



**Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)  
Areas of Work Relevant to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2024**

**Response: Questionnaire to the UN system agencies, funds and programmes and intergovernmental organizations**

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) explores collaboration with the United Nations, United Nations agencies, and intergovernmental organizations on actions that advance the IDB's commitment to the development with identity of Indigenous Peoples throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. These commitments are articulated in the Environmental and Social Policy Framework, the Indigenous Peoples Policy (OP-765), the Gender and Diversity Action Plan, and the Gender and Diversity Sector Framework Document.

The sections below highlight recent Inter-American Development Bank **projects, activities, and policies** as requested in the Questionnaire by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues for United Nations agencies, funds, programs and organizations.

**PROJECTS**

**Projects: Regional (ordered by approval date, most recent operations appear first)**

**Strengthening the Participation and Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and Traditional Communities (PIACT) in the Amazon Initiative. RG-T4176**

The project aims to generate up-to-date information and knowledge about the Amazon region and key stakeholders, particularly Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and traditional communities. This initiative seeks to contribute to the design, planning, execution, and monitoring of the Bank's operations in the Amazon by employing methodologies that foster consultation, participation, and inclusion.

**Creation of the Amazon Network for Research and Innovation on Biodiversity. RG-T4161**

The objective of this project is to establish the Amazon Network for Biodiversity Research and Innovation as a tool to enhance and drive scientific-technological developments and innovations geared towards fostering the bioeconomy. Indigenous Peoples will receive knowledge or technology transfers aimed at increasing their income while safeguarding biodiversity.

**Incubator of Indigenous Bioeconomy Companies for the Amazon Region. RG-T4155**

This project aims to enhance the income of Indigenous Peoples from the Amazon regions of Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru by fostering a participatory model for incubating Indigenous bio-businesses. Key activities encompass strengthening the business capacities of Indigenous enterprises, identifying a Pipeline of Indigenous businesses, and providing financing to 15 Indigenous companies producing environmentally sustainable and marketable products.

**Contingency Plan to Protect the Health of Highly Vulnerable Indigenous Peoples in Initial Contact. RG-T3767**

The aim of this project is to articulate actions with Amazon countries to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and the threats of tropical diseases facing Indigenous Peoples, with a particular emphasis on Indigenous Peoples (IP) in voluntary isolation and initial contact (PIACI). Key activities include conducting health diagnostic exercises analyzing the conditions of IP, developing epidemiological contingency plans, strengthening indigenous early warning systems, and coordinating public health services.



**Projects: National (alphabetical order by country and ordered by approval date, most recent operations appear first)**

## **Argentina**

### **Matriarch: Innovation Platform for the Internationalization of Indigenous Women's Crafts from the Argentine Great Chaco. AR-G1009/AR-T1339**

The aim of the project is to enhance the value chain of handicrafts in the Argentine Gran Chaco through digital innovation and environmentally sustainable production methods, to empower rural and Indigenous women and reduce their vulnerability to climate change. Beneficiaries include approximately 2,600 artisans from Indigenous communities, including Wichí, Qom, Qomle'ec, and Pilagá, from 18 to 60 years old and residing in the provinces of Formosa, Chaco, and Salta.

### **Economic Resilience of Indigenous and Farming Communities in the Calchaquí Valleys - Province of Tucumán. AR-T1308**

The project aims to enhance the economic resilience of Indigenous organizations in the Calchaquí Valley of Tucumán through a territorial productive model based on social and technological innovation and nature-based solutions. Key activities include strengthening viticulture, horticulture, goat farming, water and soil management, grape production, veterinary health, and technical and legal assistance to existing cooperatives.

## **Bolivia**

### **Support for generating diagnostic evidence to strengthen intracultural, intercultural, and multilingual education in Bolivia. BO-T1399**

The project provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Education for the implementation of Regionalized Curricula aimed at providing quality and culturally relevant education to Indigenous children. Key activities include assessing the educational system, monitoring the use and vitality of native languages, and implementing the Regionalized Curricula in bilingual intercultural schools in Bolivia.

## **Brasil**

### **Amazon Education Development Acceleration Program - PADEAM II. BR-L1621**

This project aims to broaden educational coverage and enhance academic performance among basic education students in the State of Amazonas, Brazil. In Manaus, it will involve the construction of Indigenous schools, fostering culturally relevant education.

### **Bio-Cities of the Amazon in Brazil: Solutions for a Sustainable Future. BR-T1509**

The aim of this project is to create urban development models for Amazon cities with the goal of safeguarding their biodiversity, halting rapid urban expansion, deforestation, and attracting bioeconomy investments. The project places emphasis on opportunities for ecological urban design that integrates the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and traditional Afro-descendant peoples, utilizing nature-based solutions.



## Colombia

### **INDI3 Fund - Indigenous Fund Capitalized by Natural Capital Token in The Colombian Amazon. CO-T1723**

The project objective is to establish an Indigenous fund capitalized by the sale of INDI3 tokens (NFTs). The INDI3 tokens represent a distinct unit of Amazonian territory under Indigenous protection. The beneficiaries are the Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon region (Amazonas, Caquetá, Guainía, Guaviare, Putumayo, and Vaupés) who are preserving their forests.

### **Economic Minga: Economic Recovery of Indigenous Peoples in Cauca Post-Pandemic. CO-T1602**

This project aims to aid the Indigenous Organization CRIC (Consejo Regional Indígena del Cauca) in enhancing the linkage between Indigenous enterprises and markets. Key activities involve identifying business initiatives, addressing challenges in market integration, and facilitating the participatory development of a protocol to ensure the socio-cultural, economic, financial, and environmental sustainability of these ventures. The CRIC comprises 139 Traditional Indigenous Authorities representing 11 Indigenous Peoples: Nasa, Misak, Epedara-Siapidara, Yanakuna, Totoroez, Embera, Kokonuko, Kisgo, Ambaló, Polindara, and Ingas.

## Ecuador

### **BASE Program - Financing Bio-Businesses for a Sustainable Amazon in Ecuador. EC-T1518**

The project aims to increase access to credit and investment in bio-businesses through the financial mechanisms of the second-tier financing of the National Corporation of Popular and Solidarity Finance (CONAFIPS). Amazon Indigenous Peoples and women engaged in bio-business chains are the target beneficiaries of this project.

### **Promoting quality education in the Ecuadorian Amazon. EC-T1502**

The aim of this project is to assist the Ecuadorian government in conducting in-depth analyses to identify strategies and policies to enhance education in the Amazon, focusing on three critical areas: school infrastructure, quality of teaching staff, and curricular adaptation (particularly in Indigenous bilingual intercultural schools).

### **COICA 80x25 - Institutional strengthening. EC-T1485**

The project objective is to strengthen the institutional capacities of the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) to further its organizational mission, particularly in addressing the challenges of sustainable and inclusive development, and the conservation of the natural capital in the Amazon. Capacity building activities include technical, administrative, and fiduciary management. COICA represents over 511 Indigenous Peoples and regional Indigenous organizations across nine Amazon countries.

### **Support to Ecuador in its strategy against deforestation in the Amazon. EC-T1479**

This project aims to strengthen the strategies and actions that Ecuador is implementing to combat deforestation in the Amazon region. Specifically, the project reinforces the Implementation Plans for Measures and Actions regarding REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) in coordination with the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE). Additionally, it supports the implementation of Life Plans with several Shuar Indigenous Peoples.



## Panama

### **Support for the Promotion of Indigenous Entrepreneurship in Panama. PN-T1189**

This project aims to finance pre-investment studies, consultation and participation processes, and specialized consultations for the development and strengthening of business capacities among Indigenous peoples. Key activities include the intercultural and bilingual adaptation of a financial education program.

## Paraguay

### **Potable Water and Sanitation Program for Small Cities and Indigenous Rural Communities. PR-L1094**

The project aims to enhance the access and quality of potable water and sanitation services in small cities and rural Indigenous Peoples communities in the Western Region or Chaco, Paraguay. It will improve water supply infrastructure, sanitary sewer systems, and wastewater treatment, focusing on areas ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 inhabitants. The project will benefit approximately 21,000 individuals self-identified as Indigenous Peoples.

## ACTIVITIES

### **Activities: Sustainable Development/Project Facility**

Indigenous peoples encounter challenges in accessing climate funds. To change this reality the IDB, through the **Amazonia Forever Program**, has established a Project Facility to ensure exclusive and direct access for Indigenous Peoples to financial resources for sustainable development activities.<sup>1</sup> The fund's launch will take place in December 2023, during the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP 28 (Dubai), in coordination with COICA and other international allies.

This Project Facility for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendants, and Traditional Peoples Community Organizations aims to:

- Contribute to the conservation and inclusive development of the Amazon
- Increase direct financing by enhancing resource management and mobilization capacities
- Strengthen organizational capacities to design and execute projects directly
- Establish a project proposal support team
- Work directly with organizations on project design, financing, implementation, and evaluation

Key areas for funding include bioeconomy, institutional strengthening, information generation and management, land management and conservation, value-added partnerships for collective ventures, and environmental and social risk management.

The work with Indigenous Peoples through the Amazonia Forever Program contributes significantly to the following Sustainability Goals:

- SDG 1: No poverty
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

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<sup>1</sup> Direct funding for programs/projects involving indigenous peoples. (UNDRIP Article 39. Indigenous peoples have the right to receive financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation to enjoy the rights set forth in this Declaration.)



- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 15: Life on Land.

### **Activities: Conservation and Bioeconomy**

In June 2023, the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) —an organization representing 511 indigenous peoples from eight Amazonian countries— spearheaded the First International Forum on Bioeconomy and Amazonian Peoples<sup>2</sup> in Belém, Brazil, with support from the IDB's Amazonia Forever Regional Program.<sup>3</sup> The forum brought together Indigenous leaders, international conservation and development organizations, and public sector authorities from the eight Amazon countries to discuss the principles guiding Indigenous economies and options for mainstreaming their outcomes in the public policy discourse in the Amazon region. The IDB also funded the participation of Indigenous leaders in the First Forum on Bioeconomy and their subsequent involvement in the Amazon Summit – IV Meeting of Heads of State of the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (August 2023). During this Summit, Indigenous Peoples presented proposals addressing the environmental and social crisis in the Amazon.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICY FRAMEWORK**

### **Environmental and Social Policy Framework**

In September 2020, the Executive Board of the Inter-American Development Bank approved a new Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF) which became effective October 2021.<sup>4</sup> The ESPF includes Standard 7 "Indigenous Peoples," which respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples and guides the Bank's operations.

The Standard is fully consistent with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 169. The IDB requires Borrowers to foster respect for Indigenous Peoples and to comply with national law, including treaty obligations.

ESPS 7 seeks to avoid, minimize, and compensate negative impacts, but also promote sustainable development benefits and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in a culturally appropriate manner.

The objectives of the standard are to recognize the unique development with identity priorities of Indigenous Peoples. The standard: i) ensures respect for the human and collective rights, dignity,

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<sup>2</sup> The Climate Change Division of the IDB is preparing Socio-Cultural Protocols of Bioeconomy, which include recommendations for the program's relationship with countries, dialogue/consultation processes with indigenous peoples, and the promotion of bioeconomy in indigenous territories. *(this action is consistent with the UNDRIP Art. 29. Right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. And Article 31. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge)*

<sup>3</sup> Gender action plan for FP173: The Amazon Bioeconomy Fund: Unlocking private capital by valuing bioeconomy products and services with climate mitigation and adaptation results in the Amazon.

This document outlines the gender action plan for project FP173: The Amazon Bioeconomy Fund. Indigenous Peoples are key beneficiaries. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/fp173-gender-action-plan.pdf>. *(this action is consistent with UNDRIP Article 22. In the application of this Declaration, particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of elderly individuals, women, youth, children, and indigenous persons with disabilities.)*

<sup>4</sup> Information on this performance standard can be found on the IDB website at: <https://www.iadb.org/en/who-we-are/topics/environmental-and-social-solutions/environmental-and-social-policy-framework>



aspirations, culture, and livelihoods of IPs, ii) avoids adverse impacts of IDB financed projects on IPs, iii) promotes sustainable development benefits and opportunities for IPs in a culturally appropriate manner, iv) ensures culturally appropriate engagement of IPs and v) ensures the FPIC of the Project-Affected Communities of Indigenous Peoples.

The IDB has developed Guidelines for ESPS 7 and an online course is available to the public. The Bank is developing operational resources to support its specialists and government executing agencies in the implementation of the ESPF in project preparation and supervision adapted to the needs of Indigenous Peoples in each country to meet the requirements of ESPS 7.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Public Consultations: Step-by-Step Process. Applicable Regulatory Frameworks by Countries: (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, others). The guidelines include recommendations for processes of prior, free, and informed consultation with indigenous peoples. <http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0002706>