

TC Document

I. Basic Information

▪ Country/Region:	REGIONAL
▪ TC Name:	Tools for Development with Identity of Indigenous Peoples in Amazonia
▪ TC Number:	RG-T4683
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Tejerina Camacho, Veronica (CSC/ACU) Team Leader; Serrao Acioli, Ellen Cristina (CSC/ACU) Alternate Team Leader; Conde Nina Amancaya Briseida (CSC/ACU); Cotacachi Velasquez , Nestor David (CSC/ACU); Takaes Santos Inaie (CSC/ACU); Adam Mehl (CSC/ACU); Diaz Gill Virginia Maria (LEG/SGO)
▪ Taxonomy:	Research and Dissemination
▪ Operation Supported by the TC:	NA
▪ Date of TC Abstract authorization:	06 Feb 2025.
▪ Beneficiary:	Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname.
▪ Executing Agency and contact name:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ Donors providing funding:	Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management Fund(AMZ)
▪ IDB Funding Requested:	US\$500,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding, if any:	US\$0
▪ Disbursement period (which includes Execution period):	36 months
▪ Required start date:	01 May 2025
▪ Types of consultants:	Individual consultants
▪ Prepared by Unit:	CSC/ACU-Amazon Coordination Unit
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CSC/CSC-Southern Cone
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	no
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	no
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2024-2030:	Gender equality and inclusion of diverse population groups; Gender equality; Diversity; Indigenous People; Supports sustainable economic growth

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 **Objective.** The overall objective of this project is to generate studies and tools related to the inclusive and sustainable economic, social, and environmental development of Indigenous peoples in the Amazon region of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname. The knowledge produced will help these countries identify sustainable development solutions aligned with the needs and expectations of diverse indigenous groups, as well as assess whether their progress is culturally relevant. Specifically, the project will generate relevant knowledge products on: a) conservation and development indicators that align with indigenous realities, b) the systematization of traditional indigenous knowledge as a foundation for designing indigenous-led project proposals, c) the implementation of an intercultural dialogue mechanism among development stakeholders to address bottlenecks identified in projects involving indigenous peoples; and, d) the dissemination of the knowledge generated. The main beneficiaries of this TC will be several national-level indigenous organizations and their represented communities across the seven participating countries, as well as national

governments, which will receive new knowledge and tools to support their work with Amazonian Indigenous Peoples.

- 2.2 **Justification.** Amazonia is a region spanning over 8 million km², containing 40% of the world's remaining tropical forests. It harbors around 15% of the planet's terrestrial biodiversity and serves as a globally significant carbon sink, storing between 150 and 200 billion metric tons of carbon. Amazonia is also distinguished by its immense ethnic and cultural diversity, represented by 511 indigenous peoples, 66 of whom are confirmed as indigenous groups living in voluntary isolation and initial contact. Approximately 240 indigenous languages are spoken in the region, 170 of which are found within Brazil's borders.
- 2.3 Indigenous territories in Amazonia cover nearly 2.4 million km² (or 28.5% of this biome)¹ with 50% of these territories located in Brazil. Approximately 45% of the Amazonia's primary forests are within indigenous territories, an area larger than France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Norway, and Spain combined.² Several rigorous impact evaluations (IE) provide evidence that indigenous territories (ITs) are forms of forest governance that offer relevant levels of protection to forests, comparable to protected areas.^{3,4} Likewise, forests managed by indigenous peoples collectively function as strong net carbon sinks.⁵ Consequently, since indigenous peoples and their territories significantly contribute to forest conservation and mitigation of climate change, it is important to support projects that allow them to better benefit from the forest through activities that do not harm the forest, biodiversity, and ecosystem services, such as indigenous bioeconomy initiatives.
- 2.4 Although indigenous peoples make vital contributions to forest and biodiversity conservation, they receive minimal resources from both their own governments and international sources. Between 2011 and 2020, for example, less than 1% of international climate funding was directed toward issues related to land tenure and forest management for indigenous communities, globally.⁶ In an effort to close this funding gap, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) launched the [Amazonia for Life Fund \(ALF\)](#) in 2023, pledging US\$10 million for development projects exclusively benefiting Amazonian indigenous peoples. Key funding areas include bioeconomy, institutional strengthening, information generation and management, territorial management and conservation, value-added partnerships for collective entrepreneurship, and environmental and social risk management. In this way, the fund supports the historical aspiration of indigenous peoples to directly manage and execute international funds for the sustainable development of their territories with their vision.
- 2.5 **Challenges.** This shift toward indigenous organizations leading the design and execution of development and conservation projects presents several pressing challenges that must be addressed to ensure lasting impact. First, development strategies must be adapted to reflect the cultural realities and priorities of Indigenous peoples in the Amazon. This includes incorporating not only conventional conservation metrics —such as hectares protected or CO₂ emissions avoided— but also culturally relevant indicators like

¹ RAISG (2023). Amazônia 2023: Áreas protegidas e territórios indígenas. Floresta estável. Available from: <https://www.raisg.org/pt-br/publicacao/amazonia-2023-areas-protegidas-e-territorios-indigenas/>

² OTCA, 2024. Observatorio Regional Amazónico. Módulo Pueblos Indígenas. <https://oraotca.org/pueblosindigenas/>.

³ Andam KS, Ferraro PJ, Pfaff A, Sanchez-Azofeifa GA, Robalino JA. Measuring the effectiveness of protected area networks in reducing deforestation. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2008 Oct 21;105(42):16089-94. doi: 10.1073/pnas.0800437105. Epub 2008 Oct 14. PMID: 18854414; PMCID: PMC2567237.

⁴ Schleicher, J., Peres, C.A., Amano, T. et al. Conservation performance of different conservation governance regimes in the Peruvian Amazon. *Sci Rep* 7, 11318 (2017). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-10736-w>

⁵ WRI. 2023. Indigenous Forests Are Some of the Amazon's Last Carbon Sinks. <https://www.wri.org/insights/amazon-carbon-sink-indigenous-forests>.

⁶ Rights and Resources Initiative & Rainforest Foundation Norway. 2022. Funding with Purpose: A Study to Inform Donor Support for Indigenous and Local Community Rights, Climate, and Conservation. pp 29. <https://doi.org/10.53892/WRFV7289>.

the preservation of traditional practices and the strengthening of local value chains.⁷ Second, existing project development processes are often overly complex and misaligned with indigenous governance structures. There is a clear need to simplify these processes by prioritizing community dialogue, consultation, and the inclusion of indigenous perspectives at every stage. Third, building trust between indigenous organizations and external partners remains a key challenge. Intercultural dialogue and mutual learning are essential to create an environment where knowledge on conservation and sustainable development can be exchanged effectively. In response to these challenges, this TC will focus on enhancing the understanding and capacity required to address them. Its activities aim to increase the effectiveness and benefits of projects implemented by Amazonian indigenous organizations. Furthermore, it is expected that the TC will strengthen the ability of indigenous organizations to engage with potential donors and to identify and access new financial resources for their development proposals.

- 2.6 **Proposed solutions.** Some of the key activities that can help address these challenges more effectively include a) **Identifying conservation and development indicators** tailored to the local context of Indigenous peoples. While project indicators should align with international standards, it is also crucial that they reflect the priorities of indigenous communities, ensuring that measurements of their progress are culturally relevant. Examples of adjustments to indicators may include incorporating indigenous concepts of community development, local perspectives on quality of life, valuing cultural identity, and protecting natural resources such as land, water, forests, and biodiversity.^{8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15} b) **Design of indigenous projects based on participation and the systematization of traditional knowledge.** Indigenous projects require high levels of intra- and inter-community participation, multilevel engagement, and processes of self-directed planning, with the integration of traditional knowledge as central resources. However, these inputs are often not easily interpretable by external decision-makers and funders, who tend to

⁷ Reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also emphasize the importance of addressing local priorities and focusing on work based on local knowledge and capacities to achieve better outcomes in climate change adaptation efforts. IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part B: Regional Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Barros, V.R., C.B. Field, D.J. Dokken, M.D. Mastrandrea, K.J. Mach, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L. White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 688. https://ianas.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ClimateChange_IPCC_B.pdf

⁸ Reyes-García, V., Álvarez-Fernández, S., Benyei, P., García-del-Amo, D., Junqueira, A. B., Labeyrie, V., Li, X., Porcher, V., Porcuna-Ferrer, A., Schlingmann, A., & Soleymani, R. (2023). Local indicators of climate change impacts described by indigenous peoples and local communities: Study protocol. PLOS ONE, 18(1), e0279847. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0279847>.

⁹ Butchart, S.H., Clarke, M., Smith, R.J., *et al.* (2015). Shortfalls and solutions for meeting national and global conservation area targets. *Conserv. Lett.*, 8, 329-337.

¹⁰ Corrigan, C., Robinson, C. J., Burgess, N. D., Kingston, N., & Hockings, M. (2017). Global review of social indicators used in protected area management evaluation. *Conservation Letters*, 10(4), 557-564. <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12397>

¹¹ Borrini-Feyerabend, G. & Hill, R. (2015). Governance for the conservation of nature. Pages 169-206 in G.L. Worboys, M. Lockwood, A. Kothari, S. Feary, I. Pulsford, editors. *Protected area governance and management*, ANU Press, Canberra.

¹² Sterling, E. J., Filardi, C., Toomey, A., Sigouin, A., Betley, E., Gazit, N., Newell, J., Albert, S., Alvira, D., & Bergamini, N. (2017). Biocultural approaches to well-being and sustainability indicators across scales. *Nature Ecology & Evolution*, 1, 1798-1806.

¹³ Chan, K. M. A., A. D. Guerry, P. Balvanera, S. Klain, T. Satterfield, X. Basurto, A. Bostrom, R. Chuenpagdee, R. Gould, B. S. Halpern, N. Hannahs, J. Levine, B. Norton, M. Ruckelshaus, R. Russell, J. Tam, and U. Woodside. 2012a. Where are cultural and social in ecosystem services? A framework for constructive engagement. *BioScience* 62(8):744-756. <https://doi.org/10.1525/bio.2012.62.8.7>

¹⁴ DeRoy, B. C., C. T. Darimont, and C. N. Service. 2019. Biocultural indicators to support locally led environmental management and monitoring. *Ecology and Society* 24(4):21. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-11120-240421>

¹⁵ Reyes-García, V., Álvarez-Fernández, S., Benyei, P., García-del-Amo, D., Junqueira, A. B., Labeyrie, V., Li, X., Porcher, V., Porcuna-Ferrer, A., Schlingmann, A., & Soleymani, R. (2023). Local indicators of climate change impacts described by indigenous peoples and local communities: Study protocol. PLOS ONE, 18(1), e0279847. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0279847>.

be highly technical. Consequently, indigenous peoples maintain dependency on NGOs or other intermediaries for fund-seeking and management. Through this activity, this technical cooperation aims to reduce the dependence of Indigenous peoples on technical mediation, increasing the autonomy and capacity of indigenous peoples' organizations to design projects, seek funds, and manage financial resources, c) **Implementation of a direct intercultural dialogue mechanism.** Intercultural dialogue not only fosters mutual understanding but also enhances project implementation by incorporating indigenous perspectives and adapting to their local needs and contexts, while maintaining the technical alignment expected by funders such as the IDB and other potential donors. All these challenges and proposed solutions offer a unique opportunity to expand the learning agenda of both, countries and indigenous peoples of the Amazon region, by building more effective tools for sustainable development.

- 2.7 **Strategic Alignment.** This TC is consistent with the IDB Group's Institutional Strategy: Transforming to Achieve Scale and Impact (GN-3159-12 / CII/GN-521-12) and aligns with objectives: (i) reducing poverty and inequality, and (ii) addressing climate change, by supporting Indigenous Peoples with tools to strengthen their bio-businesses. This TC is consistent and aligns with the IDB Group Impact Framework 2024-2030 (GN-3195-8 CII/GN-539-8) which includes gender equality and diversity as cross-cutting themes for development. It is also consistent with the IDB Group's Climate Change Action Plan 2021-2025 (GN-2848-9), which prioritizes the protection and conservation of Indigenous Peoples' territories and traditional ecological knowledge—both essential assets for climate resilience, especially in the Amazon biome (an action aligned with the Paris Agreement). It is consistent with the Environmental and Biodiversity Sector Framework Document (GN-2827-8) and the Biodiversity Action Plan (GN-3216-1), which prioritize support for interventions that protect natural capital and ecosystem services on which Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods depend, as well as support for women's empowerment opportunities, ensuring their participation in the benefits of sustainable natural capital management and decision-making. This TC also aligns with the IDB Group Gender and Diversity Action Plan 2022-2025 (GN-3116-1), which considers Indigenous Peoples as priority groups for identity-based development and promotes the generation of evidence on what works to address gender and diversity issues across sectors. This CT is aligned with the IDB's Amazon Regional Program *Amazonia Forever*, which promotes sustainable and inclusive development in the Amazon region. It is also aligned with the Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management Fund (AMZ) (GN-3074-1), whose objective is the protection of sustainable and resilient landscapes, forest conservation, positive value chains for the Amazon, and sustainability in commodity supply chains in the Amazon region. This CT contributes to the AMZ pillars: a) resilient and diverse landscapes, and b) positive value chains for the Amazon. The operation is also aligned with the Amazon Bioeconomy Fund, financed by the Green Climate Fund (GRN) (OP-2222), which aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhance the resilience of value chains and ecosystems. Specifically, the operation contributes to the implementation of the GRN Fund's Gender and Diversity Action Plan.¹⁶ This TC is aligned with the IDB Group's Country Strategies for the beneficiary countries—Brazil (GN-3243-3), Bolivia (GN-3088), Colombia (GN-3238-3), Ecuador (GN-3103-1), Guyana (GN-3187), Peru (GN-3110-1), and Suriname (GN-3065). These documents identify the protection of Amazonia as a strategic priority, with a particular focus on indigenous peoples' development and the promotion of Amazon forests conservation. The operation is also consistent with the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples and with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) by promoting the protection of their lands, natural resources

¹⁶ Although the GRN does not finance this TC, projects under the GRN will benefit from the results of this operation, as they pursue objectives similar to those of the AMZ Fund.

within their territories, and the preservation of their traditional knowledge.

- 2.8 **Complementarity with other initiatives.** This Technical Cooperation (TC) is complementary to several ongoing operations focused on indigenous peoples of the Amazon region, including: [CO-T1723](#) – INDII Fund/Indigenous Fund Capitalized by Natural Capital Token in the Colombian Amazon. This initiative aims to establish an Indigenous fund for the protection of Amazonian forests, capitalized through the sale of INDII3 tokens (Non-Fungible Tokens, NFTs); [PE-G1017](#) – Strengthening and Implementation of the Indigenous Economy Program for Full Life of AIDSEP and Community Initiatives (ECOIN). This project seeks to promote the implementation and equipping of indigenous bio businesses across nine Amazonian regions; [BR-T1638](#) – Building New Development Models in Indigenous Economies. Aimed at developing innovative and sustainable economic models for Indigenous communities; [BR-T1665](#) – Live and Sustainable Amazon (*Metareilá*). Aimed at promoting the conservation and restoration of degraded areas in the 7 de Setembro Indigenous Land through sustainable bioeconomy activities, encouraging the production and commercialization of socio-biodiversity products; [RG-T4685](#) – Promoting a Collaborative and Resilient Bioeconomy in the Amazon with Indigenous Women. A regional effort to provide scholarships and mentorship to Indigenous women from the Amazon regions of Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia and Ecuador for the design and financing of bioeconomy and forest conservation projects; [EC-T1585](#) – COICA: Implementation of the Amazonia for Life Fund. Aimed at strengthening COICA's governance capacity for the implementation of projects led by Amazonian indigenous peoples, with a particular focus on Indigenous bioeconomy initiatives.

III. Description of activities/components and budget

- 3.1 **Component 1. Indigenous indicators on conservation and development (US\$150,000).** The objective of this component is to identify and propose conservation and development indicators adjusted to the local realities of Amazonian Indigenous peoples. This component will finance a regional proposal of development indicators tailored to the context of Amazonian Indigenous Peoples. The expected results are a) the integration of these indicators into project planning processes; and b) an improved capacity of all parties to evaluate project outcomes. To achieve these results, the project will hire consultants with vast experience in indigenous peoples' issues to ensure quality participation and systematization of inputs generated by participants.
- 3.2 **Component 2. Methodology for the design and implementation of indigenous projects (US\$160,000).** The objective of this component is to develop a portfolio of indigenous projects based on participatory methods and traditional knowledge systematization. This component will finance a) Proposals of indigenous projects based on participation and the systematization of traditional knowledge, b) Training curriculum proposal for project design for indigenous peoples, c) Publication of tools and training materials. The expected result is a portfolio of indigenous projects better aligned with the aspirations of indigenous peoples and consistent with the indicators of the Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management Fund (AMZ).
- 3.3 **Component 3. Intercultural Dialogue Mechanism (US\$190,000).** The objective of this component is to establish an agile and fluid mechanism for dialogue between Indigenous peoples, countries, IDB, and donors of the AMZ to identify converging elements aimed at the conservation of the Amazonian ecosystems. This component will finance a) a technical regional dialogue with indigenous leaders, to address emerging challenges during the design or execution of indigenous projects on conservation and development and to validate the results of identification of indigenous indicators (component 1), b) virtual meetings with IDB, indigenous leaders and donors of the AMZ to identify solutions for financial sustainability of projects, assess the progress of current projects implementation and facilitate the direct exchange of experiences and knowledge between

donors (AMZ) and indigenous organizations to guarantee that projects are mutually aligned. The expected outcomes of this component include a validated framework for collaborating with Indigenous peoples, tools to enhance the execution of indigenous-led projects, and a knowledge exchange platform to address bottlenecks in project development.

IV. Indicative Budget

- 4.1. The budget amounts to US\$ 500,000, financed through the Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management Fund (AMZ). The unit responsible for disbursements will be CSC/CSC.

Activity Component	Description	IDB Financing AMZ Fund (US\$)	Total Financing (US\$)
Component 1	Indigenous indicators on conservation and development.	150,000	150,000
Component 2	Methodology for the design and implementation of Indigenous projects.	160,000	160,000
Component 3	Intercultural Dialogue Mechanism.	190,000	190,000
Total		500,000	500,000

V. Executing agency and execution structure

- 5.1 **Executing Agency.** This regional research and dissemination Technical Cooperation (TC) will be implemented by the Bank through the Amazon Coordination Unit (CSC/ACU). Consequently, CSC/ACU will be responsible for coordinating with various internal and external stakeholders, across multiple sectors, to ensure the effective execution of the project. CSC/ACU has a multidisciplinary team that oversees the implementation of Amazonia for Life Fund. This team will be responsible for supervising the planned consultancies. Coordination with national-level indigenous organizations will be conducted directly by the CSC/ACU team, in collaboration with the Amazonia Focal Points and/or Climate Change Specialists in each IDB Country Office. Additionally, the project will be supported by the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), which will help facilitate dialogue with organizations within its regional network of Indigenous organizations.
- 5.2 **Technical and Fiduciary Responsibility.** CSC/ACU, through the project team, will be responsible for the technical supervision of this operation and for coordinating with VPC, and the respective Country Representations involved. Specifically, the team leader and the specialists within the team will oversee the consultancies in accordance with their areas of expertise. The TC will be executed over a 36-month period, including disbursements.
- 5.3 **Procurement.** All procurement to be executed under this Technical Cooperation have been included in the Procurement Plan (Annex IV) and will be hired in compliance with the applicable Bank policies and regulations as follows: (a) Hiring of individual consultants, as established in the regulation on Complementary Workforce (AM-650) and (b) Contracting of services provided by consulting firms in accordance with the Corporate procurement Policy (GN-2303-33) and its Guidelines.
- 5.4 **No-Objection Requirement.** Prior to initiating any activities financed by this TC within the territory of any of the beneficiary countries, the project team will obtain the respective no-objection letters from the official liaison entity of each country with the Bank, in coordination with the corresponding Country Representation. This requirement applies to travel arrangements for consultants or project team members.
- 5.5 **Intellectual property.** Any knowledge products generated within the framework of this technical cooperation will be the property of the Bank and may be made available to the public under a creative commons license. However, upon request of the beneficiaries,

the intellectual property of said products may also be licensed and/or transferred to the beneficiaries through specific agreements.

VI. Major issues

- 6.1 Since this is a research and dissemination operation, no significant risks are anticipated. However, as the proposed methodology relies on broad participation from indigenous peoples, some organizations may feel excluded. To mitigate this potential risk, close coordination will be maintained with major Amazonian indigenous organizations to ensure the inclusion of other relevant indigenous leaders within the Amazon region.

VII. Exceptions to Bank policy

- 7.1 There are no exceptions to the Bank's policies.

VIII. Environmental and Social Aspects

- 8.1 This Technical Cooperation is not intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies of specific investment projects or environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, this TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).

Required Annexes:

[Terms of Reference_81467.pdf](#)

[Procurement Plan_74948.pdf](#)