



EVALUATION SUMMARY

COUNTRY: COLOMBIA, BRAZIL, ECUADOR



Strengthening the protection of indigenous territories and peoples to preserve the Amazon (TerrIndígena Programme)

Evaluator: L4B

Evaluation of 3 projects: CZZ2916 (TI-I), CZZ3112 (FFEM), CZZ3355 (TI-II)

Evaluation date: September 2025

KEY FFEM SUPPORT DATA

Amount financed by the FFEM: EUR 1.72 million

Project approval date: 2020

Project name: Strengthening the protection of indigenous territories and peoples to preserve the Amazon (TerrIndígena Programme)

Project number: CZZ3112

Background

The northern Amazon is one of the best-preserved areas of the Amazon biome, but it faces significant environmental, social and cultural pressures. TerrIndígena aims to strengthen territorial governance and the capacity of indigenous organisations to protect their territories, manage natural resources sustainably and develop economic activities that are compatible with their ways of life, their culture and the preservation of the forests. The programme, in which the FFEM is participating through its Phase II, forms part of a regional initiative led in particular by the Alianza NorAmazonica (ANA).

Participants and operating methods

TerrIndígena is implemented by civil society organisations that make up the ANA. It comprises two phases, TerrIndígena I and II, and regional coordination, which has been strengthened since 2022 by a dedicated team, a procedures manual and a common monitoring and evaluation system.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the programme is to strengthen the protection of indigenous territories and the sustainable management of natural resources in the northern Amazon, by building the capacity of indigenous organisations and communities.

Specific objectives:

The programme aims, in particular, to (1) strengthen the exercise of rights and participatory governance; (2) improve the monitoring, oversight, management and conservation of natural resources in the territories; (3) develop sustainable, income-generating activities that respect local ways of life, cultures and forests; and (4) strengthen knowledge management and impact at regional level.

TESTED INNOVATION

TerrIndígena's innovative approach lies in its cross-national coordination of indigenous territorial governance, community-led forest monitoring and the development of sustainable economic activities. The programme also seeks to transform local experiences into a structured regional dialogue within the ANA, by promoting ecological, social and cultural connectivity across national borders.



Mission to Tumucumaque and Trombetas, @ Cecilia de Santarém, @Roberto

EVALUATION RESULTS

Relevance

The programme is relevant because it combines governance, natural resource management and sustainable economic development, drawing on a detailed understanding of the stakeholders and local dynamics. Coordination with local communities and institutional stakeholders enables interventions to be tailored to national contexts. The main limitations relate to the still limited consideration given to the structural causes of deforestation and the initial lack of financial mechanisms tailored to the needs of indigenous communities.

Coherence

The programme demonstrates good internal and external coherence. There are synergies between the AFD and the FFEM, particularly in terms of capacity and GIS tools dedicated to community-led forest monitoring. However, the potential for the FFEM to be involved in strategic direction remains under-utilised. Better coordination with TerrAmaz and Amazonia+ would strengthen the coherence of French action in the Amazon.

Effectiveness

The programme has met or exceeded the targets for 13 of the 16 indicators monitored. Nearly 50 million hectares are covered by conservation measures and 10,260 people are direct beneficiaries. The capacities of 1,212 community leaders have been

strengthened. Economic initiatives have made progress, but their sustainability remains constrained by isolation. Women's participation and consultation targets have only been partially met.

Efficiency

Efficiency has improved as a result of strengthened regional coordination, which has streamlined monitoring. However, the phased roll-out has slowed down implementation.

Impact

The programme has strengthened governance practices that promote the sustainable management of natural resources. Community development and land-use management plans are instruments that foster sustainable local ownership. The impact on public policy is evident in the countries where the programme is being implemented, to varying degrees. However, a direct causal link with changes in deforestation cannot be established.

Viability / Sustainability

Sustainability depends on Indigenous organisations taking ownership of the tools, strengthening the ANA, and gradually incorporating certain approaches into public policy. The ANA's regional positioning offers potential for mobilising funding. The long-term viability of economic initiatives remains, however, fragile, given logistical constraints and limited access to markets and appropriate funding.

ADDED VALUE OF THE FFEM

Support from the FFEM has helped to strengthen the capacity of indigenous organisations in the areas of community-based forest monitoring and GIS, whilst also helping to structure knowledge management and strategic thinking within the ANA.

A successful scaling-up initiative to strengthen the resilience of Indigenous territories, through the roll-out of an integrated approach to support their ecological and energy transition.

LESSONS LEARNED & RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings and recommendations of the evaluation are intended to inform discussions on the TerrIndígena sub-programmes, which have been established thanks to a significant mobilisation of international funding.

- Strengthen and harmonise the monitoring and evaluation of interventions in the Amazon, in particular by using composite indicators and complementary socio-economic and productive analyses, and by promoting a more programme-based approach that facilitates exchanges between project managers on methods, themes and the capitalisation of results.
- Increase the involvement of other local communities in governance processes in order to foster dynamics of intercultural territorial governance.
- Better link value chains with short supply chains, in particular public procurement of foodstuffs and school feeding programmes.
- Clarify the objectives, target audiences, formats and uses of knowledge-sharing outputs in order to better support training, dialogue, advocacy and the dissemination of indigenous knowledge.

Find out more about the project by scanning the QR code

