

To request interviews or attend the press briefing, please contact:
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****MEDIA ADVISORY: NEW RESEARCH AND VIRTUAL EVENT****
16 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 9:00 ET // 11:00 BRT // 15:00 CET // 21:00 WIB

Citing national plans to end deforestation, biodiversity loss, researchers will provide new evidence on governments' failure to recognize rights and invest in Indigenous, local communities, shown to protect nature, climate and people

Amid growing evidence of [climate impacts](#) and [threats](#) to biodiverse forests across the Global South, scientists and Indigenous leaders to reveal dangerous trade offs if COP28 "climate solutions" harm valuable biodiversity and endanger environmental defenders

To be released at a virtual press conference on 16 November 2023, ahead of the COP28 climate change conference in Dubai, new research will reveal that preliminary national plans for conserving forests and fighting global biodiversity loss continue to neglect a proven, cost-effective solution for protecting the planet's most intact ecosystems.

Citing a [growing body](#) of scientific evidence that has repeatedly confirmed that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are the most effective stewards of the tropical forests and other biodiverse ecosystems, researchers and Indigenous leaders will present two new analyses that suggest that national decision makers worldwide continue to drag their feet in promoting and implementing proven, [rights-based approaches](#) to reducing deforestation and biodiversity loss.

Although the protection of intact forests and reforestation initiatives are central to their commitment to meeting climate goals agreed to in Paris in 2015, tropical forest countries [reported](#) that deforestation worsened in 2022 compared to 2021 rates, while a number of the same countries have weakened safeguards that are meant to protect the rights and the role of Indigenous and local communities in the conservation of some of the world's most biodiverse regions.

Held in the lead up to COP28, the press briefing will feature biodiversity and climate researchers and Indigenous leaders, who will argue that climate solutions must be designed to complement biodiversity goals and must draw on the knowledge and experience of Indigenous peoples and local communities and their deep understanding of the biodiverse and carbon-rich landscapes they manage.

A new report produced by a cohort of civil society organizations and researchers known as the Forest Declaration Assessment Partners, will reveal a significant flaw in the preliminary plans of 27 countries for implementing the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity agreement. The paper, which analyzes proposals for expanding protected areas in tropical forest countries, will reveal a trend that bodes ill for the planet's most biodiverse territories, including the forests that represent 30 percent of the climate solution agreed to in Paris in 2015.

Preliminary findings of a separate new study, the first by a global alliance of Indigenous and other local communities, will reveal the extent to which governments, philanthropy and other stakeholders have channeled climate financing for protecting nature directly to the communities.

This will be presented with accounts of the initial impact of funds that are invested directly in Brazil and Indonesia, two countries whose rainforests are largely managed by Indigenous and local communities.

WHAT:

A virtual press conference to launch two new studies that are the latest to document the failure of governments to adequately heed the guidance of the world's top biodiversity and climate scientists. The briefing will also reveal preliminary findings regarding the climate funds delivered directly to Indigenous and local communities in tropical forest countries. Researchers also will provide a review of evidence suggesting the potentially dangerous trade-offs that could arise if climate solutions negotiated in Dubai fail to protect the rights of local communities and the intact biodiverse landscapes they manage.

WHEN:

Thursday, 16 November 2023 at 9:00 ET // 11:00 BRT // 15:00 CET // 21:00 WIB

WHERE:

To RSVP, please email Eugenia Blaubach at mediarequests@burness.com

WHO:

[Darragh Conway](#) is a researcher and lead legal consultant at [Climate Focus](#), with experience covering a broad array of legal issues relevant to climate change projects, policies and programs. Darragh has a particular interest in engaging international legal systems to address climate change and biodiversity loss, and has written and advised on the international trade, human rights and security regimes in the context of climate change.

[Pamela McElwee](#) is co-chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services ([IPBES](#)) Nexus assessment from 2021-2024, and chapter lead for Ecosystems, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for the Fifth US National Climate Assessment, due 2023. A professor in the Department of Human Ecology at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, her research interests have concerned human adaptation to global environmental change, with special expertise in biodiversity conservation and climate change in Asia.

Mina Susana Setra is an Indigenous woman leader (Dayak Pompakng) from West Kalimantan, Indonesia. She is currently the Deputy to Secretary General of AMAN on Social Culture Affairs. AMAN (Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago – Indonesia) is the largest indigenous organisation of the world. For 18 years, Ms. Setra has worked on indigenous issues locally, nationally and internationally.

Levi Sucre Romero is an Indigenous Bribri Costa Rican who currently serves as Coordinator of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB), representing indigenous peoples and local communities in the territories encompassed between Panama and México. Since 2022 he has been acting as Co-Chair to the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities.

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