

Biocultural Diversity Programme | Indigenous-led conservation

SUMMARY

Across 18 countries, Indigenous Peoples and local communities protect some of the world's most biodiverse and ecologically important territories, yet their land rights, political voice and self-determination are often undermined. Synchronicity Earth's Biocultural Diversity Programme responds by supporting territorial defence, the resilience of living cultures and stronger participation in environmental and conservation governance.

OVERVIEW

In 2025, the programme reaffirmed three priorities:

1. Helping Indigenous Peoples and local communities defend their lands, waters and territories
2. Sustain living cultures
3. Strengthen their voice in conservation governance, meaning the systems and decision-making spaces that shape how nature is protected.

Its updated strategy places greater emphasis on networks and alliances that connect frontline communities across regions, while continuing to support partner engagement in the policy spaces most relevant to them, from international forums to national advocacy platforms.

OUTCOME

This approach is helping to strengthen both territorial protection and broader movement-building.

Flexible, longer-term support is enabling partners to pursue legal recognition of customary territories, defend communities against destructive activities and participate in policy processes on their own terms.

At the same time, stronger support for networks is helping connect frontline communities across geographies, making these alliances more resilient, visible and effective.



IMPACT

The Biocultural Diversity Programme has:

- Awarded GBP 969,288 to support 15 partners across 18 countries. Of these partners, 93% received multi-year grants
- Supported Indigenous Peoples to register and manage 163 customary territories, meaning lands and waters governed under traditional community systems.
- Enabled 1,650 people to challenge destructive activities or defend their rights.
- Provided support to 27 Indigenous leaders through Indigenous-led funds, which direct resources through mechanisms shaped and governed by Indigenous leadership.
- Completed a strategic refresh focused on strengthening support for Indigenous and locally led networks.

Sustainable development goals:



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