

D. FORESTS & COMMUNITY-LED FOREST GOVERNANCE

IUCN NL supports Indigenous Peoples' and local community-led forest & biodiversity governance in tropical forest landscapes where nature is under threat. Our collaboration with networks of grassroots organisations is characterised by bottom-up, inclusive, rights-based and community-led approaches.

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Worldwide, 1.6 billion people (almost 25% of the world's population) depend on forests for their livelihood; many of them are among the poorest people in the world. Powerful economic interests such as the expansion of agriculture, mining and infrastructure often take precedence over the rights and needs of local communities. As a result, large portions of nature that were used and managed by indigenous and local communities for generations, are under great pressure. People who want to counteract the loss of their land and overexploitation of nature and natural resources unite in small community organisations. But their rights are not always recognised and their knowledge not valued. This lack of recognition is reinforced by limited access to funds and limited visibility on a national and international level. The consequences of these developments are specifically serious for women. Women play a key role in food production, gathering medicinal plants and water and the sustainable use of natural resources. They also play an important role in the safeguarding and transfer of traditional knowledge about nature, while they are often excluded from decision making and denied, access to benefits or resources.

OUR COMMITMENT

IUCN NL

- works with a network of organisations that have trusted relationships with Indigenous Peoples & local communities, to develop bottom-up community projects on forest governance, locally-led adaptation and livelihoods
- acts as a broker to link the aspirations of development funds to the capability of our CSO network
- works for the recognition of the rights of local and indigenous communities, their traditional knowledge and their perception of relational value of nature
- facilitates networking & learning, provides technical support, increases the visibility of community initiatives and performs policy advocacy at national and EU level

USPs

- 20+ year track record in community governance of forests in Asia, Africa and Latin America
- access to relevant networks of CSOs
- 30+ year track record in regranting to civil society organisations
- access to relevant national and local government agencies to advocate for recognition and/or support for land use and management rights
- track record of concrete projects in forest conservation, sustainable livelihoods and locally-led adaptation

FORESTS & COMMUNITY-LED FOREST GOVERNANCE: SOME EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK



Natural resources and the rights of local communities living in or around biodiversity-rich natural areas are increasingly under threat. With the **Strengthen the Roots** project, IUCN NL and Wilde Ganzen support community organizations in Bolivia, Ghana and Indonesia that develop sustainable community enterprises based on local resources and stand up for nature in and around their communities, enabling them to mobilize local support for their work. This way, Strengthen the Roots works on nature conservation that is not performed top-down, but is driven by the interests and strength of community organizations

The Tanintharyi region of **Myanmar** is home to a variety of indigenous and local communities. The largest ethnic group is the Karen. With their knowledge and experience of sustainable use and management of natural resources built up over generations, they can make a huge contribution to nature conservation and sustainable development.



JOIN US IN SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-LED FOREST GOVERNANCE



Maartje Hilterman

Project Leader - Forests for a Just Future

E-mail: maartje.hilterman@iucn.nl



Evelien van den Broek

Senior Expert Environmental Justice

E-mail: evelien.vandenbroek@iucn.nl



Or visit our website:

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