

# A roadmap to implement Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework: **Indigenous and traditional territories to save the planet**

## Statement

We, Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon basin, through our ancestral knowledge and traditions, have protected the Amazon for millennia. Yet, intense extractivism has already transformed 26% of our home and we are at the verge of crossing a tipping point which needs to be understood as the potential dieback of the entire ecosystem due to deforestation. We are not alone. The Amazonia and eight other key ecosystems are approaching or have already entered tipping points, and are now experiencing a kind of ecological metastasis and impacts will be felt globally. Models have already shown an identified teleconnection propagation path between the Amazonia and ecosystems as far as the Tibetan Plateau and the West Antarctic ice sheet. Tipping elements can be linked and can also have the potential predictability of cascading tipping dynamics.

Civil society, indigenous peoples organizations and major scientific communities have joined our call to protect 80% of the remaining ecosystems by 2025 in the Initiative “Amazonia for Life: protect 80% by 2025”. The inclusion of Indigenous Territories in Target 3 of the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework represents a milestone to recognize the role of Indigenous Peoples, and their knowledge and governance systems in maintaining balance in key priority areas, including human health, territorial and planetary health, and climate change. As we center our focus on health in this 22nd

Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), it is important to understand that by protecting Indigenous territories, over 15 million of respiratory and cardiovascular cases could be avoided every year in Brazil alone, with ~\$2 billion USD being saved only in health costs. Achieving biodiversity conservation and climate targets is impossible without addressing the role of more than 5,000 Indigenous Peoples on territories, ecosystems, states, the planet’s economy, and global health.

Today, at this session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, we unite in calling for the solidarity with all the Indigenous Peoples across the globe to permanently protect 80 percent of the Amazonia by 2025 as an urgent measure to avert an imminent tipping point in the region, and to achieve the transformative change to avert other tipping points around the world.

We need to unite in one voice to engage governments and multilateral organizations in this endeavor. There is no space to continue business as usual, we need banks and countries that are financing mining, logging, oil, agribusiness, and other extractives, to immediately stop financing any activities that could lead to tipping points in Amazonia. Life on the planet has entered the anthropocene and on this path, many indigenous leaders, communities, indigenous territories, and environmental defendants are losing their lives and livelihoods.

The Capahuari river runs through Achuar Indigenous territory in the Ecuadorian Amazon.  
Photo: ©Amazon Watch/Caroline Bennett



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