (ETIs). This involved strengthening internal governance bodies, clarifying roles and decision-making procedures, supporting dialogue with state institutions, and ensuring women's participation in territorial leadership. By 2025, these efforts helped Indigenous authorities move from project-based engagement to recognised, self-governing territorial structures that can continue to operate, negotiate with government, and manage their territories independently and beyond the FfJF funding.

In Liberia, for example, efforts centred on building CSO coalitions that could continue to hold concessionaires and authorities to account beyond the life of the programme. This included the formation of a national alliance of GLA partners, closer coordination through the civil society oil palm working group, and stronger links between community structures, investigative journalists and legal advocates. Together, these coalitions combined field-based evidence, strategic media work and engagement with accountability mechanisms - such as the national action plan on business and human rights and concession oversight bodies - to keep pressure on rights violations and corporate non-compliance after GLA funding ended.



Colombian forest © Mariel Cabero / IUCN NL

At regional and thematic level, sustainability centred on maintaining practical links between local actors and key policy spaces. Under **CRDD**, partners continued to feed community-based monitoring, case documentation and joint CSO positions into EU and UN processes, including debates on **EUDR** implementation, financial sector responsibility and biodiversity policy. In the **JET programme**, long-standing advocacy alliances linking affected communities with civil society networks in Europe, Africa and Latin America were consolidated, enabling continued engagement in forums such as the OECD, UNFCCC COPs and export credit policy processes around fossil finance, critical minerals and due-diligence requirements. In Asia, **NTFP-EP Asia** nurtured regional coalitions that will persist beyond GLA, including the **CSO Forum on Social Forestry** and the **ICCA Southeast Asia** network. **NTFP-EP** also used the **Forest Harvest Association** (FHA) framework as a vehicle to influence global supply chains toward greater sustainability in rattan sourcing – work that continued through ongoing engagement with companies such as VDS, IKEA and Louis Vuitton.

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## 6.3 NAVIGATING UNCERTAINTY IN THE FUNDING AND POLICY ENVIRONMENT

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Future-proofing efforts during the final phase were shaped by a rapidly changing external environment.

Country and thematic reports illustrate how this uncertainty affected planning. Several partners noted increased difficulty in securing follow-on funding for advocacy-oriented work, particularly in contexts of shrinking civic space. Some of the key issues related to this uncertainty in funding and policy environment were presented in an opinion piece authored by the GLA [From Policy to Practice: Putting Civil Society First](#). At the same time, the Alliance engaged collectively in sector-wide reflections on the value of strategic partnerships, drawing on experiences from FfJF to underline the importance of long-term, Alliance-based approaches for defending rights and influencing structural drivers of deforestation. One example was the joint statement [Towards a new policy framework for strengthening civil society](#) (November 2024), by all the strategic partnerships under the strengthening civil society subsidy framework to the shifts and proposed funding cuts by the Dutch government. GLA partners also contributed to several policy papers by Partos.

Rather than assuming continuity of funding, the programme's phase-out approach focused on reducing dependency and strengthening partner autonomy. This included explicit attention to strengthening fundraising capacity and increasing the visibility of programme results. **IUCN NL** together with Wilde Ganzen offered a free fundraising course in 2025 in which all CSO partners could participate. [The Change the Game Academy course](#), focused on strengthening local fundraising strategies and donor engagement. Milieudefensie further supported partners by developing an interactive donor mapping tool, helping organisations identify relevant potential donors and track concrete calls for proposals.

Partners also continued engagement in relevant policy spaces beyond 2025, as reflected in country strategies in **Southeast Asia** and **Latin America**, and in ongoing engagement around (international) policy processes such as the **EU Deforestation Regulation**. In this context, Tropenbos International and IUCN NL, together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LVVN), will continue the Dutch Roundtable on Tropical Forests beyond 2025, originally initiated under the GLA, as a space for reflection and exchange between civil society, researchers and policymakers to inform Dutch and EU policy debates.

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# 7. GLOBAL ALLIANCE COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

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A central value of the Green Livelihoods Alliance was its ability to connect action at different levels – from local forest landscapes to national policy processes and international forums – within a single programme framework. Country-level work with IP&LCs was deliberately linked to regional, national and international advocacy, enabling locally grounded concerns to inform broader policy debates while also bringing global developments back into local strategies.

The collaboration was underpinned by the Alliance’s Vision on Collaboration and Equity (VoCE), developed originally during the programme document period (2020), which articulated a shared set of principles to guide how partners worked together across contexts and power differentials. The VoCE emphasised equity, mutual accountability, transparency, trust and respect for diverse roles and capacities within the Alliance. While not a compliance framework, it provided a common reference point for navigating collaboration, decision making and tension in a large and diverse partnership. In practice, the VoCE helped anchor collaboration in principles rather than procedures, supporting coherence and trust even as political contexts, risks and priorities diverged across countries and partners.

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## 7.1 LEARNING, ADAPTATION AND COLLABORATION BEYOND THE ALLIANCE

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Another key function of the Alliance was its role as an infrastructure for collective learning and adaptation. Over the programme period, learning was embedded through multiple processes, including outcome harvesting, the midterm review, thematic learning trajectories, South–South exchanges and participatory consultations with IP&LCs. Rather than being treated as a parallel activity, learning informed strategic choices, programme adjustments and prioritisation over time.

At the same time, sustaining meaningful learning across a large and diverse alliance required significant investment. Partners experienced tensions between learning demands and limited staff time, particularly in high-pressure contexts, and the ongoing challenge of ensuring learning remained relevant and accessible to country teams and communities rather than becoming overly extractive or report-driven.

While collaboration within the GLA was central to the programme, progress was also shaped by engagement with a wider ecosystem of civil society organisations, movements, research institutions and informal coalitions operating at national, regional and international levels. Working alongside others helped avoid duplication, amplify collective messages and strengthen political protection for local actors. Partners collaborated with civil society coalitions, Indigenous, environmental and feminist movements, journalists, research organisations and human and women’s rights organisations to generate evidence, coordinate advocacy and respond to emerging risks, including in international policy spaces such as EU-level and UN processes.

These collaborations were often informal and opportunistic rather than institutionalised. Their value lay less in formal coordination structures and more in shared analysis, mutual trust and the ability to mobilise collectively when political windows opened or when communities and defenders faced acute threats. Taken together, learning and collaboration within and beyond the Alliance expanded the reach and relevance of FfJF interventions, reinforcing the understanding that meaningful change in forest governance depends on dense networks of actors rather than isolated programmes or institutions.

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## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS BEYOND 2025

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This final section lays out a set of learning-oriented recommendations that build on the experience of the Forests for a Just Future programme over the 2021–2025 period. The recommendations were developed by the Alliance and its partners and are directed both at the Green Livelihoods Alliance itself and at donors, in particular the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its embassies, as well as at national and local authorities in programme countries. They are framed with an awareness of the current political and financial context, including reduced funding for civil society and advocacy, and are intended to inform future policy choices and partnership models rather than to prescribe uniform solutions.



## PROGRAMMES AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS

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- ☒ **Prioritise locally led approaches as a design principle:** Future programmes should continue to place decision-making power among IP&LCs at the centre of programme design, governance and resourcing. This includes enabling communities to define priorities, indicators of success and timelines, and investing in long-term accompaniment rather than short project cycles. Experience from FfJF shows that outcomes are more durable where communities have real authority over processes, even if this slows visible results in the short term.
- ☒ **Invest in relationships, coalitions and care as core programme infrastructure:** Alliance experience demonstrates that trust, long-term relationships and solidarity across organisations are not ancillary to programme delivery, but essential conditions for sustained engagement under shrinking civic space. Future partnerships should explicitly resource coalition building, peer exchange, protection and the wellbeing of defenders, including women and youth leaders.
- ☒ **Integrate livelihoods and wellbeing into rights-based forest governance strategies:** Programmes should avoid false distinctions between livelihood support and governance or advocacy work. Addressing basic needs, care responsibilities and safety concerns enables sustained participation and leadership, particularly for women and youth. This requires flexibility in programme design and a willingness to adapt activities in response to lived realities on the ground.
- ☒ **Treat learning as a strategic function, not a reporting obligation:** The experience of FfJF shows the value of embedding learning in programme implementation and decision making through outcome harvesting, participatory reflection and South-South exchange (see section 5). Future alliances should ensure learning processes are designed to inform adaptation and strategy, and remain accessible and relevant to country teams and communities, rather than becoming extractive or overly technocratic.

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## 8.2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DUTCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INCLUDING EMBASSIES

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- ☒ **Sustain long-term, flexible support for alliance-based civil society work:** addressing structural drivers of deforestation, shrinking civic space and political volatility requires long-term engagement. Narrowly defined outputs undermine the effectiveness of advocacy and rights-based work. Even in a context of budget constraints, maintaining flexible, multi-year support for strategic partnerships enables continuity, risk management and meaningful learning.
- ☒ **Align policy ambition with implementation support:** Dutch commitments on forests, climate, biodiversity and gender equality have created important normative frameworks, but their impact depends on consistent implementation. Embassies have a critical role in reinforcing these commitments through political dialogue, convening power and support to local civil society actors, particularly where national space for engagement is constrained.
- ☒ **Protect and enable civic space through diplomacy and partnerships:** The experience of FfJF highlights the importance of diplomatic engagement in protecting human rights defenders and civil society organisations. Embassies should continue to play an active role in monitoring risks, supporting

protection mechanisms and using diplomatic channels to address intimidation, criminalisation and violence against defenders.

- ☒ **Maintain leadership on gender justice despite political backlash:** The initial momentum created by the Dutch Feminist Foreign Policy demonstrated the potential of principled leadership on gender equality. Future engagement should build on this foundation by providing flexible, reliable support to women-led and feminist organisations, integrating gender justice across policy portfolios - particularly climate and biodiversity, and not only in relation to 'traditional' gender topics - and resisting dilution of commitments in the face of political resistance.

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## 8.3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN PROGRAMME COUNTRIES

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- ☒ **Recognise and operationalise the role of IP&LCs as rights holders and governance actors:** National and local authorities should move beyond formal recognition of participation towards meaningful inclusion of IP&LCs in land-use planning, forest governance and climate action through sustained horizontal dialogues with local and traditional authorities. This includes recognising customary tenure, ensuring access to justice and addressing contradictions between rights frameworks and concession regimes.
- ☒ **Create enabling environments for locally led climate and forest action:** Authorities play a key role in enabling or constraining locally led initiatives. Reducing administrative barriers, ensuring transparency, and protecting civic space are essential for effective collaboration with communities and civil society, and for achieving climate, biodiversity and development objectives.



Woman Growing Organic Rice in Simancuang , Alam Pauh Duo Village © Warsi

# 9. CONCLUSION AND CLOSING REFLECTIONS

The Forests for a Just Future programme demonstrates the potential of alliance-based approaches to advancing rights-based, locally led forest governance in an increasingly constrained global context. While no single programme can overcome structural drivers of deforestation or shrinking civic space, sustained investment in people, relationships, institutions and collaborative efforts across geographies can strengthen the capacity of communities and civil society to navigate uncertainty and assert their rights over time.

The lessons and recommendations outlined in this report are offered in this spirit: not as prescriptive solutions, but as contributions to ongoing dialogue on how governments, donors, alliances and communities can work together to protect forests and support those who depend on them beyond 2025.



FPIC GLA 2.0 Program in Indukur Village © Green Livelihoods Alliance

Philippines, Kanaipan © Mabuwaya Foundation



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SECTION II

# Annual report 2025

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## A NOTE ON HOW TO READ SECTIONS I AND II TOGETHER

Section II should be read as a complementary, time-specific lens to Section I, rather than revisiting cumulative results, it focuses on how longer-term dynamics played out in 2025, the final year of implementation. Together, the two sections offer a layered perspective: Section I addresses what changed over time and why it mattered, while Section II zooms in on how those dynamics shaped choices and outcomes as the programme shifted from expansion to consolidation and responsible phase-out.



Atewa forest © IUCN NL

# 1. INTRODUCTION

This section presents the **annual report for 2025**, the final year of the **Forests for a Just Future** programme. It provides a focused account of the progress, adaptations and key developments during 2025, complementing the broader analysis of the full 2021–2025 period in Section I.

The report does not repeat the programme’s rationale, Theory of Change, or cumulative achievements already covered in Section I. Instead, it highlights how GLA partners navigated the final year of implementation. The focus is on how strategies were consolidated, adjusted or defended in response to an evolving political, economic and environmental context.

2025 was a year of strategic consolidation and positioning. Across countries, thematic programmes and international policy work, GLA partners focused on safeguarding hard-won gains. They embedded inclusive governance practices, strengthened coalitions and ensured that learning, tools and alliances that were developed over the programme period could continue to contribute to improved forest governance beyond 2025. At the same time, partners responded to significant external pressures, including shrinking civic space, political transitions, delays and pushback around regulatory frameworks. Growing risks for Indigenous peoples, local communities and environmental human rights defenders also shaped the year’s priorities.

This section follows the three strategic pathways of the FfJF Theory of Change. For each pathway, it provides a brief synthesis of progress made in 2025, concrete examples drawn from country programmes, thematic initiatives and international policy dossiers, and reflections on how 2025 efforts contributed to sustaining outcomes achieved over the full programme period.

Quantitative PMEL data for the full 2021–2025 period, including 2025, are presented in the progress boxes at the start of each pathway in Section I and detailed further in Annex C. The report outlines what the alliance achieved in 2025, how these efforts built on previous years, and how partners prepared for continued work after the programme’s end.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE IN 2025

This section provides a brief snapshot of progress in 2025, focusing on the final-year contributions made across the three strategic pathways of the Forests for a Just Future (FfJF) programme. It highlights how GLA partners applied, consolidated or adjusted existing strategies during 2025, and where these efforts helped sustain or protect outcomes achieved over the full programme period.

The section draws on selected examples from country programmes, thematic initiatives and international policy engagement to illustrate key developments during the year. Quantitative planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning (PMEL) data for relevant indicators are presented in the progress boxes at the start of each pathway, covering the full 2021-2025 period (see Annex C).

The three pathways are closely connected and mutually reinforcing. For clarity, outcomes are presented under the pathway where they most logically sit, while recognising their contribution to other pathways.





## Pathway A: IP&LC FOREST GOVERNANCE

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

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

#### Sustainable forest governance

GLA partners focused on consolidating forest governance structures by reinforcing community institutions' capacity, legitimacy and accountability. This involved clarifying decision-making processes, internal regulations and oversight mechanisms within community forest management and customary governance systems.

**Colombia's formalisation of Indigenous territorial entities (ETIs) and Bolivia's work with Indigenous territorial organisations** demonstrate two complementary approaches to institutionalising community governance. In Colombia, the December signing of the ETIs' protocolisation proceedings by President Petro marked a milestone in recognising Indigenous self governance at the national level, combining political, administrative and environmental authority. Meanwhile, in Bolivia, partners collaborated with Indigenous organisations to strengthen internal governance and align forest management with municipal authorities, ensuring traditional structures remained intact while meeting regulatory requirements.

In **Liberia** and **Uganda**, the emphasis was on practical governance tools. Partners worked with community forest management bodies to update bylaws, define governance committee roles and improve dialogue with forestry authorities. These steps enabled communities to enforce rules, monitor compliance and engage with government agencies more effectively.



Uganda, AFIEGO © Andrew Kartende / IUCN NL

At the regional level, **Southeast Asia** partners engaged with ASEAN processes to align community governance practices with regional policy frameworks. By translating broad commitments into locally adapted models, they ensured that inclusivity and sustainability remained central to forest management across diverse national contexts.

## Inclusivity in governance structures for the sustainable management of forested landscapes

Ensuring governance structures are inclusive remained a priority, particularly where women, youth and marginalised groups face structural barriers to participation. GLA partners supported targeted measures to strengthen leadership, representation and safe participation within community decision-making spaces, recognising that meaningful inclusion is a prerequisite for equitable forest governance.

In the **Philippines** and **Malaysia**, partners reinforced women's and youth leadership in community forest and coastal management organisations through **leadership training, mentoring and facilitated dialogue spaces**. For example, in the Philippines, training programmes focused on **negotiation skills, conflict resolution and participatory decision making**, to enable women and youth to take on roles traditionally dominated by men. In Malaysia, mentoring initiatives paired young leaders with experienced community members, ensuring knowledge transfer and continuity in governance roles. These efforts ensured governance bodies reflected the diversity of the communities they served, with measurable increases in women and youth representation in key committees.

The **Youth Engagement and Empowerment Hive in Asia (YEEHA!)** took a regional approach, bringing together **43 Indigenous and local community youth leaders in Palawan** for a governance training camp. The initiative combined participatory mapping, governance simulations and action planning to equip young leaders with practical skills. Post-camp evaluations showed that 80% of participants went on to take leadership roles in their communities, advocating for inclusive forest management and ensuring their voices were integrated into decision-making processes. The camp also created a regional youth network, which continued to share resources and strategies long after the event, sustaining momentum for youth-led governance.

These inclusivity efforts were not just about representation but also about **changing power dynamics**. In both countries, partners documented cases where women and youth successfully influenced forest management plans, secured resources for community projects and mediated conflicts, demonstrating how inclusive governance leads to more resilient and adaptive outcomes.



## Sustainable livelihood strategies

Livelihood-related activity focused on sustaining and embedding community-based economic strategies that were closely linked to forest stewardship and governance. Partners supported communities to strengthen existing initiatives, improve market access and reinforce the connections between livelihoods, tenure security and rights-based advocacy. This work was critical for demonstrating how economic empowerment can directly contribute to forest conservation and community resilience.

In **Vietnam**, the **Kon Hleng Cooperative Group** in **Gia Lai Province** achieved **participatory guarantee system (PGS) certification** for bamboo shoots - a milestone that enabled them to sell products at a **20% higher price** than in 2024. The certification process involved training women and youth in **organic production, quality control and market negotiation**, to ensure that the cooperative's operations aligned with both environmental and social standards. By the end of 2025, the cooperative's revenue had grown to **120 million VND (USD \$4,560)**, with profits reinvested in **community-led forest management**, including the establishment of a **50-hectare agroforestry demonstration plot**. This plot now serves as a training site for other communities, showcasing how sustainable livelihoods can enhance biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

In **Liberia**, the **Western Region Women Network Association (WERWONA)** expanded its work on sustainable livelihoods by training **over 300 women** in agroecological practices and non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvesting. The training included modules on **sustainable harvesting techniques, value addition and collective marketing**, which helped women generate income while reducing pressure on forest resources. WERWONA's engagement with local authorities also secured commitments to support women-led enterprises, including access to **microfinance schemes** and **land-use agreements** for NTFP collection. As a result, participating women reported a **40% increase in household income**, with many reinvesting earnings into education and healthcare for their families.

Across **Southeast Asia**, regional initiatives such as the **Pastor Rice Fund** supported women and youth-led livelihood projects. These included participation in regional exchanges and international policy spaces, where communities shared lessons on linking sustainable production to forest governance. For example, in the **Philippines**, Indigenous women's cooperatives received training in **marketing, value-chain development and digital literacy** for NTFP-based products. This enabled them to **directly access higher-value markets**, increasing their incomes by an average of **25%** and strengthening their role in economic and governance decision making. The cooperatives also used their newfound influence to advocate for **community forest management rights**, demonstrating the connection between economic empowerment and tenure security.

These efforts complemented thematic work on **community-based enterprises** and **sustainable production models**, helping to anchor livelihood strategies within broader governance and rights frameworks. By the end of 2025, **12 new community-based enterprises** had been established or strengthened across the region, each integrating sustainable forest management practices into their business models.

## Land mapping and monitoring

Participatory land mapping and community-based monitoring remained critical tools for strengthening IP&LC governance, particularly in contexts where land tenure is contested or formal recognition is lacking. Partners prioritised **consolidating local capacities, updating existing maps and ensuring documentation supported advocacy beyond the programme's closure**, recognising that data sovereignty is a cornerstone of self-determination.

**Colombia's SIGETI system and Liberia's participatory maps** illustrate how digital and traditional tools can defend territorial rights in different ways. In Colombia, Indigenous organisations used SIGETI not only to document land use but also to **monitor deforestation, track biodiversity and assert sovereignty over data management** in the northeast Amazon. This system became a model for other Indigenous groups in the region, with **three additional communities adopting SIGETI** in 2025. The data generated through SIGETI was used in negotiations with government authorities, helping to **block illegal mining concessions** and secure recognition of Indigenous territories.

In **Liberia**, the process of updating participatory maps of customary lands was deeply collaborative. Communities worked with partners to **overlay traditional knowledge with GPS data**, creating maps that reflected both cultural and legal dimensions of land use. These maps were then used in negotiations with the **Liberia Land Authority**, leading to the **formal recognition of 15,000 hectares of customary lands** in 2025. The process also strengthened community cohesion, as elders, women and youth contributed their knowledge to create a shared vision of their territory.

In **Vietnam**, community-based monitoring in **Gia Lai and Dak Lak provinces** went beyond tracking forest use and biodiversity. Local groups used the data to **identify areas for restoration, negotiate with provincial authorities and ensure compliance with EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) standards**. For example, in Gia Lai, monitoring data revealed illegal logging in a sacred forest area prompting community-led patrols and dialogue with local authorities. This resulted in **a 30% reduction in illegal logging incidents** and the **restoration of 200 hectares of degraded land** by the end of 2025. The success of this approach led to its adoption in two additional provinces, demonstrating the scalability of community-led monitoring.



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

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### Collaboration and coalition building to exert power

GLA partners prioritised coalition building to sustain influence on legal and policy processes affecting IP&LC rights. Strengthening alliances between community organisations, CSOs, social movements and legal experts enabled coordinated advocacy at national, regional and international levels.

**Colombia's Indigenous and Afro descendant organisations** collaborated with legal allies to challenge exclusionary land use and forest governance decisions affecting collective territories. This coalition based approach helped secure recognition of Indigenous governance structures, such as the **Indigenous territorial entities (ETIs)**, which were formally approved by the national government in December 2025. In the **DRC**, civil society coalitions coordinated engagement around forest governance and land rights, particularly in areas affected by concession allocation and extractive pressures. Partners worked with the **Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN)** and local communities to document land conflicts and advocate for the enforcement of community forest rights. This included joint advocacy to challenge illegal logging concessions and secure recognition of **36 community forest concessions (CFCLs)**, covering nearly 1 million hectares of forest.

At the regional level in **Southeast Asia**, CSOs and Indigenous organisations strengthened coordination through regional platforms linked to **ASEAN social forestry and customary tenure processes**. This enabled shared messaging and mutual reinforcement of national advocacy efforts. The focus on ASEAN was strategic as it provided a framework to align diverse national contexts under a common regional agenda for customary land recognition and inclusive forest governance.

### Lobby and advocacy

Lobby and advocacy efforts in 2025 focused on defending and advancing legal recognition of customary land and resource rights in politically sensitive and often restrictive environments. GLA partners combined community generated evidence, legal analysis and strategic engagement with decision makers to influence legislation, policy interpretation and implementation.

In **Uganda and Ghana**, partners supported communities to engage with government institutions on land use planning, forest reserve management and benefit sharing arrangements. They used documented cases and legal arguments to address gaps between formal recognition and practice. In **Bolivia**, advocacy efforts centered on safeguarding Indigenous territorial rights in the face of competing land use claims. Meanwhile, in **Malaysia and the Philippines**, partners engaged national authorities on the application of existing legal frameworks related to customary tenure, social forestry and **free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)**.

Advocacy also targeted implementation gaps in existing laws, seeking to ensure formal recognition translated into effective protection of rights on the ground. This was particularly important in contexts where enforcement remained weak or where legal provisions existed on paper but were not applied in practice.

## Regional collaboration and advocacy

At the regional level, 2025 efforts in **Southeast Asia** concentrated on sustaining momentum around **ASEAN commitments** on customary tenure and inclusive forest governance. GLA partners engaged with ASEAN working groups and related platforms to promote follow up on agreed guidance and to keep IP&LC rights visible within broader regional agendas on climate, biodiversity and sustainable development.

This included continued engagement around the **ASEAN Guidelines on Customary Tenure Recognition** and the **Regional FPIC handbook**, supporting dialogue on how these instruments can inform national policies and social forestry implementation. While national uptake of ASEAN guidelines remained uneven, partners used 2025 to consolidate relationships with key regional actors, clarify entry points for continued advocacy and strengthen the evidence base for rights-based forest governance beyond the programme's closure. The regional approach was essential for addressing cross border challenges, such as agro commodity expansion and infrastructure development, which often transcend national boundaries and require coordinated responses.

In **South America**, Colombian partners played an active role in strengthening regional advocacy through the **North Amazon Alliance (ANA)**. In 2025, ANA convened Indigenous organisations and CSOs from across the Amazon basin to advance a shared agenda on territorial rights and ecosystem and socio-cultural connectivity. This included regional dialogue spaces such as the **fifth regional encounter Conversations of the Amazon in Leticia**, as well as coordinated positioning of Indigenous governance and customary tenure in regional political processes and global biodiversity and climate spaces.

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

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GLA's local-to-global-to-local approach played a critical role in 2025, connecting community-based experiences to international biodiversity and climate policy processes. Partners focused on sustaining influence, consolidating gains and defending rights-based language within multilateral frameworks, ensuring global commitments translated into tangible support for IP&LC governance on the ground.

Below are selected highlights from 2025.

### Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Partners remained actively engaged in the implementation of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**, with a particular focus on provisions related to IP&LCs, customary tenure and participation. Their work included supporting Indigenous representatives and community organisations to engage in CBD-related processes, regional consultations and subsidiary body meetings.

A key contribution was facilitating Indigenous participation in the **first meeting of the subsidiary body on Article 8(j)**, held in October 2025. Here, partners helped articulate community priorities on land rights, governance and benefit-sharing, reinforcing rights-based perspectives on ecosystem connectivity and territorial governance. Through regional coalitions, including South American Indigenous networks linked to the **North Amazon Alliance (ANA)**, GLA partners ensured IP&LC rights remained visible in biodiversity policy discussions. For example, Indigenous representatives from Colombia and Peru used these platforms to advocate for the inclusion of **customary tenure recognition** and **locally led conservation** in national biodiversity strategies. This collective advocacy helped bridge the gap between global commitments and local realities, ensuring that the GBF's implementation reflected community needs and aspirations.

## United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Engagement under the UNFCCC in 2025 centered on **COP30 in Belém**, widely framed as the "Forest COP." GLA partners participated in preparatory processes to ensure forest-related climate action reflected human rights obligations and recognised IP&LCs as rights-holders and forest stewards.

A concrete example of this engagement was the **GLA joint side event at COP30**, which built on the Alliance narrative articulated in the pre-COP op-ed "[Locally-Led, Globally Impactful: COP30 must deliver for tropical forests](#)" (Vice Versa, 2025). The event brought together Indigenous leaders, feminist funders, CSOs and government representatives to emphasise that secure land rights, Indigenous governance and civic spaces are essential for effective forest and climate outcomes. Discussions challenged dominant narratives that prioritised technical or market-based solutions, and instead highlighted the need for rights-based governance and direct access to climate finance for communities.

Following COP30, GLA partners reflected on outcomes and gaps in the post-COP op-ed "[Locally-Led, Globally Needed: why COP30 fell short - and how communities stepped up](#)" (Vice Versa, 2025). The analysis underscored the absence of binding deforestation commitments and persistent barriers to finance for IP&LCs. However, it also celebrated a significant win: the adoption of a new **nine-year gender action plan (GAP)**, which, for the first time, included an explicit mandate for work on **women environmental defenders**. While the GAP's success depends on full resourcing and integration across UNFCCC work programmes, its adoption marked a step forward in recognising the role of women and Indigenous leaders in climate action.

In addition to formal negotiations, partners supported Indigenous and community representatives, particularly women and youth, to participate in policy dialogues, side events and media engagements. These efforts aimed to safeguard space for IP&LC voices in climate debates and resist the sidelining of rights considerations in discussions on nature-based solutions and climate finance. A pivotal moment was the participation of partners in discussions led by the **Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)** during COP30. ACTO's engagement as a diplomatic institution helped amplify forest-related messages aligned with GLA's priorities, particularly in talks with the Brazilian government and Amazon basin countries.



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## Pathway B: DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION

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

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

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In 2025, GLA partners focused on enforcing existing laws and agreements to hold governments and companies accountable for deforestation and rights violations. They supported communities in documenting abuses linked to agro-commodities, extractives and infrastructure, then used this evidence to demand action.

In **Ghana**, partners worked with communities in the Western and Ashanti regions to monitor logging concessions. Their findings revealed repeated violations of benefit-sharing agreements by three operators. After submitting evidence to the Forestry Commission, two concessions faced temporary suspensions and a third agreed to revise its community compensation plan by June 2025. The revised plan included direct cash payments to 150 households and scholarships for 40 children, with women from the communities leading the negotiations.

**Liberia's** palm oil sector became another focal point. Communities in Grand Bassa and Nimba counties tracked company compliance with land-use agreements. When one operator failed to deliver promised benefits for three consecutive years, partners helped file a formal complaint with the Forestry Development Authority. The resulting investigation led to a binding agreement in August 2025 that secured back payments and future revenue shares for affected villages.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, partners combined community-based monitoring with legal analysis to challenge concession practices linked to forest degradation and rights abuses. Their work in Equateur Province identified two concessions operating without valid permits, prompting the Ministry of Environment to launch audits in September 2025. One concession lost its license, while the other paid USD \$200,000 (EUR €170,770) in back fees to local communities.

In **Uganda**, communities along the East African crude oil pipeline (EACOP) route documented uncompensated land acquisitions using GPS mapping and household testimonies. This evidence formed the basis of negotiations that increased compensation rates by 30% for 210 households by the end of the year.



Accountability efforts also targeted corporate actors operating across borders, including parent companies and financiers linked to agro-commodity, extractive and energy projects. Through coordinated action under the CRDD and JET programmes, partners supported communities and CSOs in raising grievances with companies, financiers and regulatory bodies.

Rather than pushing for new legislation, partners concentrated on implementing existing rules. In **Liberia**, this meant working with the Forestry Development Authority to enforce consent and benefit-sharing obligations in palm oil concessions. In **Uganda**, it involved direct negotiations with the Ministry of Energy to apply resettlement standards consistently across EACOP-affected districts.

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## 2.B.2 MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

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Media engagement continued to be used as a strategic accountability tool to expose deforestation drivers, amplify community voices and influence public and policy debates. GLA partners focused on targeted, high-impact media work linked to concrete advocacy objectives at national, regional and international levels.

In **Colombia**, Indigenous and Afro-descendant leaders reached out to the national media to highlight the impacts of extractive and infrastructure projects on collective territories, reinforcing advocacy on territorial rights and governance. Colombian partners also used key political moments like the Amazon Presidential Summit to leverage messages through regional media engagement.

In **Liberia and Ghana**, media coverage was used to draw attention to community concerns related to logging and agro-commodity concessions, increasing public scrutiny of company practices and regulatory oversight.

At the international level, GLA partners used media strategically around COP30 to strengthen public narratives on rights-based forest governance. Alliance-led opinion pieces, including pre- and post-COP op-eds, and targeted media briefings helped position IP&LCs as central actors in addressing deforestation and climate change.

The Peoples for Forests gathering in June 2025 brought together 92 participants, 60% of them were women, to issue a declaration linking forest protection to women's land rights. Their stories were cited in three official COP30 side events on climate finance.

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

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At regional and international levels, GLA addressed deforestation drivers in 2025 through its local-to-global-to-local (LGL) strategy, linking community-based evidence and data, and information and reports developed by CSOs with advocacy to policy engagement, thematic programmes and regional collaboration.

### International policy dossier: EU Deforestation Legislation

The **EU Deforestation Regulation** faced intense industry pushback in 2025. GLA partners and allies **defended the regulation's integrity** and ensured it aligned with human rights commitments.

A key achievement was the citizen campaign that generated **8,000 emails to MEPs**, helping to preserve the original compliance timeline despite lobbying pressure. Partners also **provided community-based evidence** to EU-level dialogues, ensuring gender-disaggregated data on the regulation's impacts reached decision makers. This advocacy helped secure specific exemptions for smallholders in the final guidance, protecting women cocoa farmers in **Côte d'Ivoire** and other producer countries.

At the same time, GLA's work contributed to broader global commitments. While not directly under Pathway B, the programme's advocacy supported the extension of the **Forest and Land Tenure Pledge**, with governments committing **USD \$1.8 billion (EUR €1.54 billion) in funding through 2030**. This pledge, alongside the **Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment** launched by **15 governments** to formally recognise **160 million hectares** of Indigenous and community lands, created a stronger international framework for rights-based forest governance.

### Thematic programme: Community rights and deforestation drivers (CRDD)

Through **CRDD**, GLA partners supported communities in documenting and challenging industrial deforestation drivers, then linking these struggles to global advocacy. In Indonesia, Dayak communities filed complaints against two palm oil companies for violating customary land rights. Both cases resulted in mediation processes that returned **1,200 hectares to community control** by December 2025.

The programme also facilitated cross-country coordination. A workshop in Bogor brought together representatives from **Cameroon, Liberia and Peru** to share strategies for supply chain accountability.

Their joint analysis revealed how companies used voluntary relocation agreements to bypass FPIC. This work **informed a UN complaint** against two agro-commodity traders.

One of the most significant outcomes was the **Peoples for Forests gathering in Medellín, Colombia**, in June 2025. The event brought together over 90 forest defenders, more than 60% of them women, to **issue a declaration** on forest protection and women's land rights. This led to the formation of a new, active grassroots civil society group that influenced decision makers at **COP30**, including through interventions in three official side events.

### Thematic programme: Just Energy Transition (JET)

Under **JET**, 2025 efforts focused on exposing the human and environmental costs of energy transition projects. In Uganda, partners documented how the **EACOP** had disrupted water sources for **15 villages** and they used this evidence to negotiate new water infrastructure for affected communities.

The programme also tackled industrial animal farming, a major but often overlooked driver of deforestation. In November 2025, CSOs and local communities from France, Spain, Denmark, Poland, Hungary, Italy, England and Northern Ireland united for a joint day of action. They launched a dedicated website to make visible the industry's impacts, to show solidarity with affected communities worldwide and demand political action. The campaign generated 24 news stories and led to parliamentary questions in three European countries.

Beyond EACOP, JET produced a report on cobalt in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and nickel in **Indonesia** which was cited in three UN human rights reviews. The report's findings were used to challenge the narrative that mineral extraction is a necessary trade-off for climate action, instead advocating for rights-based alternatives.



Nickel mining in Sulawesi © Stephanie Broekarts / IUCN NL



Village of Milamba. Anadarko has been attempting for a year to remove the people from the area. © JAI - Friends of the Earth Mozambique

## DUTCH INVOLVEMENT IN TOTAL ENERGIES MOZAMBIQUE LNG PROJECT COMES TO AN END

After years of sustained pressure from **Milieudéfensie** and Both ENDS, and in collaboration with other civil society partners, a major victory over TotalEnergies was achieved in 2025. In early December 2025, it became known that Dutch involvement in the controversial TotalEnergies Mozambique LNG project in the province of Cabo Delgado would effectively come to an end. The decision follows years of research, lobbying and legal pressure on the Dutch government over the violent conflicts and environmental damage in the region.

Key results in 2025:

- ☒ Confirmation of human rights violations: Following sustained pressure from Milieudéfensie, Both ENDS, and other CSOs, the minister published investigations confirming that Mozambican security forces -financed by TotalEnergies - are systematically violating human rights.
- ☒ Withdrawal of Dutch insurance: Minister Eelco Heinen of Finance announced that TotalEnergies is withdrawing from the Dutch export credit insurance (Atradius DSB) worth USD \$640 million (EUR €54.6 million) for the gas project.

At the same time, the British government decided to withdraw its export credit insurance of GBP£ 1.15 billion (USD\$ 1.55 billion). Despite these setbacks for TotalEnergies, the company is continuing with the gas project. Milieudéfensie remain concerned that the export support for Dutch dredging company Van Oord (worth USD \$213 million ((EUR €182 million)) for the project has not yet been definitively cancelled. As a result, the risk of terrorism, serious human rights violations and environmental pollution remain for the local population.



Bolivia © Sander van Andel / IUCN NL

## Regional collaboration: Southeast Asia and Latin America

In **Southeast Asia**, regional collaboration in 2025 focused on addressing cross-border deforestation drivers, complementing the rights and tenure work described under Pathway A. Partners engaged in ASEAN-related dialogues and regional platforms to address shared challenges linked to agro-commodity expansion, infrastructure development and weak regulatory enforcement, and to promote greater accountability of state and corporate actors operating across borders.

Regional exchange enabled partners to compare approaches to monitoring deforestation drivers, share evidence on corporate and policy failures, and coordinate advocacy on issues such as supply chain accountability and infrastructure-related forest loss. This helped situate national accountability efforts within broader regional dynamics and reinforced collective positioning on deforestation drivers, rather than on governance or tenure frameworks already covered under Pathway A.

Other regions like **Latin America** also developed regional collaboration efforts linking actions carried out at ground level through Pathway A with developments under Pathway B related to monitoring deforestation drivers, forest cover and the health of ecosystems. An example is the [analysis](#) developed by two regional networks, [RAISG](#) and the **North Amazon Alliance (ANA)**, which offers data from 1985 to 2023 regarding land-use transformation and ecological connectivity loss, and states the importance of a well-connected Amazon for climate regulation and resilience. This report formed part of a [toolkit](#) for informed decision making with a connectivity perspective which was launched in the momentum between the Amazon Presidential Summit and COP30 by four regional networks.

## Mining and deforestation

GLA partners sharpened their focus on mining's role in deforestation in 2025, responding to the surge in demand for transition minerals like cobalt, copper and nickel. Research revealed that mines in **the Democratic Republic of Congo** and **Zambia** had cleared 12,000 hectares of forest since 2020, equivalent to 16,800 football fields, displacing Indigenous communities and polluting water sources.

Partners used this data to pressure Canadian mining firms, which host 70% of the world’s mining companies. A delegation of Indigenous women from **Colombia’s** Inírida municipality travelled to Toronto to present findings to shareholders of Barrick Gold, First Quantum and Glencore. Their advocacy secured binding commitments from all three companies to conduct human rights impact assessments before expanding operations - a rare victory in an industry notorious for evading accountability.

In the **Philippines**, GLA partners supported Indigenous groups in **Palawan** to push for a provincial mining moratorium. After documenting how nickel mines had polluted five rivers and cleared 3,000 hectares of ancestral land, the Palawan Council passed a 10-year moratorium on large-scale mining. The decision protected 1.5 million hectares of forest and safeguarded water sources for 20,000 Indigenous people.

In **Ghana**, GLA partners worked with communities affected by lithium mining to challenge LI2462, a concession granted without FPIC. Their legal petition, backed by GPS-mapped evidence of deforestation and water contamination, led to a high court ruling that suspended LI2462 until proper consultations were conducted. The case set a precedent for FPIC enforcement in Ghana’s mining sector.

Through the **JET programme**, GLA partners and allies launched the Mines vs. Forests campaign which mapped 50 mining hotspots across **the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Colombia** and the **Philippines**. The campaign linked these sites to European and Chinese supply chains, with **Fern, Mines and Communities (MAC)** and **Indigenous organisations** presenting findings at the **UN Forum on Business and Human Rights**. This led to shareholder resolutions against Glencore, Vale and China Molybdenum, demanding deforestation-free supply chains by 2027.





## Pathway C: CIVIC SPACE

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

### 2.C.1 ADDRESSING CSO AND IP&LC REPRESSION AND INSECURITY

In 2025, GLA partners prioritised the safety and continuity of civil society organisations (CSOs), IP&LCs, and (W)EHRDs facing escalating repression. Recognising that civic space restrictions directly threaten forest governance and rights-based advocacy, partners deployed targeted protection strategies and strengthened collective resilience.

In **Colombia**, Indigenous leaders in Caquetá received death threats for opposing illegal mining operations. GLA partners coordinated with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to secure protective measures, enabling leaders to continue their advocacy without disruption. In the **Philippines**, Lumad communities in Mindanao faced military harassment for resisting agro-industrial projects. Partners facilitated safe passage for leaders to attend national dialogues, ensuring their voices were heard despite ongoing risks. Meanwhile, Afro-descendant women in Chocó documented 12 cases of intimidation linked to palm oil expansion, prompting a regional protection alert that increased visibility and support for at-risk defenders.

In **Uganda**, youth activists in Hoima district were arrested during protests against oil project evictions. GLA partners secured their release and provided security training, allowing them to resume their campaigning. Rural women in **Liberia's** Nimba County used GLA-supported legal clinics to challenge administrative barriers blocking their participation in land-use decisions. These efforts did not eliminate risks but created critical space for communities to engage in forest governance and accountability processes.

Where repression took indirect forms, such as administrative barriers or restrictions on assembly, partners focused on building legal awareness and organisational resilience. In Indonesia, Dayak communities in West Kalimantan faced SLAPP suits from palm oil companies. GLA partners connected them with pro bono legal support, helping them navigate the judicial system and continue their resistance. Flexible support mechanisms, including rapid-response funds and alliance networks, ensured that defenders could respond to urgent threats and maintain their advocacy throughout the year.

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

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GLA partners strengthened monitoring and documentation of rights violations as a core strategy to protect communities and advance long-term accountability. Building on existing systems, partners refined documentation practices, ensured evidence quality and linked local findings to legal and policy processes.

Across countries, partners supported IP&LCs and CSOs in documenting violations tied to land dispossession, criminalisation of defenders, gender-based violence, forced evictions and abuses linked to extractive, agro-commodity and infrastructure projects. In the **Philippines** and **Colombia**, community-based monitoring systematically recorded threats, attacks and repression patterns affecting environmental and land defenders. This strengthened the evidence base for engaging protection mechanisms and oversight institutions.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and **Uganda**, partners documented rights violations tied to land acquisition, forest restrictions and development projects. They combined community testimonies with legal analysis to support dialogue with authorities and advocate for access to remedies. In **Liberia**, documentation focused on land-related grievances and the impacts of concession-based development on community rights, reinforcing legal claims under existing frameworks.

### Strengthening corporate accountability and advancing due diligence regulation

GLA partners used community-generated documentation to hold corporate actors accountable and advance due diligence regulations. Evidence supported complaints, submissions and advocacy to target corporate accountability mechanisms and emerging due diligence regimes. This complemented Pathway B's work.

GLA partners in the Netherlands leveraged documented cases to inform EU-level policy dialogues on corporate due diligence, access to remedies and defender protection. In 2025, partners contributed evidence to debates on implementing EU business and human rights frameworks. They highlighted weak safeguards and limited remedy access in producer countries, arguing for stronger protections, clearer corporate responsibilities and alignment between due diligence regulations and human rights commitments.

### Universal Periodic Reviews

GLA partners engaged with the UPR mechanism to address civic space restrictions, human rights violations and defender protection. They used documented evidence to support UPR follow-up, helping civil society coalitions leverage recommendations in domestic advocacy and government dialogues.

In **Colombia** and the **Philippines**, partners linked documented threats to UPR recommendations on civic space and protection. In **Uganda**, partners prepared for the 2026 UPR cycle by consolidating evidence of land and forest rights violations and strengthening CSO collaboration to reflect community concerns in future submissions.

Together, these efforts reinforced the connection between national violations and international human rights obligations. They strengthened the UPR's role in defending civic space and access to justice, without overlapping with other pathways.

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

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In 2025, regional and global collaboration under Pathway C focused on sustaining collective protection, visibility and political space for civic actors in contexts where repression and risk increasingly transcended national boundaries. Rather than establishing new platforms, GLA partners used existing regional and global networks to reinforce protection strategies, coordinate advocacy and amplify country-level evidence.

In **Southeast Asia**, partners from the **Philippines** and **Malaysia** coordinated responses to red-tagging, surveillance and restrictions on assembly which were affecting CSOs and Indigenous leaders engaged in forest and land rights work. Through regional exchanges linked to ASEAN-related processes and civil society platforms, partners shared risk analysis, security protocols and advocacy strategies, and issued joint messaging that increased regional and international visibility of threats faced by defenders.

In **South America**, regional collaboration on civic space was most visible through Indigenous and movement-led platforms linking national struggles to basin-wide dynamics. In **Colombia**, partners worked with Indigenous and Afro-descendant organisations engaged in Amazon-wide coordination, including through networks such as the North Amazon Alliance (ANA), to expose patterns of threats, criminalisation and violence affecting defenders across the Amazon basin. Regional dialogue spaces, including Amazonian convenings and exchanges among Indigenous organisations, women's meetings and gender-oriented public forums, were used to share protection strategies, coordinate advocacy and elevate civic space concerns in regional and international forums.

In **Africa**, partners from **DRC**, **Liberia** and **Uganda** exchanged approaches to navigating administrative restrictions, legal harassment and constraints on CSO operations. This exchange informed engagement with regional human rights mechanisms and strengthened country-level strategies to maintain space for community participation in forest governance, land rights advocacy and accountability processes.

At a global level, collaboration drew directly on documented country cases to inform advocacy and protection efforts. Evidence from countries including **Colombia**, **the Philippines** and **Uganda** was used to engage with international civil society coalitions, UN human rights mechanisms and global advocacy networks to highlight patterns of repression affecting environmental defenders. This helped reinforce calls for stronger protection frameworks, access to remedy and accountability for violations, and supported international pressure in contexts where national protection mechanisms remained weak.

Global collaboration also enabled the participation of Indigenous peoples, women and youth representatives from GLA countries in international forums on forests, climate, biodiversity and human rights. By connecting country-level experiences to global debates, these efforts reinforced the understanding that safeguarding civic space is a prerequisite for inclusive forest governance and durable environmental outcomes.

# 3. INCLUSION, GENDER EQUALITY AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

PROGRESS PER PATHWAY OF THE THEORY OF CHANGE



## TRANSVERSAL TO ALL PATHWAYS: GENDER AND INCLUSION

In the FfJF programme, gender equality and inclusion goals were prioritised in the planning and monitoring framework from the start. Working with Women Engage for a Common Future / Global Forest Coalition (WECF/GFC) at a global level and gender partners at a national level, this prioritisation supported the integration of a gender lens across the programme. In 2025, gender-transformative programming under the FfJF programme focused on consolidating women's leadership, influence and institutional change.

### 3.1 GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMMING AND LEADERSHIP

Building on earlier activities, GLA partners strengthened women's roles within IP&LC organisations, social movements and alliance structures, even in politically constrained contexts.

Across countries, partners supported women leaders to engage in forest governance, land rights advocacy and accountability processes. In **Colombia**, Indigenous and Afro-descendant women took visible roles in territorial defence and advocacy, supported by leadership training and protection measures. In **the Democratic Republic of Congo** and Liberia, partners worked with women in community forest management to increase their participation in decision making and oversight of forest use and benefit-sharing.

In **Indonesia**, a multi-year feminist participatory action research (FPAR) process concluded with women playing an active role in determining and establishing the boundaries of Penjalin village. In **Ghana**, group management and leadership training for women led to newly formed community resource management areas (CREMAs) in the Atewa landscape, where women now hold 40 to 50% of executive committee positions. In **Uganda**, targeted support enabled women to become forest patrollers, reducing forest violations and increasing their economic autonomy. Meanwhile, in **Bolivia**, a training programme implemented by IBIF in partnership with Nur University Bolivia equipped 20 women leaders with skills in project formulation, financial management and organisational leadership. As a result, four women's organisations secured funding for strategic projects.

At a global level, collaboration with WECF/GFC continued to anchor gender-transformative approaches within Alliance strategy and international advocacy. All GLA partner organisations developed gender action plans or policies, ensuring these approaches endured beyond the programme. Partners also advanced feminist analysis and collective positioning in biodiversity, climate and forest policy spaces, reinforcing gender justice as being integral to rights-based forest governance.

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## 3.2 YOUTH AGENCY AND INTERSECTIONALITY

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Youth engagement in 2025 centred on strengthening agency, leadership and intergenerational continuity, recognising young people as rights-holders and political actors rather than beneficiaries. GLA partners focused on sustaining youth-led spaces and networks established earlier in the programme, and linking youth action to governance, advocacy and movement building.

In **Southeast Asia**, the Youth Engagement and Empowerment Hive in Asia (YEEHA!) continued to serve as a regional platform for Indigenous and local community youth. In 2025, youth leaders from countries including the **Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam** and **Indonesia** engaged in leadership development, participatory mapping and action planning, reinforcing youth contributions to forest governance and advocacy at local, national and regional levels.

Youth engagement also integrated an intersectional lens, addressing the specific barriers faced by young women, Indigenous youth and youth from marginalised communities. By embedding youth agency within broader governance and rights strategies, partners helped ensure continuity of leadership and movement capacity beyond the programme's closure.

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## 3.3 CHALLENGES AND REFLECTIONS

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Despite sustained progress, gender-transformative and youth-inclusive work in 2025 continued to face structural and contextual challenges, as documented across several country reports. In **Colombia** and the **Philippines**, women and youth leaders involved in territorial defence and environmental advocacy faced heightened security risks, including threats, surveillance and stigmatisation, which constrained safe participation in public decision making. In many, if not all, of the GLA operating countries, entrenched social norms, patriarchal mindsets and power imbalances limited the ability of women to influence community forest governance bodies, despite formal inclusion mechanisms. Across contexts, partners were required to continuously balance leadership development and participation with protection and risk mitigation in increasingly constrained civic space.

The final year of the programme highlighted the importance of long-term investment, Alliance-wide coherence and adaptive strategies to sustain gender and youth gains. For example, continued targeted support to women's leadership within community forest governance structures and the consolidation of youth networks such as YEEHA! in Southeast Asia, demonstrated that progress on gender equality and youth agency depends on sustained engagement over time. Lessons from 2025 underscore that gender equality and youth agency require continuous political commitment and cannot be treated as add-ons to forest governance or environmental action.

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# 4. PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (PMEL)

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## 4.1 PARTICIPATORY CONSULTATIONS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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In 2025, PMEL working group led a programme-wide process of [participatory consultations with Indigenous peoples and local communities](#), responding to the midterm review's recommendation to centre community perspectives in end-of-programme learning. The PMEL working group developed voluntary guidelines for country partners, grounding the process in downward accountability and locally led reflection. This resulted in 29 consultation reports from Africa, Asia and Latin America, all based on focus group discussions with communities involved since the programme's inception.

PMEL coordinated a structured and transparent analysis, assigning review responsibilities across regions to reduce bias. The findings highlighted community experiences with leadership, territorial governance and inclusion. A participant from **Liberia** noted:

*"It was from when they started to speak for and on behalf of communities within Pleeho district that are affected by environmental and human rights issues in concession areas. At that time, nobody could talk to us. But because of the training and awareness and the support, some of us got the gift to speak out."* The consultations also underscored the importance of long-term accompaniment. As a woman leader from the Philippines explained:

*"The Forest for a Just Future programme had a significant contribution to what we have or who we are now in the community. Before, we only dreamed of recognition, empowerment and access to services. Now, we have achieved these because of the project."*

The insights, consolidated into regional and cross-regional analyses, are now informing the end-term evaluation and final reporting. By integrating community voices, the process strengthens the credibility of learning and ensures local perspectives shape the programme's legacy.

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## 4.2 PROGRAMME END-TERM EVALUATION (ETE)

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In 2025, PMEL supported the inception phase of the end-term evaluation, initiated by an independent external team in line with Ministry of Foreign Affairs requirements. Key activities included finalising the evaluation framework, refining questions and confirming a mixed-methods design that combines document review, outcome harvesting, interviews, surveys and case studies, with a focus on contribution rather than attribution. PMEL played a substantive role in coordinating access to programme documentation, aligning

evaluation questions with the Theory of Change, and integrating outcome harvesting data to ensure continuity with ongoing learning. Throughout the process, PMEL emphasised the need to reflect locally led approaches, gender equality, inclusion and civic space, while capturing both intended and unintended effects. The inception report, completed in October 2025, laid the groundwork for findings that will inform programme accountability and future rights-based forest initiatives in 2026.

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## 4.3 COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND EXCHANGE

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Collaborative learning and exchange remained a core element of the FfJF programme in 2025, supporting cross-country reflection, peer exchange and consolidation of learning during the programme's final year. Building on the formats and approach described in earlier reports, learning in 2025 focused on synthesis, strategic alignment and closure learning, with particular emphasis on horizontal exchange between partners and grounding reflection in practice.

### Exchange and learning sessions (ELS)

The GLA exchange and learning space (ELS) continued as the Alliance's primary platform, addressing thematic priorities like **strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs)**, where partners shared legal strategies and risk mitigation tactics. A session on **young views of the Amazon** highlighted youth perspectives on territorial governance, while another explored the risks and opportunities of artificial intelligence for civil society advocacy. The Palawan exchange, organised by NTFP-EP and Gaia Amazonas, brought South-South learning to all 11 GLA countries, sharing results and lessons from the field.

Additional sessions included a gender hub discussion on **positive masculinities and ecology**, and a deep dive into **forest conservation and gender equality in conflict zones**, using the ongoing crisis in **Goma, DRC**, as a case study. There, partners examined how armed conflict and displacement disproportionately affect women's land rights and forest access, and how local groups adapt advocacy strategies in volatile contexts. The programme closed with an ELS in August 2025, where partners reflected on four years of collective learning, distilling insights from 28 sessions since 2022 to inform future work.

### Practice-based learning and communities of practice

Practice-based learning continued in 2025 through virtual spaces such as the **Inclusive Forests Community of Practice (InFoCOP)**. Facilitated by organisations which had expressed an interest in sharing topics of their choice, three sessions were held: one on organisational gender action plans (OGAPs); a second on grassroots actions that have successfully enhanced women's participation and access to decision making in conservation and resource management; and a third reflecting on how grassroots feminist priorities can be connected to higher-level policy and decision-making spaces, and how structural barriers to participation can be resisted. Insights from these exchanges were synthesised in short InFoCOP bulletins, supporting wider sharing and Alliance-level reflection.

Additional practice-based learning emerged at country and national levels. In the Netherlands, partners continued engagement through **The Dutch Roundtable on Tropical Forests**, initiated in 2023, as a space for reflection between civil society, researchers and policymakers, drawing on experiences from FfJF partner countries to inform Dutch and EU policy debates. At country and thematic level, partners in **Ghana** and **Liberia**, as well as thematic programmes under **CRDD** and **JET**, documented lessons emerging from community forest governance, benefit-sharing, documentation and advocacy practice. Together, these initiatives complemented formal learning spaces by grounding reflection in real-time experience during the programme's final year.



Communities share knowledge rooted in their forests and territories organised by NTFP-EP and Gaia Amazonas © Felipe Rodríguez Vásquez

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS

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<b>ACTO</b>	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
<b>ANA</b>	North Amazon Alliance (Alianza Norte Amazónica)
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>CADT</b>	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>CBO</b>	Community-based organisation
<b>CRDD</b>	Community Rights and Deforestation Drivers (thematic programme)
<b>CREMA</b>	Community resource management area
<b>CSO</b>	Civil society organisation
<b>EACOP</b>	East African crude oil pipeline
<b>EHRDs</b>	Environmental and human rights defenders
<b>ELS</b>	Exchange and learning space
<b>ETI</b>	Indigenous territorial entity (Colombia)
<b>ETE</b>	End-term evaluation
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EU CSDDD</b>	EU directive on corporate sustainability due diligence
<b>EUDR</b>	EU deforestation regulation
<b>FfJF</b>	Forests for a Just Future
<b>FoE</b>	Friends of the Earth
<b>FoEI</b>	Friends of the Earth International
<b>FPAR</b>	Feminist participatory action research
<b>FPIC</b>	Free, prior and informed consent
<b>GBF</b>	Global Biodiversity Framework
<b>GFC</b>	Global Forest Coalition
<b>GLA</b>	Green Livelihoods Alliance
<b>GSBA</b>	Globally significant biodiversity areas
<b>ICCA</b>	Indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas
<b>IP&amp;LC</b>	Indigenous peoples and local communities
<b>IP</b>	Indigenous peoples
<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>IUCN NL</b>	IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands
<b>JET</b>	Just Energy Transition
<b>KM-GBF</b>	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
<b>LGL</b>	Local-to-global-to-local
<b>LVVN</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (Netherlands)
<b>mHREDD</b>	Mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence
<b>MEP</b>	Member of European Parliament
<b>MoFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MTR</b>	Midterm review
<b>NAP BHR</b>	National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

<b>NbS</b>	Nature-based solutions
<b>NBSAP</b>	National biodiversity strategy and action plan
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally determined contributions
<b>NTFP-EP</b>	Non-timber forest products – exchange programme
<b>ODA</b>	Official development assistance
<b>OGAP</b>	Organisational gender action plan
<b>PMEL</b>	Planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning
<b>PoV</b>	Power of Voices
<b>RAISG</b>	Amazonian Network of Georeferenced Socio-Environmental Information
<b>REDD</b>	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
<b>SDI</b>	Sustainable Development Institute
<b>SIGETI</b>	Indigenous territorial information system (Colombia)
<b>SLAPP</b>	Strategic lawsuits against public participation
<b>TBI</b>	Tropenbos International
<b>ToC</b>	Theory of Change
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>VoCE</b>	Vision on Collaboration and Equity
<b>WECF</b>	Women Engage for a Common Future
<b>(W)EHRD</b>	(Women) environmental human rights defenders
<b>YEEHA!</b>	Youth Engagement and Empowerment Hive in Asia

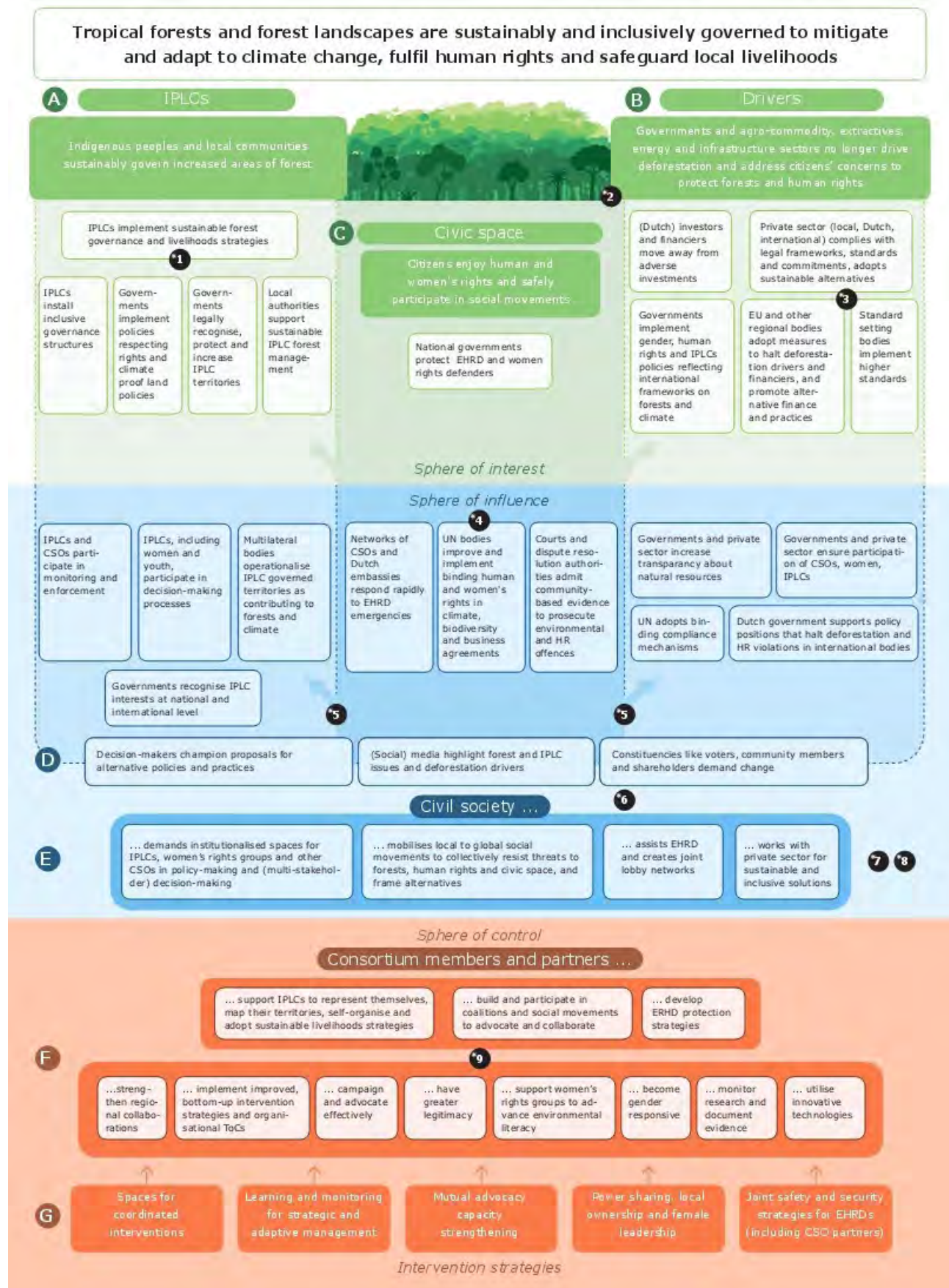
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# ANNEXES

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- A. Theory of Change
- B. Overview of countries, partners and landscapes 2021-2025
- C. GLA monitoring framework and indicator - comparative baseline and endline data

# Annex A. Theory of Change



## Annex B.

### Overview of countries, partners and landscapes 2021-2025

# partners	GLA 1st ring partners	Type of partner	Landscapes(*)/Areas/Regions	# landscapes
<b>GLA country programme</b>				
<b>Bolivia</b>				
1	Instituto Boliviano de Investigación Forestal (IBIF)	Local implementing partner (TBI)	1) Eco-region of Chiquitanía 2) Chaco Pantanal 3) Northern Amazon (Eastern Bolivia).  These landscapes include 6 municipalities, 4 national protected areas and 4 regional (departmental or municipal) protected areas.	<b>3</b>
2	Centro de Documentación e Información Bolivia (CEDIB)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
3	Asociación para la Conservación, Investigación de la Biodiversidad y el Desarrollo Sustentable (SAVIA)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
4	Productividad Biosfera Medio Ambiente (PROBIOMA)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
	Centro de Capacitación e Investigación de la Mujer Campesina de Tarija (CCIMCAT)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)		
	Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado (CIPCA) partner of GFC [2021-2022]	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)		
	Coordinadora de la Mujer [2021-2022]	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)		
<b>Cameroon</b>				
5	Le Centre pour le Développement et l'Environnement (CED / FoE Cameroon)	Local implementing partner (SDI)	1) Southern part of the Congo Basin rainforest in Cameroon.	<b>2</b>
6	Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)	2) Kilum Ijim forest in North West region	
<b>Colombia</b>				
7	Fundación para la conservación y desarrollo sostenible (FCDS)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	1) Northwest Colombian Amazon, also known as the deforestation arc which covers the departments of Caquetá, Guaviare and south of Meta;  2) Northeast Colombian Amazon, which covers the departments of Amazonas, Vaupés and Guainía.  3) Andes Region.	<b>3</b>
8	Gaia Amazonas Foundation	Alliance partner, Local implementing partner (Gaia)		
9	Tropenbos Colombia	Local implementing partner (TBI)		
10	Censat Agua Viva / FoE Colombia	Local implementing partner (MD)		

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

<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>				
11	Alerte Congolaise pour l'Environnement et les Droits de l'Homme (ACEDH)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)	1) Eastern Landscape: Virunga/Kahuzi Biega 2) The central landscape, extending over three provinces: Mongala, Bas-Uele and Tshopo 3) Salonga and Upemba landscape (West DRC).	<b>3</b>
12	Centre de Recherche sur l'Environnement la Démocratie et les Droits de l'Homme (CREDDHO)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
13	Fédération des comités des pêcheurs individuels sur le Lac Edouard (FECOPEILE)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
14	Strong Roots	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
15	Centre d'Education pour la Protection de l'Environnement et Développement durable (CEPED)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
16	Foyer de Développement pour l'Autopromotion des Pygmées et Indigènes Défavorisés (FDAPID)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
17	Innovation pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement (IDPE)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
	Innovation et Formation pour le Développement et la Paix (IFDP)	Local implementing partner (IUCN NL)		
18	Tropenbos DRC	Local implementing partner (TBI)		
19	Coalition of Women Leaders for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CFLEDD)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)		
20	Conseil pour la Terre des Ancêtres (CTA)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)		
21	Programme Intégré pour le Développement du Peuple Pygmée (PIDP)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)		
22	Common Front for the Protection of the Environment and Protected Areas (FCPEEP)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)		

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

# partners	GLA 1st ring partners	Type of partner	Landscapes(*)/Areas/Regions	# land-scapes
<b>GLA country programme</b>				

<b>Indonesia</b>				
27	NTFP-EP Indonesia	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	1) Mudiak Baduo (West Sumatra) 2) Ketapang-Kayong Utara (West Kalimantan) 3) Kayan (North Kalimantan) 4) Lariang (Central Sulawesi)	<b>4</b>
28	Komunitas Konservasi Indonesia - Warung Konservasi (KKI-WARSI)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)		
29	Sawit Watch	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)		
30	Tropenbos Indonesia	Local implementing partner (TBI)		
31	Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI)	Local implementing partner (MD)		
32	Solidaritas Perempuan   Berdaulat Perempuan Indonesia	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)		
<b>Liberia</b>				
33	Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)	Alliance partner, Local implementing partner (SDI)	1) Southeast (Sinoe, Grand Kru and Maryland Counties) 2) Northwest (Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu Counties).	<b>2</b>
34	Community Rights Support Facility (CRSF)	Local implementing partner (SDI)		
35	The Day Light [from 2022]	Local implementing partner (SDI)		
36	Liberia Forest Media Watch (LFMW) [from 2023]	Local implementing partner (SDI) and (TBI 2021 - 2023)		
37	Rural Integrated Center for Community Empowerment (RICCE)	Local technical partner, gender (WECF)		
	Civil Society Independent Forest Monitors [2021 only]	Local implementing partner (TBI)		

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

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

<b>Philippines</b>				
42	NTFP EP Philippines (Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Program)	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	1) Sierra Madre Mountain Range in Luzon, 2) Southern Palawan 3) Northern Mindanao 4) South Central Mindanao	<b>4</b>
43	Institute for the Development of Educational and Ecological Alternatives, Inc. (IDEAS)	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)		
44	Environmental Legal Assistance Center (ELAC)	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)		
45	Mabuwaya Foundation	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)		
46	Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)		
47	Kitanglad Integrated NGOs, Inc. (KIN)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)		
48	Lilak Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights (LILAK)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)		
49	Samdhana Institute	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)		
50	Legal Rights and Natural Resources Center (LRCKSK/FoEPHils)	Local implementing partner (MD)		
51	Forest Foundation Philippines	Local implementing partner (TBI)		
<b>Uganda</b>				
52	Ecological Trends Alliance (ETA)	Local implementing partner (TBI)	1) Albertine Graben	<b>1</b>
53	African Institute of Energy Governance (AFIEGO)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)		
54	Friends of Zoka (FoZ)	Local implementing partner (IUCN-NL)		
55	Action for Rural Women's Empowerment (ARUWE)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF)		

<b>Vietnam</b>				
56	PanNature	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)	1) Central highlands. Four provinces in the Dak Lak, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, and Lam Dong.	<b>1</b>
57	NTFP-EP Vietnam	Local implementing partner (NTFP-EP)		
58	Tropenbos Vietnam (TBVN)	Local implementing partner (TBI)		

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

CRDD			
	Milieudefensie	Alliance member	
	SDI	Alliance member	
59	Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE)	International implementing partner (MD)	
60	Friends of the Earth International (FoEI)	International implementing partner (MD)	
61	Friends of the Earth Africa	Local implementing partner (MD)	
62	Sobrevivencia (Paraguay)	Local implementing partner (MD)	
63	Friends of the Earth Malaysia (SAM)	Local implementing partner (MD)	
64	Young Volunteers for the Environment (JVE), Ivory Coast	Local implementing partner (MD)	
	CSOs already mentioned above in the GLA country section: FoE Ghana, CED (Cameroon), WALHI (Indonesia), LRC-KsK (The Philippines)		
JET			
	Milieudefensie	Alliance member	
	SDI	Alliance member	
65	Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities (AERC), Ghana	Local implementing partner (MD)	
66	Friends of the Earth Togo (FoE Togo)	Local implementing partner (MD)	
67	Environment Governance Institute (EGI), Uganda	Local implementing partner (MD)	
68	Centro de Estudio Ambiente Sociedad y Energía (CEASE), Argentina	Local implementing partner (MD)	
	CSOs already mentioned above in the GLA country and or CRDD TP section: FoE Ghana, JA! (Mozambique), AFIEGO (Uganda), Censat Agua Viva (Colombia)		

# partners	GLA 1st ring partners	Type of partner	Landscapes(*)/Areas/Regions
	Others		
69	North Amazon Alliance (ANA)	Regional network partner (Gaia)	Region north of the Amazon River (5 countries: Brasil, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru)
70	Friends of the Earth Brazil	Local implementing partner (MD)	1) Pará: Colares, 2) Rio Grande do Sul: Triunfo
71	Auriga Nusantara (Indonesia)	Country implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
72	Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AlTo), Indonesia	Country implementing partner (IUCN NL)	
73	HENOI (Paraguay)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF/GFC)	
74	Iniciativa Amoticodie (Paraguay)	Local technical partner - gender (WECF/GFC)	
75	Vereniging van Beleggers voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling, (VBDO), Netherlands	Technical partner (IUCN NL )	
76	Protection International	Technical partner (IUCN NL )	
77	Women Environmental Programme (WEP) (Nigeria/regional)	Regional (technical) network partner (WECF)	
	Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN), Argentina/regional [2022-2023]	Regional network partner (IUCN NL)	

# Annex C.

## GLA monitoring framework and indicators - comparative baseline and endline data

GLA ToC Result 1		Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) sustainably govern increased areas of forest							
Result 1 GLA indicators	1. Area of land (hectares) under improved sustainable forest management or other improved practices contributing to decreased deforestation.								
	==> <b>Linked to IGG indicator:</b> Area of forest(ed) land under sustainable forest management or other improved practises contributing to decreased deforestation, enhanced carbon sinks and increased adaptive capacity of ecosystems and livelihoods								
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result until end 2025	Narrative	Data collection: baseline, midline, endline
	<b>Target 2025</b>								
	1. 29,005,000 hectares			34,066,400 hectares				41,231,000 hectares	1. As of 2025, the GLA programme has influenced an area of over 41 million hectares of forested landscapes. This includes about 21 million hectares of land under improved management by IP & LCs under community forest and resource management arrangements, 14 million hectares of areas with recognized control of IP&LCs (some areas shared with previous category), 2 million hectares under intersectional commitments, and over 4 million hectares of protected areas with improved protection measures and active monitoring. Another million hectares of forested lands identified and targeted at the baseline were not surveyed and, thus, remain with unknown status.

GLA ToC Result 2		IPLCs implementing gender inclusive and sustainable forest governance and livelihood strategies								
Result 2 GLA indicators	2a. Number of people (women, men, young men and young women) who are better prepared and/or supported to use improved sustainable practices and to participate in (local) governance.									
	==> <b>Linked to IGG indicator:</b> Number of beneficiaries (m/f) supported by projects and programs on sustainable agriculture and/or forestry practices in the landscape/jurisdiction									
Data overview	2b. Number of people (women, men, young men and young women) who practise (improved) sustainable activities and/or actively participate in (local) governance and thus experience increased adaptive capacity (resilience) to climate change									
	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2021 until mid 2023	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result until end 2025	Narrative	Data collection: baseline, midline, endline	
	<b>Target 2025</b>									
	2a. 0 people			192,710 people				262,700 people	2a. As of 2025, the GLA programme has reached more than 262 thousand people in the various landscapes and countries, slightly surpassing the programme target. This number includes a large proportion of men, which already surpassed the target set at the beginning of the programme. On the other hand, the programme did not reach the targeted number of women, young men and young women standing at roughly 78%, 83% and 45% of the intended targets respectively. The most derived benefits from the programme are improved capacities to participate in management and governance processes and improved access to resources (totalling 125 thousand and 117 thousand people each). Improved income and improved food security are the other benefits derived with 95 thousand and 92 thousand people reported respectively. <b>Note:</b> Since the indicator measures the amount of people reached and deriving a benefit from the programme, double-counting is possible in some cases (some double counts have been spotted and taken out, but a few may have gone unnoticed) since the same group might be impacted by different interventions and GLA strategies simultaneously.	2a. 230,780 people; <b>Note:</b> The target has been slightly adapted to align with a revision made at MTR, though overlooked at the time.
	Women: 0			47,650 women				68,300 women		Women: 84,440
	Men: 0			122,850 men				152,300 men		Men: 82,640
	Young women: 0			6,840 young women				13,200 young women		Young women: 32,000
	Young men: 0			15,370 young men				28,900 young men		Young men: 31,700
	2b. Total: 17,350			26,245 people				72,200 people		2b. 44,300 people
	Women: 4,600			6820 women				25,450 women	Women: 15,300	
	Men: 9,900			12,830 men				32,100 men	Men: 19,200	
Young women: 1,050			1,985 young women				5,400 young women	Young women: 4,600		
Young men: 1,800			1,985 young women				9,200 young men	Young men: 5,200		

GLA ToC Result 3		Government and agro-commodities, extractives, energy and infrastructure sectors no longer drive deforestation. (Pathway B and contribute to Pathway C)							
		*Please note that the reported results in previous years have been higher in some instances due to partners retrospectively reporting outcomes from earlier years at a later stage in the programme.							
Result 3 GLA indicators	3. Number and nature (*) of policies, agreements, investments, standards and regulations implemented, complied with and/or blocked by local, national, regional and global public and private actors that address drivers of deforestation, distinguishing between those that have a gender perspective and those that do not (qualitative).								
	==> Linked to DSO basket indicators: SCS1 number of laws and policies for sustainable and inclusive development that are better implemented as a result of CSO engagement SCS2 number of laws and policies for sustainable and inclusive development adopted/improved/blocked as a result of CSO engagement  (*) Nature of policies: Main focus on community-driven management of land and forests, management regulations for the financial and economic sectors that drive deforestation, biodiversity and nature conservation, coffee/oil palm/ soy, mining, human rights and the rights of environmental and human rights defenders								
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Result until end 2025	Narrative	Data collection: baseline, midline, endline
	3. Number of policies: 60 policies etc. (11 of which are gender-responsive and 0 of which are gender-transformative)	3. Number of policies changed: 31	3. Number of policies changed: 51	3. Number of policies changed: 62	3. Number of policies changed: 76	3. Number of policies changed: 62	3. Number of policies changed: 282	3. As of end 2025, 282 policies that address drivers of deforestation have changed with contribution of GLA interventions. These policies represented a change in relation to the agro-industry sector, mining, forestry, finance, infrastructure or changes in gender and/or inclusiveness. Of the 282 changes, 143 were made by public government actors, 59 by civil actors, like community members, local leaders, community groups, individuals (women, men, youth, etc), 37 by private sector actors and 13 by civil society actors.	3. 96 policies

GLA ToC Result 4		IPLCs install inclusive governance structures and (local and national) authorities support sustainable IPLC forest management (Pathway A)							
		*Please note that the reported results in previous years have been higher in some instances due to partners retrospectively reporting outcomes from earlier years at a later stage in the programme.							
Result 4 GLA indicators	4. Number and nature of changes (**) in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management.								
	==> Linked to DSO basket indicators: SCS1 (refer to indicator 3) SCS2 (refer to indicator 3)  (**) Nature of policies: Most of the policies identified are on the agenda or being implemented and are gender-sensitive; i.e., recognising but not addressing differences in participation, power, needs, etc. of men and women   Nature of changes: changes in level of adoption/implementation; content or level of gender responsiveness								
Data overview	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Result until end 2025	Narrative	Data collection: baseline, midline, endline
	4. Number of changes in policies and practices: 0 policies and practices	4. 26 changes in policies and practices	4. 70 changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management.	4. 73 changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management.	4. 93 changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management.	4. 71 changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management.	4. 333 changes in policies and practices contributing to inclusive and gender-responsive governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management.	4. As of end 2025, 333 changes in policies and practices contributing to governance structures and sustainable IPLC forest management have been made with contributions from the GLA Alliance. 150 of the 333 changes in policies have been implemented or adopted, while 111 changes in policies resulted a change in gender equality, justice and/or inclusiveness of marginalised groups. 187 of the 333 policies depict a change in IPLC inclusive governance structures, others are changes in multistakeholder settings (49) or general government structures (43). Continuous effort of the GLA can potentially lead to several changes in one policy across multiple years, thus potentially contributing to the cumulative count of one policy over the specified period.	4. 82 changes in policies and practices

GLA ToC Result 5										
Public and private actors (in relation to agro-commodities, extractives, energy and infrastructure sectors) adopt policies/standards/agreements that promote forests and human and women's rights (Pathway B) *Please note that the reported results in previous years have been higher in some instances due to partners retrospectively reporting outcomes from earlier years at a later stage in the programme.										
<b>Result 5 GLA indicators</b> 5. Number and nature (***) of changes in policies, agreements, investments, standards and regulations adopted by local, national, regional and global public and private actors to address the drivers of deforestation in a gender-responsive way and to protect the rights of (W)EHRDS. ==> <b>Linked to DSO basket indicators: SCS1</b> (refer to indicator 3) / <b>SCS2</b> (refer to indicator 3) (***) Nature of policies: Most of the identified policies are on the agenda and are gender-sensitive or gender-blind. The main focus aligns with that of indicator 3   Nature of the changes: changes in the level of adoption/ implementation; content or level of gender responsiveness										
<b>Data overview</b>	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Result until end 2025	Narrative		
										Data collection: baseline, midline, endline
										Target 2025
5. Number of policies: 0 policies										5. 48 policies
5. 11 policies have been adopted by local, national, regional and global actors.										
5. 16 policies have been adopted/improved/drafted by local, national, regional and global actors to address drivers of deforestation and to protect civic space and protect the rights of (W) EHRDs specifically.										
5. 27 policies have been adopted/improved/drafted by local, national, regional and global actors to address drivers of deforestation and to protect civic space and protect the rights of (W) EHRDs specifically.										
5. 19 policies have been adopted/improved/drafted by local, national, regional and global actors to address drivers of deforestation and to protect civic space and protect the rights of (W) EHRDs specifically.										
5. 22 policies have been adopted/improved/drafted by local, national, regional and global actors to address drivers of deforestation and to protect civic space and protect the rights of (W) EHRDs specifically.										
4. Most of the policies have been implemented or adopted. 13 out of 25 policy changes represent a change in gender equality, justice and/or inclusiveness of marginalised groups.										
5. As of end 2025, 95 policies that adress drivers of deforestation, protect civic space and protect the rights of (W)EHRDs have been changed with contributions of the GLA Alliance. 43 out of the 95 policies reflect a change in policies by public government actors, while 28 out of 95 policies reflect a change in policy by local (indigenous) authorities and 8 out of 95 policies reflect a change in a private (business) actor. 67 out of 95 policies represented a change in gender equality, justice and/or inclusiveness of marginalised groups. Continuous effort of the GLA can potentially lead to several changes in one policy across multiple years, thus potentially contributing to the cumulative count of one policy over the specified period.										

GLA ToC Result 6										
National governments and other actors protect EHRD and women rights defenders (Pathway C)										
<b>Result 6 GLA indicators</b> 6. Extent to which men and women IPLCs, men and women EHRDs, groups that work with a gender transformative/gender justice approach, and other CSOs experience increased civic space, human rights, and women's rights										
<b>Data overview</b>	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result mid 2023	Result 2024	Result 2021 until 2024	Result 2025	Narrative		
										Data collection: baseline, midline, endline
										Target 2025
6. Due to safety issues relating to the civic space of the survey respondents no data has been collected for this indicator										6. No targets have been set for this indicator
6. A baseline report has been collected (early 2023) of which a separate report will be shared										
NA										
NA										
NA										
NA										

GLA ToC Result 7		Media, community members and (other) CSOs highlight environmental IPLC and women's rights issues and deforestation drivers							
<b>Result 7 GLA indicators</b>		<p>7. Degree to which environmental IPLC and deforestation drivers issues, including gender just reports, affecting IPLCs are taken up by and are on the agenda of social movements, constituents, media.</p> <p>==&gt; <b>Linked to DSO basket indicators:</b> SCS3 # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage.</p>							
<b>Data overview</b>	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Result until end 2025	Narrative	Target 2025
	<p><b>7. Social movements:</b> 17% of the issues (n=168) are taken up rarely; 33% of the issues are taken up sometimes; 33% of the issues are taken up often and 16% of the issues are taken up always. 1% of the issues are never taken up.</p> <p><b>7. Media:</b> 6% of identified agendas (n=178) had no coverage; 23% had some coverage; 20% had moderate coverage; 38% had good coverage; and for 12% it was a high-profile issue. On average the coverage is 'good but mostly in outlets with small audiences'.</p>	<p><b>7a.</b> 45 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 10 countries.</p>	<p><b>7.</b> 65 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>7.</b> 102 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>7.</b> 43 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 8 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>7.</b> 49 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 8 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>7.</b> 304 relevant issues / topics taken up by social movements, constituent and, media, covering 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>7.</b> By end 2025, 304 issues on environmental IP&amp;LCs and deforestation drivers issues, including gender just reports, received attention a result of efforts of the GLA programme. Of those 257 issues, 18% explicitly sought to more equally distribute power and/or access to resources between women and men or between women, 24% report paid explicit attention to differences between women and men, but not to the extent as previously described, in 24% of the issues gender was mentioned in the agenda, although it was not covered in the issue and in 34% of the issues gender was not covered at all.</p> <p>In 18% issues or reports were local, in 41% were national level and in 41% were covered the international level (multiple levels are possible per issue). The persistent commitment of the GLA alliance to uphold specific issues/ topics on the agendas of social movements, constituents, and the media has at times led to the inclusion of similar issues across multiple years, thus potentially contributing to the cumulative count over the specified period.</p>	<p><b>7.</b> The GLA aims to improve how often these issues are taken up by social movements and media, but no specific target is defined.</p>
GLA ToC Result 8		IPLCs, including women and youth, participate in decision-making processes, are an active part of monitoring and enforcement bodies, and their interests are recognised by governments at the national and international level							
<b>Result 8 GLA indicators</b>		<p>8. Number of spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement bodies and their interests are increasingly recognized by governments at national and international level.</p> <p>==&gt; <b>Linked to DSO basket indicators:</b> SCS3 # of times that CSOs succeed in creating space for CSO demands and positions through agenda setting, influencing the debate and/or creating space to engage</p>							
<b>Data overview</b>	Baseline 2021	Result 2021	Result 2022	Result 2023	Result 2024	Result 2025	Result until end 2025	Narrative	Target 2025
	<p><b>8.</b> Of the 131 processes IPLC men always participate in 41%; often participate in 24%; and sometimes participate in 20%.</p>	<p><b>8.</b> 31 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 9 countries</p>	<p><b>8.</b> 56 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>8.</b> 89 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>8.</b> 48 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 8 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>8.</b> 44 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>8.</b> 268 spaces in which IPLCs, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes, are more active in monitoring and enforcement as well as increasingly recognized by governments in 11 countries including The Netherlands.</p>	<p><b>8.</b> By the end 2025, the GLA alliance has contributed to a total of 268 spaces in which IPLCs have increased participation. The groups that reported increased in these spaces were CSOs (28), community-based organizations (14), social movements (22), women groups (45), indigenous communities (78) and local communities (27). The persistent commitment of the GLA alliance to maintain participation of IP&amp;LCs in decision making spaces, has at times led to the inclusion of spaces across multiple years, thus contributing to the cumulative count over the specified period.</p>	<p><b>8.</b> The aim of the programme is to increase the level of influence or participation in decision making by IPLCs in more processes, especially at national and international level. Besides, the programme aims to increase the level of participation for women and young women/ men in all processes. No specific target is defined in this case.</p>
	<p>IPLC women always participate in 21% of the processes; often participate in 20% and sometimes participate in 30%.</p>								
	<p>IPLC young men always participate in 11% of the processes, often participate in 8%; sometimes participate in 27%; and rarely participate in 31%.</p>								
<p>IPLC young women always participate in 6% of the processes; often participate in 4%, sometimes participate in 18%; and rarely participate in 32%.</p>									

<p><b>GLA ToC Result 9</b> Alliance members and partners strengthen their capacity for international and regional collaborations and exchange, legitimacy, effective L&amp;A, etc.</p>									
<p><b>Result 9 GLA indicators</b> 9. Degree to which alliance members, CSO partners, CBOs, coalitions, social movements and womens groups have increased capacity and skills to advocate effectively and/or with improved ability to activate and strengthen the capacity of other civil actors.                  ==&gt; <b>Linked to DSO basket indicator:</b> SCS5 number of CSOs with increased lobby and advocacy capacities</p>									
<b>Data overview</b>	<b>Baseline 2021</b>	<b>Result 2021</b>	<b>Result 2022</b>	<b>Result 2023</b>	<b>Result 2024</b>	<b>Result 2025</b>	<b>Result until end 2025</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Target 2025</b>
	9. For the 43 partners 218 capacities were identified (21 types of capacities, with an average of 5 per CSO). Of these, 31% of capacities were assessed as low, 54% were moderate and 15% were high.	9. Total 57 CSOs / CBOs strengthened	9. Total 80 new CSOs / CBOs were strengthened in 2022 and besides 27 CSOs / CBOs previously strengthened in 2021 were additionally strengthened 2022, as a result of the GLA alliance.	9. Total 50 new CSOs / CBOs were strengthened in 2023 and besides 53 CSOs / CBOs previously strengthened in 2021 or 2022 were additionally strenghtend in 2023.	9. Total 113 new CSOs / CBOs were strengthened in 2024 and besides 30 CSOs / CBOs previously strengthened in 2021, 2022 or 2023 were additionally strenghtend in 2024	9. Total 2 new CSOs / CBOs were strengthened in 2025 and besides 44 CSOs / CBOs previously strengthened in 2021, 2022, 2023 or 2024 were additionally strenghtend in 2025	9. Total 302 CSOs / CBOs strengthened of which 79 direct partners of the GLA Alliance (1st ring) and 223 CSO / CBO partners that are in the close network of direct partners of the GLA Alliance (2nd ring)	9. After 2025, as a result of efforts of the GLA programme at least 79 first ring partner have reported to increase their capacity in different topics and 223 second ring CBOs / CSO have been strengthened in capacity and skills to advocate effectively. These are all different and unique organizations or community groups.	9. The GLA target is to increase on average at least 2 capacity types for each GLA partner.
<p><b>GLA ToC Result 11</b> Alliance members and partners are gender transformative and support women's rights groups to advance environmental literacy</p>									
<p><b>Result 11 GLA indicators</b> 11. Degree to which actions by Alliance members and CSO partners are gender transformative                  ==&gt; <b>Linked to DSO basket indicators:</b> SCS8 number of CSOs using a Gender and Social Inclusion lens during all phases of the programming cycle, with specific attention to youth.</p>									
<b>Data overview</b>	<b>Baseline 2021</b>	<b>Result 2021</b>	<b>Result 2022</b>	<b>Result 2023</b>	<b>Result 2024</b>	<b>Result 2025</b>	<b>Result until end 2025</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Target 2025</b>
	11. 58% (Alliance members, excluding WECF)  64% (CSO partners)	11. 15 partners of the GLA Alliance	11. 30 partners of the GLA Alliance (≈ 46%)	11. 33 partners of the GLA Alliance	11. 25 partners of the GLA Alliance	11. 14 partners of the GLA Alliance	11. 53 alliance partners have taken special attention to gender in their strategies and actions in 12 countries; A total of 157 campaigns and other advocacy strategies using a Gender and Social Inclusion lens; 46 alliance partners reported on having developed/strengthened their Organizational Gender Action Plan.	11. 53 alliance partners have taken special attention to gender in their strategies and actions in 12 countries. These reported on a total of 157 campaigns and other advocacy strategies using a Gender and Social Inclusion lens. Main strategies include capacity building of implementing partners and CSOs on gender mainstreaming, lobby and advocacy of different state actors at the national and international level for instance on implementing binding human and womens rights in climate and biodiversity policy, calling for attention on feminist perspectives in the Just energy transition and in the ASEAN guidelines on recognition of customary Tenure, and for women's participation and leadership in development and land-use plans such as the Ancestral Domain Sustainable development plans, along in other decision making spaces. Additionally, 46 alliance partners reported on having developed/strengthened their Organizational Gender Action Plan.	11. 75% (Alliance Members excluding WECF)  75% (CSO partners)
<p><b>GLA ToC Result 12</b> Alliance members and local partners (at different levels) adhere to the principles of collaboration</p>									
<p><b>Result 12 GLA indicators</b> 12. Degree to which Alliance members adhere to the principles included in the GLA vision of collaboration                  12b. Degree to which the consortium and local partners address historic gender imbalances and under-representation of women in decision-making roles and processes by embedding transformative governance as an overall approach to the governance of GLA</p>									
<b>Data overview</b>	<b>Baseline 2021</b>	<b>Result 2021</b>	<b>Result 2022</b>	<b>Result 2023</b>	<b>Result 2024</b>	<b>Result 2025</b>	<b>Result until end 2025</b>	<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Target 2025</b>
	12. No data collected yet	12a. 13 partners have actively worked to adhere to the principles included in the GLA vision of collaboration	12. 49 partners of the GLA have actively worked to adhere to the principles of collaboration.	12. 55 partners of the GLA have actively worked to adhere to the principles of collaboration.	12. 61 partners of the GLA have actively worked to adhere to the principles of collaboration.	12. 61 partners of the GLA have actively worked to adhere to the principles of collaboration.	12. 61 partners of the GLA have actively worked to adhere to the principles of collaboration.	12. 61 partners of the GLA have actively worked to adhere to the principles of collaboration. This includes collaboration between partners at country level, designing joint activities and stategies and international collaboration. In 2021 there was quite some under reporting. Since then more partners actively reported on this indicator.	12. Not applicable



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