

Indigenous Leaders from Central America and Mexico Aim to Start Their Own Climate Fund

With their regional organization, the Mesoamerican Alliance of People and Forests, indigenous leaders from Central America and Mexico, are assembling a “Mesoamerican Territorial Fund,” which they hope could receive international funding. As reported by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, this initiative aims to give rapid and easy financing to indigenous communities so they can implement climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

One of the key aspects of the fund is that it will be managed by indigenous people and benefit their own communities, with little input from outsiders – though the Central American Bank for Economic Integration would hold the money.

Leví Sucre, an indigenous leader from the Bribri community in Costa Rica, said that the Mesoamerican Territorial Fund will aim to finance adaptation projects that protect the food security of indigenous territories, in part using traditional knowledge they have acquired through the years. “We’re not dismissing the use of technology because we know that it must be complementary. But we want to incentivize the use of technologies that don’t erase our culture,” Sucre said.

In a 2008 research report, U.N. states that “indigenous peoples are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change, owing to their dependence upon, and close relationship with the environment and its resources.”