

GLOBAL STUDY ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CLIMATE CONTRIBUTIONS PUBLISHED IN 2025

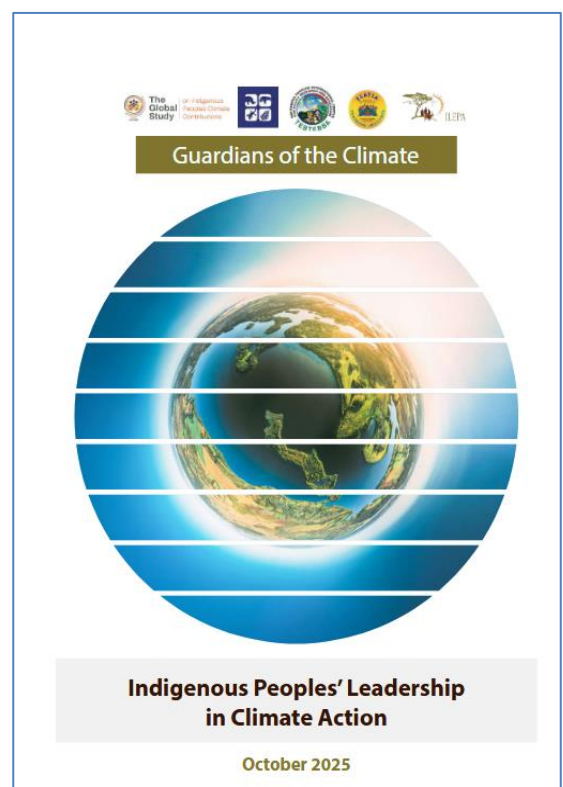
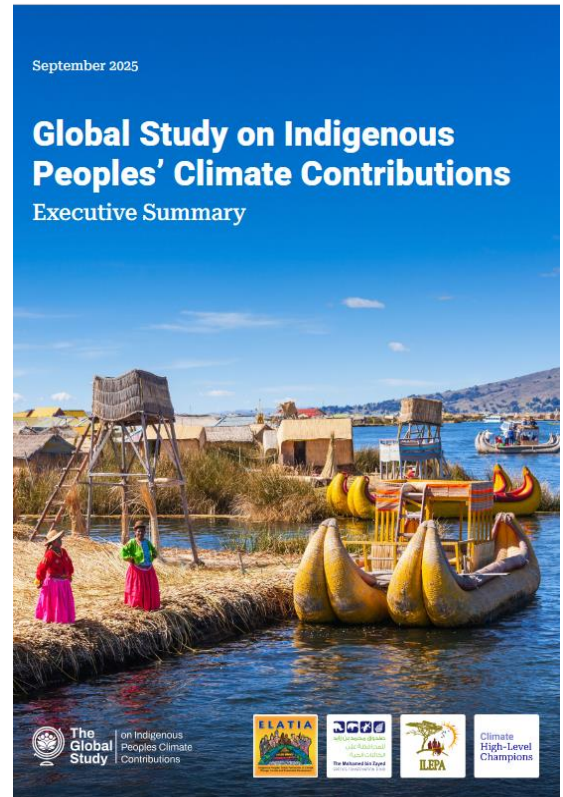
June 2026

[The High-Level Champion for COP28, Razan al Mubarak, launched the Global Study on Indigenous Peoples' Climate Contributions.](#) The *Global Study* aims to examine the experiences, interpretations, and responses of Indigenous Peoples to climate variability and change and was led by the [ELATIA \(Indigenous Peoples' Global Partnership on Climate Change, Forests and Sustainable Development\) Consortium](#), with ongoing support from the Climate Champion Team and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund.

The study compiled information from over 700 Indigenous Peoples-led or Indigenous-partnered climate initiatives worldwide. Its aim is practical and immediate to improve the quality and availability of Indigenous Peoples-generated evidence, elevate Indigenous leadership, and reorient resources toward effective, equitable, and scalable Indigenous Peoples-led climate solutions.

The study was published in September 2025 in executive-summary form with the title [Global Study on Indigenous Peoples' Climate Contributions](#). The Executive Summary introduction highlights that “Indigenous Peoples are fundamental leaders in climate action, safeguarding biodiversity, stewarding lands and waters, driving mitigation, and strengthening resilience, yet their contributions are too often obscured by information gaps about Indigenous Peoples' contributions and chronic underfunding. Today, less than 1% of relevant finance reaches Indigenous Peoples and local communities for securing tenure rights and managing forests in tropical countries, leaving evidence-based solutions under-recognized and under-resourced”. The Executive Summary also presents a regional snapshot of climate impacts and responses while key insights and recommendations to guide governments, funders, and partners are summarized.

In October 2025 the complete Study was published with the title [Guardians of the Climate: Indigenous Peoples' Leadership in Climate Action](#). The introduction of the document highlights that “This Global Study on Indigenous Peoples' Climate Contributions makes clear that when Indigenous Peoples are present and active, forests remain standing, biodiversity thrives, and ecosystems continue to sustain life. Financial systems are fundamental in supporting these efforts. Indigenous-led funds have already shown they can deliver powerful ecological and social returns, but despite some recent increases, this study shows that direct access to funding for Indigenous Peoples is still too low. The research in this study brings together strong evidence that clearly shows the importance of the leadership of Indigenous Peoples in Climate Action, the need to resource them effectively, and in doing so, to unlock solutions that protect our planet and our common future.”



In the conclusion, the Study highlights lessons that can be grouped into six overarching themes:

1. Indigenous Peoples' stewardship is a planetary stabilizer. Indigenous Peoples-led climate action is delivering measurable results in adaptation, mitigation, and resilience. Indigenous Peoples' territories are essential global carbon sinks and buffers against climate extremes. When their tenure rights are secure, ecosystems remain intact, and emissions are reduced.
2. Rights are the hinge between success and failure. Where Indigenous Peoples' tenure is secure, and governance systems and rights are respected, climate outcomes are more durable, equitable, and impactful.
3. Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership is surging, but finance rarely reaches them. Indigenous Peoples-led funds and institutions are already demonstrating high ecological and social returns, but they remain vastly under-resourced relative to need. Persistent structural barriers – especially financing gaps, lack of recognition in national and global policy, and limited technical support continue to constrain scaling.
4. Knowledge co-production is driving innovation and transformation. When Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems and Western science are integrated under Indigenous Peoples' leadership, forecasts improve, adaptation strengthens, and uptake is higher.
5. Women and youth are force multipliers. Indigenous Peoples' women and youth bring unique innovation, resilience, and transmission of knowledge, yet they face systemic under-investment.
6. Self-determined solutions are the most durable. Indigenous Peoples-led and designed- approaches scale better, deliver sustained impacts, and strengthen both ecosystems and governance when backed by appropriate finance and recognition. Peer-to-peer collaboration and knowledge exchange are proven accelerators of innovation and systemic change.

The Study concludes with recommendations for improving the finance flows and recommendations for translating insights into action for key actors: Indigenous Peoples Organizations and Networks, Governments, Donors and Investors, Researchers and Knowledge Institutions.

Led by ELATIA with support from the Mohamed bin Zayed Fund, this study offers the most comprehensive mapping of Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership. It distills insights from more than 700 initiatives, highlighting self-determined solutions, nature-based innovation, and climate justice in action. It calls for a radical shift in climate finance and governance, redirecting financial flows, reframing impact metrics, and ensuring that Indigenous Peoples are not just stakeholders, but powerholders in climate decision-making.

To know more

[Executive Summary Global Study on Indigenous People Climate Contributions](#)

[Guardians of the Climate. Indigenous Peoples Leadership in Climate Action.](#)

[Launch of the global-study-on-indigenous-peoples-climate-contributions](#)

[Global Study presentation](#)

[Guardians of the Climate presentation](#)

[Network Elatia](#)



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[Article in cop30.br](#)

[Article in thegef.org](#)

[Article in IUCN congress 2025](#)

[IFAD climate financing document](#)

