

# Contributions of Indigenous and community conservation to global biodiversity targets in Latin America

A young man with dark hair, shirtless, wearing a red pair of shorts and a gold necklace, is walking through a dense tropical forest. He is carrying a long, dark wooden staff or spear horizontally across his shoulders. The forest is lush with green foliage and large, thick tree trunks with prominent buttresses. The lighting is natural, suggesting daylight.

**Gonzalo Oviedo, IUCN**  
**Bosco Santiak, President of Shuar Arutam**

# Overview

- Countries of the region had generally declared traditional lands as terra nullius and on that basis protected areas were established on “state lands” – with many communities suddenly turned into encroachers of their own lands.
- Although no exact figures exist, it is safe to say that most terrestrial protected areas of the continent contain lands, territories and resources of indigenous and traditional peoples.
- This history has often added to the colonial model of exclusion, impoverishment and oppression for local people.


# Overview

- The struggle of indigenous peoples and the democratization trends in the continent achieved substantial changes from the early 90s onwards.
- Most countries with important indigenous populations ratified ILO Convention 169, and a process of land rights recognition and land titling gained momentum.
- The history and shape of protected areas, and more broadly the conservation models, changed substantively as a result.
- Certainly more changes are needed and will happen, but protected areas will never be the same.

# Overview

- Two main lines of change emerging: (i) the recognition of rights and customary governance within protected areas, (ii) the recognition of and support to indigenous peoples' and rural communities' own conservation models and practices.
- These lines of change are raising exponentially the contributions of indigenous peoples and rural communities to the biodiversity targets in the region.
- In the case of the Amazon scientific assessments have demonstrated that indigenous territories are the most effective barrier to deforestation.

# Ecuador: the Area of the Shuar Arutam People

- ▶ Quién soy y de donde vengo: 
- ▶ El pueblo Shuar Arutam
- ▶ Titulación de tierras
- ▶ Sistema de gobierno



# Ecuador: the Area of the Shuar Arutam People

- ▶ La decisión de conservación del área:
- ▶ Como funciona
- ▶ Quienes participan
- ▶ Principales problemas y necesidades /desafíos
- ▶ Que esperarían de este WPC