

Plan to Accelerate Land tenure for Afro-descendant communities

Axis: 2. Stewarding Forests, Oceans and Biodiversity ▾

Key objective: 6. Efforts to conserve, protect, and restore nature and ecosystems with solutions for climate, biodiversity and desertification ▾

Solution: Land Tenure for traditional and local communities

Host initiative: The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) – Permanent host and coordinating entity, responsible for follow-up, communication, and reporting up to 2028, including contributions to the Global Climate Action Portal (NAZCA) and annual progress reports.

Scope:

Geographic: Latin America and The Caribbean.

Key words: Land rights, climate change, biodiversity conservation, racial equality, sustainable development.

Levers assessment: *(each lever is described in the guidance document)*

- **Risk-informed decision-making:** High maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: [The chain of data collection, production, processing, and monitoring related to the planning and implementation of the strategy plus the risk assessment overall process are well established at the governmental and partnerships level.]*
- **Technology shifts:** N/A ▾
 - *Rationale: [Advanced geospatial technologies exist but limited access and adoption hinder effective territorial monitoring and participatory management.]*
- **Knowledge & Capacity building:** Medium maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: [The Plan's objectives is precisely to strengthen institutional capacities to implement land protection and tenure policies, but resources remain limited and unevenly distributed]*
- **Inclusive decision-making governance & design:** High maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: [The plan's governance is being collectively developed, involving stakeholders in the incremental maturation process of the informational ecosystem as new members join]*
- **Standards & Taxonomies:** Low maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: [There is low regional harmonization of land titling frameworks, hindering interoperability, scalability, and the exchange of best practices across countries.]*
- **Supply:** Medium maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: [Legal protections exist for Afro-descendant communities, but their implementation is hindered by bureaucracy, delays, and land disputes.]*
- **Demand:** High maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: [There is a growing demand for territorial recognition across Latin America and the Caribbean and their protection]*

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- **Public/private finance:** Low maturity ▾
 - *Rationale:* [Afro-descendant communities have very limited access to climate financing due to insufficient public resources and barriers in private funding mechanisms.]
 - **Partnerships and collaboration:** Medium maturity ▾
 - *Rationale:* [Cooperation networks are already functional, providing a foundation for integrated strategies and knowledge exchange despite regional fragmentation.]
 - **Policy & regulatory:** Low maturity ▾
 - *Rationale:* [Policy and regulatory frameworks are weak and poorly implemented, limiting progress on territorial titling for Afro-descendant communities.]
 - **Public opinion:** Medium maturity ▾
 - *Rationale:* [Support for territorial titling of Afro-descendant communities is growing, but state prioritization and action remain inconsistent.]
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Expected impact of this plan on the 2030 targets (if any): High +

This plan contributes to the 2030 Agenda by overcoming barriers such as limited territorial recognition and unsustainable management in Afro-descendant communities. Through secure land tenure and strengthened community leadership, it fosters effective conservation, prevents deforestation, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. By promoting governance clarity, resource access, and the recognition of traditional knowledge, it expands the role of Nature-Based Solutions in climate mitigation and biodiversity protection. Its impacts align with the Global Stocktake and key SDGs—Climate Action (13), Life on Land (15), and Zero Hunger (2)—while enhancing ecosystem resilience, food security, and socio-environmental justice.

Expected impact:

1. **Land tenure and Protected Territories** - Titled and protected territories secure land rights for Afro-descendant communities, promoting social inclusion and territorial justice. They enable sustainable management of forests, wetlands, and other critical biomes, preserving biodiversity and cultural heritage. Legal recognition helps prevent deforestation and land grabbing, contributing to climate change mitigation and carbon stock maintenance. Recognized territories support sustainable livelihoods, access to funding, and integration of traditional knowledge into conservation. These measures align local governance with the Paris Agreement, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Sustainable Development Goals. The target is to achieve, by 2028, the land tenure regularization of 1,000,000 (one million) hectares of Afro-descendant territories in Latin America and the Caribbean
2. **Regional Cooperation** – The Quilombo¹ das Américas programme, a partnership between Brazil and Colombia, together with the International Commission of Afro-descendant Communities, strengthens regional collaboration, promotes racial equality, and advances climate justice. These networks enable joint advocacy for territorial rights, policy recognition, and inclusive governance. Capacity-building, knowledge exchange, and shared experiences enhance conservation, resilience, sustainable development. The target is to increase the accession of, at least, 2 (two) new countries per year, until 2028, from Latin America (Amazon region) and the Caribbean, to join the Quilombo das Américas/Pueblos Afrodescendientes de Las Américas Programs, strengthening regional cooperation for promoting territorial rights and the efforts led by Afro-descendant communities. By 2028, achieve the accession of at least a total of 10 (ten) new countries in the programme.

¹ A *quilombo* was a refuge or autonomous community of people of African origin who escaped slavery, sometimes including Indigenous peoples and others who resisted colonial rule

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3. **Environmental Security and Rights** - Environmental Security & Rights recognize ancestral, territorial, and diasporic rights, enabling Afro-descendant communities to exercise sovereignty over their lands. Strengthened rights prevent land conflicts and unsustainable resource use, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. Local benefits include clean water, fertile soils, and sustainable livelihoods, while global impacts advance climate mitigation under the Paris Agreement. Traditional stewardship and African diasporic knowledge reinforce sustainable resource management, exemplified by Brazil's National Policy for Quilombola² Territorial and Environmental Management. These measures align with the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework and SDGs on climate action, life on land, clean water, reduced inequalities and SDG 18: Promotion of Ethnic-Racial Equality, proposed by Brazil. The target is to strengthen up to 100 (one hundred) territorial and environmental management projects in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2028.
4. **Financing for Land Rights and Sustainable Development** - Financing for Sustainable Land Rights mobilizes public and private funds to secure land tenure for Afro-descendant communities. Funding strengthens local capacity, infrastructure, and sustainable economic opportunities. Securing land rights supports carbon sequestration, emission reduction, and climate adaptation, advancing the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC Global Stocktake. It contributes to ecosystem conservation under the Global Biodiversity Framework. Inclusive financial mechanisms promote social equity, territorial justice, and advance SDGs 2, 8, 10, 13, 15 e 18. Partnerships expand access to funding and international support. Regional cooperation amplifies local voices, strengthens territorial justice, and facilitates the replication of successful community-led models across Latin America and the Caribbean. The target is to coordinate international financing mechanisms by 2028 to establish priorities for strengthening initiatives aimed at protecting Afro-descendant territories.

Land Tenure and Protected Territories

- United Nations. Paris Agreement. Adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 2015.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Adopted at COP15, Montreal, 2022.
- United Nations. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/RES/70/1, 2015.

Regional Cooperation

- Brazil & Colombia. Quilombo das Américas Programme. Bilateral cooperation initiative, launched 2023.
- International Commission of Afro-descendant Communities. Constitutive Framework and Mandate. Established 2025.
- United Nations. International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024). A/RES/68/237, 2014

² *Quilombola* refers to a member of a quilombo

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Environmental Security and Rights

- United Nations. Paris Agreement. UNFCCC, 2015.
- CBD. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. COP15, 2022.
- United Nations. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/RES/70/1, 2015.
 - SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
 - SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
 - SDG 13: Climate Action
 - SDG 15: Life on Land
 - SDG 18: Promotion of Ethnic-Racial Equality
- Brazil. Política Nacional de Gestão Territorial e Ambiental Quilombola (PNGTAQ). Ministério da Igualdade Racial, Brasília, 2023.

Financing for Land Rights and Sustainable Development

- United Nations. Paris Agreement. UNFCCC, 2015.
- UNFCCC. First Global Stocktake. COP28, Dubai, 2023.
- CBD. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. COP15, 2022.
- United Nations. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/RES/70/1, 2015.
 - SDG 2: Zero Hunger
 - SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
 - SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
 - SDG 13: Climate Action
 - SDG 15: Life on Land
 - SDG 18: Promotion of Ethnic-Racial Equality

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement ³	Committed Stakeholders
1. Titled and Protected Territories of Afro-descendant communities	Regional	1.1 By 2028, the land tenure regularization of 1,000,000 (one million) hectares of Afro-descendant territories in Latin America and the Caribbean	Existing...	Demand	The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) ; Ministry of Racial Equality - MIR (Brazilian Government); Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombia Government)	November 2028...	Local an...	MIR, MDA and Incra (Brazilian Government units); National Coordination for the Articulation of Rural Black Quilombola Communities (CONAQ); Tenure Facility; Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombian Government)
2. Enhanced regional collaboration and strengthening of the territorial rights of Afro-descendant communities through the Quilombo das Américas Program/Pueblos Afrodescendientes de Las Américas	Regional	2.1 By 2028, increase the adhesion of at least 2 (two) countries per year from Latin America (Amazon region) and the Caribbean to join the Quilombo das Américas/Pueblos Afrodescendientes de Las Américas Programs, strengthening regional cooperation for promoting territorial rights and the efforts led by Afro-descendant communities. (Target: at least two new countries per year by 2028.)	New act...	Partnershi...	The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) ; Ministry of Racial Equality (Brazilian Government); Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombia Government)	November 2028...	Local an...	Ministry of Racial Equality (Brazil); Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombia), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); International Coalition of Afro-descendant Peoples for Climate Action (CITAFRO)

³ Such as countries, companies, investors, cities and local governments, technical institutions, MDBs, regulators & public agencies, utilities & system operators, youth & indigenous groups, multi-stakeholders platform (non-exhaustive)

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement ³	Committed Stakeholders
	Regional	2.2 By 2028, map the legal frameworks and policy implementation instruments in the field of territorial rights for each country that joins the program; promote an exchange of experiences.	New act... ▾	Partnershi... ▾	The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) ; Ministry of Racial Equality (Brazil); Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombia)	November 2028... ▾	Local an... ▾	Ministry of Racial Equality (Brazilian Government); Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombia), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); International Coalition of Afro-descendant Peoples for Climate Action (CITAFRO)
3. Territorial and environmental management of Afro-descendant communities	Regional	3.1 By 2028, strengthen up to 100 (one hundred) territorial and environmental management projects in Latin America and the Caribbean	Existing... ▾	Demand ▾	The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) ; Ministry of Racial Equality (Brazil); Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombia)	November 2028... ▾	Local an... ▾	MIR, MDIC, MMA, BNDES (Brazilian Government units); Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombia); GIZ; Amazon Fund
4. Financing Mechanism	Regional	4.1 By 2028, coordinate international financing mechanisms to establish priorities for strengthening initiatives aimed at protecting Afro-descendant territories.	New act... ▾	Public/priv... ▾	The Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) ; Ministry of Racial Equality (Brazil); Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombia)	June 2026 (SB64) ▾	Investors... ▾	MIR (Brazilian Government), Brazilian Fund for Biodiversity (Funbio); Ministerio de Igualdad y Equidad (Colombian Government); World Bank Group; The Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP)