

VISION AND AGENDA FOR SECURING LAND RIGHTS TO ADVANCE THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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The Interlaken Group is an informal network of leaders from companies, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples organizations, and public and private investors dedicated to expanding and leveraging private sector action to secure community land rights. In alignment with global commitments to address the causes and consequences of insecure collective land and resource rights, governments, companies and civil society actors are increasingly advancing rights-based land policies and legal frameworks. New initiatives, funding mechanisms, and coordination platforms are also emerging to accelerate the implementation of public and private sector commitments to support these land rights, including changes in investment practices and development of more inclusive business models.

The Interlaken Group commends these positive steps but also believes they remain insufficient to meet the need for securing tenure rights and achieving the full range of inter-connected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Much more is needed from all parties, especially governments and companies that are positioned to change tenure and business models, to scale-up to see these commitments be manifested and achieved on the ground. Without greater global effort and coordination, the opportunity to make real progress toward the SDGs, climate commitments, and global peace and prosperity will be missed, and windows of opportunity to secure communities' remaining lands, forests, and waters will be lost.

Through realization of our vision and agenda, the Interlaken Group aims to support the scaling-up of global efforts to advance the implementation of commitments to secure collective land rights in practice, and thereby help achieve the SDGs. The Interlaken Group urges the global community to support effective initiatives by governments, companies, investors, civil society, international organizations, and NGOs to:

1. Scale-up efforts to secure community land rights and strengthen communities' ability to exercise their rights to govern and manage their lands and forests, especially those of Indigenous Peoples and women, by aligning their actions with the UN VGGT, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, UNDRIP, and other international agreements securing tenure rights including the SDGs, the New York Declaration on Forests, and the Paris Climate Agreement;
2. Fulfill their commitments to implement FPIC and other participatory consultative protocols in advance of the allocation or approval of any use of lands set aside for forest protection, conservation, natural resource extraction, agricultural, forestry or infrastructure development, and otherwise fully respect Indigenous Peoples' and communities' rights, and especially women's rights within communities;
3. Acknowledge and fairly address legacy land issues in existing enterprise concessions and conservation areas; and promote rights-based and inclusive business models;
4. Strengthen existing instruments and initiatives by increasing investments to secure land rights, and by enhancing coordination and collaboration between all stakeholders to optimize efficiency, leverage, and impact for the benefit of communities first, as well as for companies and governments; and
5. Improve coordination and collaboration to support the above goals; continuously monitor and report to relevant global fora on progress achieved in securing tenure rights for rural communities, Indigenous Peoples, and women within those communities, using established baselines.

** Demonstrated by the endorsement of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the UN's Voluntary Guidance on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Forests, and Fisheries in the Context of National Food Security (UN VGGT), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Global Call to Action on Indigenous and Community Land Rights.*