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MEDIA ADVISORY
NEW REPORTS, EVENTS, INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES WITH INDIGENOUS LEADERS
AND EXPERTS
Nov 30, 2023 – Dec 12, 2023

**At COP28, Indigenous Leaders from Tropical Forest Countries
to Call Negotiations a Pivotal Moment for World to Course
Correct Climate Solutions that Risk Harming Nature and
Communities**

Citing growing evidence of their role in protecting intact ecosystems, global alliance of elected Indigenous leaders from the Amazon and Congo Basins, Mesoamérica, and Indonesia to host events, present case studies, and advocate for urgent action to protect nature and people amidst energy transition

Indigenous leaders representing forest communities from 24 countries will travel to Dubai for COP28, the 28th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference. At the event, they will demand greater protections for tropical forest communities—who manage [80%](#) of the world’s biodiversity and nearly [40%](#) of remaining intact forests—in global agreements and national proposals for implementing and funding nature-based solutions.

The Global Stocktake, which will be finalized at COP28, has made it clear that more action is needed across all sectors to meet the Paris Agreement goals and has acknowledged that engaging Indigenous People and local communities in implementing climate actions is crucial.

The stocktake builds on [evidence](#) suggesting that scaling up the land rights and heeding the [values](#) and knowledge of Indigenous and local communities represents one of the world's most cost-effective solutions for protecting forests and preventing the damage that fuels climate change and [biodiversity](#) loss.

The leaders from tropical forest countries will demand urgent action to ensure countries are allowing Indigenous Peoples and local communities to influence local plans for implementing climate solutions that, in some regions, are already violating community rights and causing harm to biodiverse ecosystems that store and absorb carbon.

Such projects can include:

- The sale of carbon credits linked to Indigenous forests without consulting with communities;
- Renewable energy projects like massive hydropower [dams](#) that flood traditional territories and damage food sources and precious plant genetic resources; and
- A [spike](#) in the number of new mines that extract metals and minerals for the “green” transition, while causing deforestation and contamination of water and soil on Indigenous lands.

With the green energy transition ramping up on all continents, the Indigenous leaders will argue that governments are at a critical moment to heed the recommendations of UN [climate](#) and [biodiversity](#) experts. Only [14% of countries consulted with Indigenous People](#) in developing their most recent nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to climate goals. The same is true for plans to save nature. In a review of 27 national preliminary plans to safeguard biodiversity, [none include safeguards](#) for Indigenous and local communities.

At COP28, they will ask world leaders not to repeat mistakes of the past by ensuring that safeguards and funding for Indigenous peoples and local communities are central to energy transition plans and new NDCs, to be delivered in response to the Global Stocktake.

WHAT & WHEN

This advisory compiles events, new reports, and other opportunities to hear from Indigenous and local community leaders from tropical forest countries at COP28 in Dubai.

The Indigenous and local community leaders participating in these events are members of the [Global Alliance of Territorial Communities](#) (GATC). The GATC is a platform that unites Indigenous peoples and local community organizations from 24 countries in the Amazon Basin, Mesoamérica, the Congo Basin and Indonesia. Together, they protect an estimated 958 million hectares of tropical forests.

This list will be updated as more information becomes available.

December 1, 2023

- **INTERVIEWS** | With world leaders expected to sign the first global declaration to transform **food systems**, representatives of Indigenous and local communities are available to comment on the declaration and the need to recognize their [unmatched role](#) in generating hundreds of nutritious foods on their ancestral lands that protect food security, biodiversity and support humanity's resilience in the face of climate change. The leaders will describe how the expansion of soybean, oil palm and other plantations is impacting their communities, emphasizing that agriculture drives more than 90% of tropical deforestation globally—and many of those forests have been cared for by Indigenous communities.
 - To request interviews, please email mediarequests@burness.com

December 3, 2023

- **REPORT LAUNCH EVENT** | New study to reveal the extent to which Indigenous peoples and local communities have received direct **climate financing** pledged by governments, philanthropy and other stakeholders for the protection of nature. The study, which will be presented at a Blue Zone side event, represents the first, bottom-up global assessment of climate funds developed by an Indigenous and local community grassroots organization. It will reveal that Indigenous Peoples and local communities protect thousands of hectares of tropical forests with small annual budgets, sometimes as low as \$100,000 US dollars. Direct financing to communities on the ground continues to be one of the most cost-effective solutions to preventing deforestation, halting biodiversity loss, and restoring degraded ecosystems.
 - To RSVP and request embargoed materials, please email mediarequests@burness.com

December 5, 2023

- **PRESS CONFERENCE** | Indigenous Peoples and local community leaders from tropical forest countries will assess progress of the first week of COP28 negotiations. Speakers will discuss the state of affairs for Indigenous peoples and local communities at the climate talks and sound the alarm on action needed to protect nature, climate, and people amidst the energy transition.
 - To RSVP, please email mediarequests@burness.com

December 6, 2023

- **INTERVIEWS** | Representatives from Liberia REDD+, Fauna & Flora International and the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB) will call for **high integrity carbon markets** that respect Indigenous people and recognize their key role in protecting carbon-rich forests. Speakers will cite case studies of regions where the quest for carbon credits is already violating community rights and causing harm to biodiverse ecosystems that store and absorb carbon.
 - For interview requests, please email mediarequests@burness.com

WHO:

Global | Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC)

- **Juan Carlos Jintiach**, from the Shuar people of the Ecuadorian Amazon is the Executive Secretary of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. He previously served as Co-Chair and Focal Point to the Indigenous Caucus of the UNFCCC. He has also worked with the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) as an advisor on international affairs. Through decades of experience in indigenous rights and territorial management he has vastly contributed to the protection of communities and Mother Earth.

Brazil | Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB)

- **Dinamam Tuxa**, of Tuxá origin, an Indigenous people who live in the states of Bahia, Pernambuco and Minas Gerais, Dinamam is coordinator of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) and lawyer of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of the Northeast, Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo (Apoime). He also holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Development from the University of Brasilia and a PhD in Law from the same university.
- **Kleber Karipuna**, a grassroots leader of the Coordination of Indigenous Organisations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) and Executive Coordinator to the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), has been active in the struggle of the Indigenous movement for over two decades. Kleber has a degree in Environmental Management and Project Management. He is Indigenous Karipuna from the village of Santa Isabel, in the indigenous land of Uaçá, in the state of Amapá.
- **Cristiane Julião** is from the Pankararu people that live in Brazil. She is part of the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) and co-founder of the National Articulation of Indigenous Women Warriors of Ancestrality (ANMIGA). She represents the National Council on Indigenous Policy (CNPI) in the Genetic Heritage Management Council/MMA (CGen) and in the Sectorial Chamber of Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples and Communities and Family Farmers (Chamber of Guardians).
- **João Víctor Gomes de Oliveira**, 25 years old, Indigenous of the Pankararu people. He is a young leader and currently Youth Representative of the Youth for the Global Alliance of Traditional Communities by the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB). As an environmental, social and political activist since the age of 16, he has fought for territorial rights for his people by engaging in debates and discussions at regional and national level. Graduating in Pharmacy from the Federal University of Sergipe, João has led research on ethnopharmacology.

Congo Basin | Network of Indigenous and Local Communities for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (REPALEAC)

- **Joseph Itongwa** is from the Bambuti Indigenous Community of the Low Altitudes of the Kahuzi Biega National Park in Walikale in the North Kivu Province in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo. He is the Regional Coordinator for REPALEAC and the Executive Director of the National Alliance for the Support and Promotion of Indigenous and Community Heritage Areas and Territories in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- **Aissatou Oumarou** is the Deputy Coordinator of REPALEAC. She has been Deputy Coordinator of the Association of Peul Women and Indigenous People of Chad (AFPAT) for the last two decades. Aissatou has worked in projects to help nomadic communities mitigate and adapt to climate change; also in projects aimed at doing participatory 3D mapping of IPLC territories.
- **Basiru Isa** is the Regional Secretary General of REPALEAC. He is a holder of a Master's Degree in Anthropology from the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon. He has over 12 years of experience working with Indigenous peoples in domains of human rights and livelihoods systems. He has worked with local organizations and members of REPALEAC in Cameroon, Chad, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, DRC, Gabon and Central African Republic.
- **Marleine Saira Flora** is a young Congolese woman who has become prominent due to her commitment to Indigenous peoples from her country. Marleine is part of REPALEAC and participates in the Global Alliance Of Territorial Communities' youth movement. She has been a critical player in the foundation of an organization called Community Action by Congo Indigenous Women, a group dedicated to raising women's voices in the community, governmental and institutional sectors.

Indonesia | Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN)

- **Mina Susana Setra** is an Indigenous woman leader (Dayak Pompakng) from West Kalimantan, Indonesia. She is currently the Deputy to Secretary General of AMAN on Social Culture Affairs. For 18 years, Mina has worked on Indigenous issues locally, nationally and internationally. During her time as Deputy on Advocacy, Law and Political Affairs, AMAN won the Constitutional Court Ruling No.35/2012 on Customary Forests as not state-forest.
- **Monica Kristiani Ndoen** is an Indigenous woman leader from Rote, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. She is currently the special envoy to the Secretary-General of AMAN and for over 8 years, has been dedicating her time to the advocacy of Indigenous Peoples' rights in Indonesia. She is an Indigenous fellow of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- **Muhammad Arman**, a certified Advocate and Mediator from Indonesia, dedicated 14 years to advocating for Indigenous Peoples' rights. With a law degree in 2004 and a Master's in Agrarian Law in 2020, he played a key role in drafting legislation, including the Indigenous Peoples Bill and Land Law. Arman served as Coordinator for the Legal Team challenging the Nusantara Capital City Law and participated in cases concerning the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples. Since 2009, he's been with the Indigenous Peoples' Alliance of the Archipelago (AMAN), rising to the position of Director of Policy, Law, and Human Rights Advocacy, showcasing a commitment to indigenous rights.

Mesoamérica | Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB)

- **Levi Sucre Romero** is an Indigenous Bribri Costa Rican who currently serves as Coordinator of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB), representing Indigenous peoples and local communities in the territories encompassed between Panama and México. Since 2022 he has been acting as Co-Chair to the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. Levi also directs the technical and organizational management of the Bribri-Cabécar Indigenous Network (RIBCA), a group of eight Indigenous territories in Costa Rica. He is a farmer and specialist in Indigenous organizations and cultures and environment in Central America. He comes from the Talamanca Cabécar Indigenous territory in Costa Rica and has over 20 years of experience in rural

development and community organization, and 15 years of experience in project design, implementation and evaluation in Indigenous territories and local communities.

- **Sara Omi** is from the Embera People, who live in Panamá. She serves as President of the Coordination of Territorial Women Leaders of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB), a space for articulation and management of the climate agenda of Indigenous women and local communities that inhabit and care for the main forests of the Mesoamerican region. She is the first Emberá woman lawyer. Sara has been recognized by Forbes magazine as one of the "100 most powerful women in Central America" for her role as defender of territorial rights and the rights of Indigenous women in local, regional and international advocacy spaces.
- **Sergio Guzmán**, originally from Petén, has a Master's degree in forest management in tropics and subtropics, as well as a diploma degree in Techniques and Strategies for the Conservation of Nature. With more than 16 years of experience working with forest communities in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR), in which he specializes in community forest management, climate change mitigation, forest audits and management and monitoring of forestry projects. In addition, he has experience in forest carbon audits (validation/verification). Holds 15 years of experience in the Petén region, is an elected member of the World Bank's FCPF Participants Committee and is currently the Manager of the Guatecarbon REDD+ Project.
- **Briseida Iglesias**, is an indigenous women leader from Guna Yala, sage of the songs and other spiritual practices of the culture of the Guna indigenous people. Author of the book "Molas de nuestras madres, nuestras molas" (Our mothers' molas, our molas) about the origin of the "molas", the traditional and protective textiles used by Guna women and a symbol of post-colonial resistance, which is woven from dreams, from a close relationship with Mother Earth. From the Bundorgan Women's Network, who plant gardens of Guna medicinal plants.
- **Giuseppe Olo Villalaz** is from the community of Usdub, Comarca Gunayala in Panama. He has a degree in Business Administration and more than 10 years of experience in issues related to the Indigenous Peoples' rights and Climate Change. He is also substitute representative on the Board of Directors of AMPB and the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund. Founder of the digital platform TV Indígena, he aims to make visible the Indigenous Peoples of Abya Yala. Throughout his career, he has worked in diverse national and international organizations, such as the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests - IAITPTF, Cuatro Mundos Foundation. He currently serves as an advisor to the National Assembly of Panama, and as a consultant on issues of free, prior and informed consent, and also as a cultural facilitator in this area.
- **Nansedalia Ramirez Dominguez** is a 24-year-old young leader from Técpan de Galeana in the State of Mexico, who began her work in the Ejido Cordón Grande, as a community forestry promoter, promoting the participation of youth and women in community forest management issues. She is coordinator of the Youth Movement of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests. She is the first woman Secretary of the Ejidal Commissariat (Comisariado Ejidal, is the name given to the members who represent an ejido) of the Cordón Grande Ejido, and Secretary of the Arroyo Frío Roads Committee. She is also part of the communication network of the Mexican Network of Peasant and Forestry Organizations.
- **Maricela Fernández**, an indigenous Cabécar Costa Rican, serves as president of the Kábata Kónana Women's Association, which focuses on the recovery of ancestral Cabécar agricultural practices. She also represents Cabécar women in the National Forum of Indigenous Women and acts as a translator in women's rights cases for the Costa Rican judicial authorities. She has led the creation of community care protocols with traditional medicine for COVID-19 in the Talamanca Cabécar territory.