



CONSERVING FORESTS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

FOREST CONSERVATION THROUGH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES (IPLCs)

The Forests and Communities Initiative is committed to protect forests and supporting indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), with a holistic approach that includes environmental law, economical, political and social context of IPLCs, forest conservation practices, protected area management and financing.

Forests are the heart and lungs of our planet. They are home to the vast majority of plant and animal species in our biosphere, they fertilise our soils, regulate our climate and provide an infinite number of other ecosystem services.

Human beings continue to destroy this invaluable natural heritage despite the services it provides. The world's major forests, such as the Amazon, on all continents, are under unprecedented pressure threatening major environmental balances.

In view of the urgency of the situation, the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, together with the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, the International Ranger Federation, the Global Forest Coalition and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity have launched the Forests and Communities Initiative (FCI).

FCI is committed to long-term action and actively participates in the protection of forests and their biodiversity through the actions of the people living in and around these ecosystems.

OUR MISSION

FCI's mission is to support conservation of forest ecosystems through the action of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and through the development of a supporting network.

The geographical scope is: Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, South and South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands.

The priority topic is to promote training and capacity building of local experts to develop their tools, knowledge and skills.

FCI aims to develop a network of actors who will participate in the advancing of new solutions, collaborations and knowledge sharing. This will be done directly by bringing stakeholders together, for example through the organisation of events.

PROJECT SUPPORTED IN 2023

Seruyan District is an important area of biodiversity linking the mountains of Central Borneo with the lowlands forests and mangroves. Endangered species such as orangutans, sun bears, clouded leopards and helmeted hornbills live here.

Unfortunately, much of the recent agricultural deployment in this area has been at the expense of biodiversity and critical ecosystems, considered areas of High Conservation (HCV). As a result, the High Conservation Value Network (HCVN) has started to zone lands to protect forests and biodiversity, enhance smallholder production and resolve land conflicts.

The project aims to make agriculture more sustainable, protect forests and improve livelihoods in the area, in order to enhance HCVs' protection. HVCN will develop practical tools, organise participatory workshops and training in selected villages. The results will be analysed to propose recommendations, refine the tools and contribute to scalable global guidance.



ZOOM ON THE 6 FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

Focusing on the conservation of high ecological value areas including primary forests and areas with low human activities, with an emphasis on **IPLC-driven sanctuarisation and preservation** of these areas.

Exercising conservation through a holistic approach in order to preserve all elements that make up these natural ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain: **fauna, flora, soil, air, human beings** and all life cycles which they are a part of.

Respecting the knowledge and rights of IPLCs within and around conservation areas, moving forward with their full and effective participation and supporting them being at the forefront of decision-making processes and conservation action, using gender-just*, rights-based approaches and participatory methodologies to take into account the rights, roles, needs and aspirations of all members of the community without discrimination.

Practicing and promoting science-based, evidence-based, adapted and applied methodologies for **projects' activities and monitoring**, to **guarantee their long-term ecological effectiveness** for the proposed solutions and clear results for the conservation and growth of local biodiversity.

Practicing and promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to conservation, taking into account conservation science, environmental law, but also social science including the understanding of economical, political and cultural contexts.

Fostering dialogue, research, information sharing and best practices exchanges, to **advance our understanding and practice of forest conservation**, both globally as well as locally.

** In line with the Gender Plan of Action of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity*



KEY DATES



22 MAY 2022

CREATION OF THE INITIATIVE

25 NOVEMBER 2022

PARTNERS COMMITMENT

22 & 23 NOVEMBER 2023

1st FCI CONFERENCE IN MONACO





WHAT'S **NEXT?**

The first projects funded by FCI will start in 2023 and 2024.

Next FCI call for projects will open in summer 2023.

The first conference will take place on 22 and 23 November 2023 in Monaco in the presence of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, key actors to build a community of practice of conservation.

FCI founding partners invite new members and technical advisors to join the network to develop and sustain concrete field activities to conserve forests and empower communities.

Join us to maximise FCI's impact.

JOIN US!

ABOUT THE FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (FCI)

FCI aims to support the conservation of forest ecosystems through the actions of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). FCI was created in 2022 by five founding partners, each working on complementary areas of forest conservation: the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, the International Ranger Federation, the Global Forest Coalition and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.



**FONDATION
PRINCE ALBERT II
DE MONACO**

The Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation (PA2F) is active within all major global environmental fields and with a certain focus on specific geographical areas such as the Mediterranean Basin, the Polar Regions and the Least Developed Countries, in order to promote the preservation of biodiversity, the mitigation of climate change and the implementation of sustainable development. The objectives of the Foundation are to raise awareness amongst both populations and governments of the impact of human activities on the natural environment, to encourage more environmentally sustainable behaviour and to promote outstanding initiatives and innovative solutions.



The IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) advances environmental law around the globe by providing specialized knowledge and assistance to strengthen the legal foundations of the conservation of nature and sustainable development through the conceptual advancement of environmental principles, norms and laws, and by building the capacity of communities to benefit from the environmental rule of law.



**INTERNATIONAL
RANGER
FEDERATION**

The International Ranger Federation (IRF) was founded on 31 July 1992. It is the global body that represents rangers and ranger associations across the world. The Federation's mission is to develop, advance and promote throughout the world community, the Ranger profession and its critical role in the conservation of natural and cultural resources. Over 100 Ranger associations from national, state and territorial entities have affiliated with the IRF.



**Global
Forest
Coalition**

The Global Forest Coalition (GFC) is an international coalition of NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organizations defending social justice and the rights of forest peoples in forest policies. The GFC was founded in 2000 by 19 NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' Organizations (IPOs) from all over the world. It is a successor to the NGO Forest Working Group, which was originally established in 1995. GFC participates in international forest policy meetings and organizes joint advocacy campaigns on issues like Indigenous Peoples' rights, the need for socially-just forest policy and the need to address the underlying causes of forest loss.



**International Indigenous
Forum on Biodiversity**

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) was formed during the III Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CoP III) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 1996. The IIFB is a collection of representatives from indigenous governments, indigenous non-governmental organizations and indigenous scholars and activists that organize around the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other important international environmental meetings to help coordinate indigenous strategies at these meetings, provide advice to the government parties and influence the interpretation of government obligations to recognize and respect indigenous rights to the knowledge and resources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION | [FORESTSANDCOMMUNITIESINITIATIVE.ORG](https://forestsandcommunitiesinitiative.org) | [✉ fci@fpa2.org](mailto:fci@fpa2.org)

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