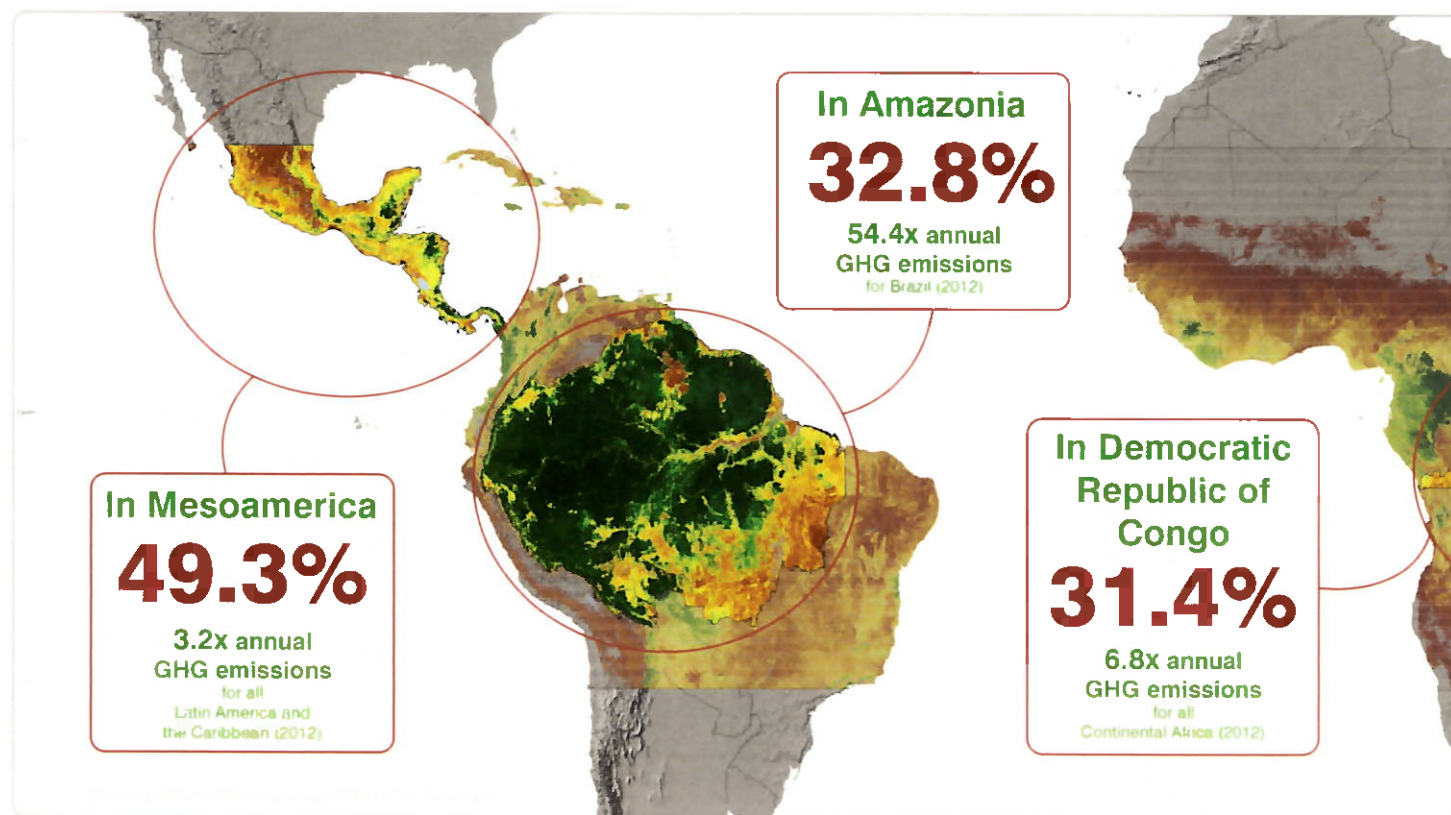


Tropical Forest Carbon in Indigenous Territories: A Global Analysis

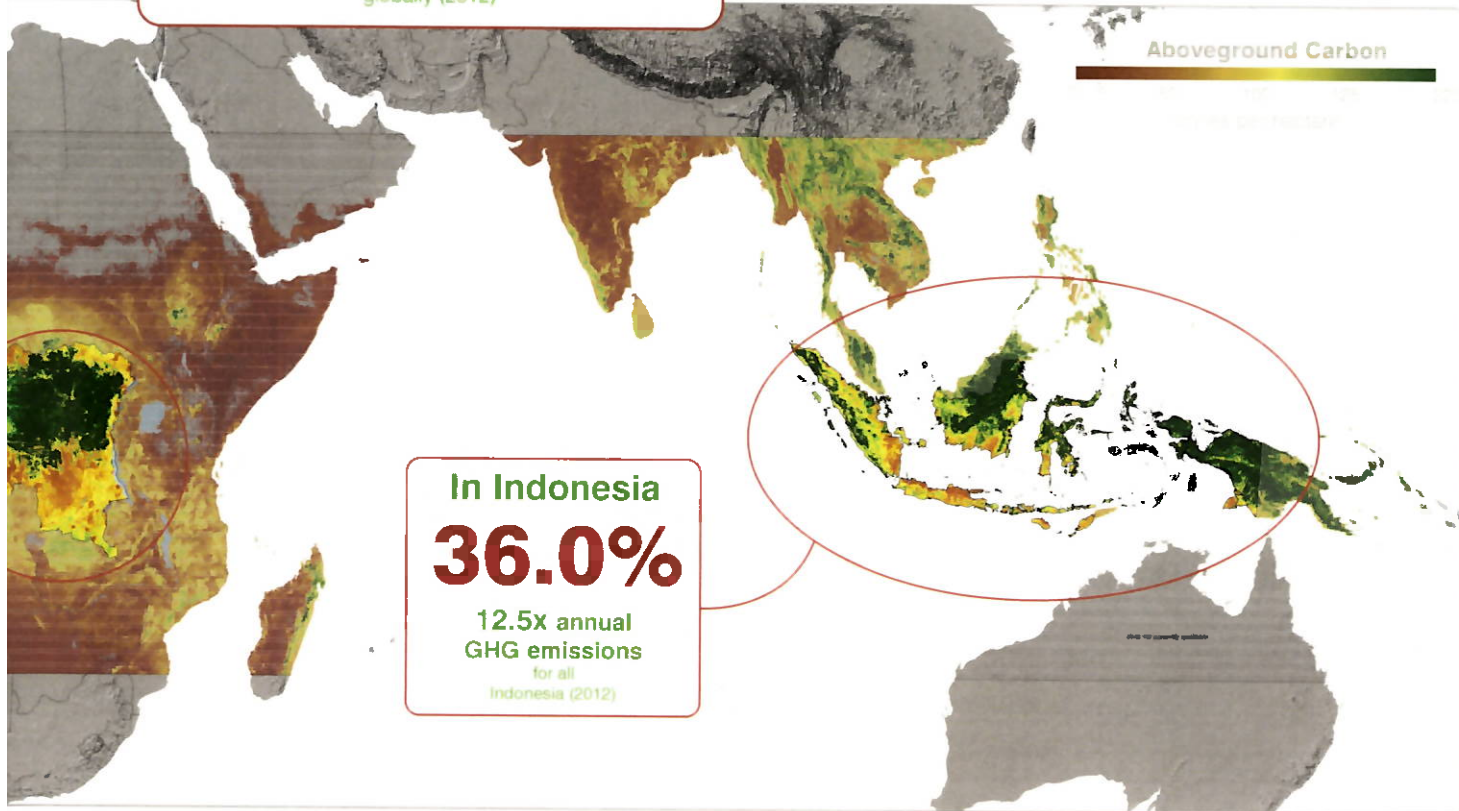


Global Analysis (MtC)					
Region	Indigenous Territories (ITs) [†]	Protected Natural Areas (PNAs) [†]	IT/PNA Overlap [†]	All Other Land [†]	Total Carbon (TC) ^{†¶}
Mesoamerica	2 910 (35.8%)	1,256 (15.4%)	1,097 (13.5%)	2,871 (35.3%)	8,135 (100.0%)
Amazonia ^{¶¶}	23,380 (27.1%)	19,116 (22.2%)	4,867 (5.7%)	36,758 (5.7%)	86,121 (100.0%)
D.R. Congo	5,687 (25.7%)	1,527 (6.9%)	1,261 (5.7%)	13,653 (5.7%)	22,128 (100.0%)
Indonesia	6,783 (36.8%)	N/A	N/A	12,068 (64.0%)	18,851 (100.0%)
Regional Total	38,760 (28.7%)	21,899 (16.2%)	7,226 (5.3%)	67,350 (49.8%)	135,235 (100.0%)
Tropical Total	(16.9%)	(9.6%)	(3.2%)	(29.4%)	228,712 (100.0%)

Indigenous Territories (ITs)			
Total ITs (ITs + Overlap) (MtC) [†]	Total Recognized (MtC) ^{††}	Total Not Recognized (MtC) ^{††}	Total Re (MtC) ^{††}
4,008 (49.3%)	3,136 (78.3%)	870 (21.7%)	
28,247 (32.8%)	21,976 (77.8%)	6,271 (22.2%)	
6,948 (31.4%)	0 (0%)	6,948 (100.0%)	
6,783 (36.0%)	0 (0%)	6,783 (100%)	
45,986 (34.0%)	25,144 (54.6%)	20,872 (45.4%)	
(20.1%)			

Tropical Total 20.1%

3.2x annual GHG emissions
globally (2012)



ies in Detail

Not nized (TC)	Total Not Recognized (Gt CO ₂ e)	Total Not Recognized (x US CO ₂ e) ¹⁰⁰
10.7	3.2	0.5
7.3	23.0	3.4
31.4	25.4	3.8
36.0	24.8	3.7
9.1	76.4	11.5

Summary

Indigenous territories and inhabited protected areas are global cornerstones of tropical forest conservation, providing multiple social, cultural, and ecological co-benefits. Carbon storage is one widely valued function of these vital landscapes; however, until recently, the information required to assess the carbon storage capacity of indigenous territories (ITs) and protected natural areas (PNAs) at the global scale remained either lacking or out of reach.

The results of a new analysis reveal that indigenous territories located in the Amazon Basin, the Mesoamerican region, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Indonesia contain 20.1% of the carbon stored aboveground in the planet's tropical forests. This number is conservative in global terms as it does not yet consider indigenous territories outside of these regions, most notably from tropical Asia outside of Indonesia or the Congo Basin outside of the DRC.

When considering only the tropical forests in the Amazon Basin, Mesoamerica, the DRC, and Indonesia, the percentage of forest carbon stored aboveground in indigenous territories increases to 34.0%. The amount of CO₂ that would be released to the atmosphere if the forests in these territories

were lost to deforestation or other anthropogenic threats is approximately 168.3 Gt CO₂e — more than three times the CO₂e emitted globally in 2014 (52.7 Gt CO₂e).

In order to continue conserving tropical forest carbon, which is essential to maintaining not only climate stability but also cultural identity and ecosystem integrity, indigenous organizations need:

1. Titling of their territories as well as recognition of their rights to the vast natural resources and wealth of services they provide;
2. Relief from the persecution of indigenous leaders who speak out in defense of their rights and territories;
3. Recognition and inclusion of Indigenous peoples' contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation in governments' Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs);
4. Implementation of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC);
5. Direct access to climate financing.