

## To the Distinguished Delegates of COP30,

Excellencies,

We extend our respectful greetings and appreciation for your leadership in addressing the urgent global challenge of climate change. As you undertake negotiations here in Belém, we wish to underscore the essential role that Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities play in safeguarding forests and stabilizing the global climate.

Scientific evidence consistently demonstrates that territories managed collectively by these communities experience significantly lower rates of deforestation and forest degradation. Their stewardship not only conserves biodiversity and stores vast amounts of carbon, but also sustains cultural heritage and strengthens resilience in the face of climate impacts. Ensuring the continuation of these contributions requires formal recognition of their land and territorial rights, support for community-led conservation efforts, and the protection of their right to self-determination.

In this regard, we respectfully encourage COP30 negotiators to:

1. **Affirm and strengthen collective land and territorial rights**, acknowledging them as a proven and cost-effective strategy for advancing climate and biodiversity objectives. This includes calling on state parties to adopt and enforce legal frameworks that fully recognize the tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples and local communities.
2. **Enforce the rule of law so as to stop violence against environmental and land defenders**, and ensure the security of leaders, women, youth, elders and other vulnerable groups engaged in territorial stewardship in a holistic and comprehensive way.
3. **Facilitate direct and predictable access to climate finance** for Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local communities and their organizations, enabling them to expand their work to protect forest ecosystems in line with global climate goals.
4. **Integrate human rights considerations systematically** into climate and forest-related policies, ensuring that the protection of people and territories is inseparable from the protection of the planet.

The decisions adopted at COP30 will resonate far beyond this meeting. By affirming and resourcing the leadership of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities, negotiators have the opportunity to strengthen one of the most effective strategies available to halt deforestation and protect biodiversity and the climate.

<sup>1</sup>Jocelyne Sze, Dylan Childs, L. Roman Carrasco, e David Edwards, "Indigenous Lands in Protected Areas have High Forest Integrity Across the Tropics", *Current Biology*, 32 No. 22 (2022), pp 4949-4956.

<sup>2</sup>Como o Consentimento livre, prévio e informado (FPIC), conforme reconhecido na Declaração das Nações Unidas sobre os Direitos dos Povos Indígenas (UNDRIP).

We respectfully **urge you to embed these priorities into the outcomes of COP30**, recognizing that protecting those who protect the forests is both a moral imperative and a practical necessity in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

With highest consideration,





ACOFOP (Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén)

Agent Green

Agribusiness

Amazon Watch

Aprosmig

ARA (For Biodiversity and Forests!)

Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD)

ATTAC Togo

Baringo Indigenous Peoples' Organization

Be.

BLESS Indonesia

Blue Dalian

CADTM Afrique

Canopée

Centro Indígena de Acción Integral

CEPPAS

CLARIFI

Comité Schone Lucht

Community Empowerment to Tackle Climate Change and to Promote Biodiversity Conservation

Deutsche Umwelthilfe/Environmental Action Germany

Earth Thrive

Earthsight

Environmental Pillar

Environmental Rights Action, ERA.

Espirito Mundo

Fern

FIDEPE (Fondation Internationale pour le Développement, l'Éducation, l'Entreprenariat et la Protection de l'Environnement)

Forum Ökologie & Papier

Fundacion barranquilla+20

Green Squad

Habitat for Humanity  
Ethiopia

Human Rights Watch

Initiatives pour le Développement communautaire et la conservation de la Forêt (IDEF)

Kayeb

Kenge Content Hive

Landesa

Leefmilieu

Local Government Unit of Banton

MADANI Berkelanjutan

Mídia NINJA

Stand for Her Land

The Foundation for Heritage Preservation and Legacy Creation

Mighty Earth

Milieudefensie

Not1More

Operação Amazônia Nativa - OPAN

Organisation Tchadienne Anti-Corruption (OTAC)

Pastoralists Community Action

Pro Regenwald

Rainforest Action Network

Rainforest Foundation Norway

Rebellmammar för skogen

Tinta - The Invisible Thread

WaterUnity Networks

Rede de Mulheres Negras de Pernambuco

Réseau des organisations des jeunes engagés dans le changement climatique, conservation de la biodiversité, zones humides et forêts

Rights and Resources Initiative

Rise for Climate Belgium

Scholar Tree Alliance

Snow Alliance

Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development

Solutions for Our Climate

Women Empowered

Yayasan Pikul