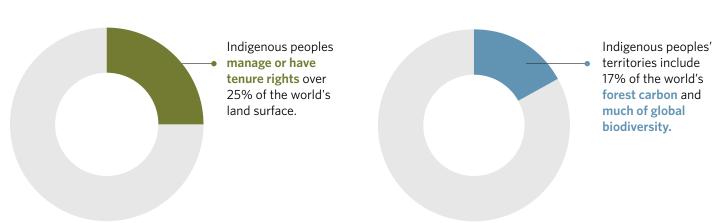
## **Strong Voices, Active Choices**



Indigenous peoples and local communities' leadership is key to conservation and sustainable development of their own territories, the territories surrounding them, and ecosystems globally. Property rights have a history of making headlines when talking about indigenous peoples and local communities in the news, but recognized and secure property rights are not the full story.

TERRITORY OWNERSHIP -



## Indigenous peoples and local communities are among the Earth's most important stewards.

CHALLENGES

Indigenous peoples and local communities face challenges to making their vision for conservation and healthy communities a reality, including:

Development pressures that undermine cultural and environmental priorities

Lack of recognized and enforced rights over territory and resources

Exclusion from or under-representation in decision making processes

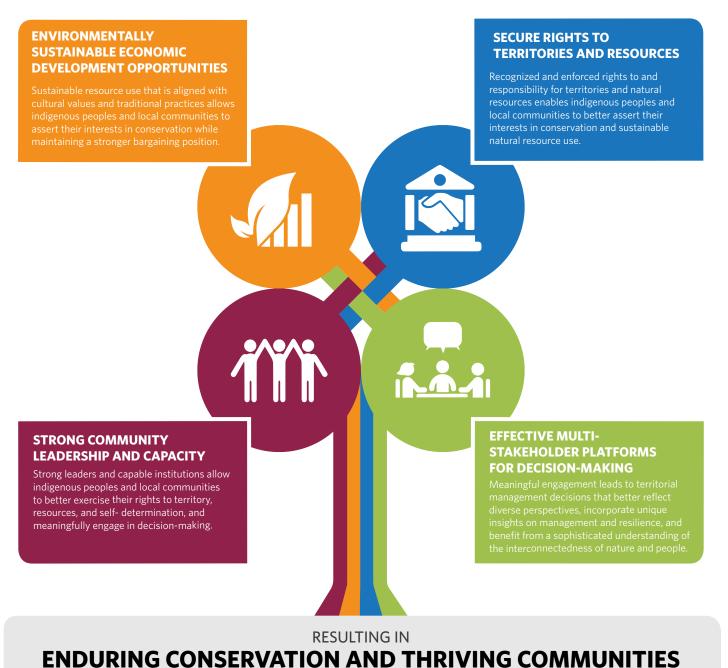
Insufficient capacity to engage in decision-making about managing natural resources

## THE FRAMEWORK -

TNC's approach to partnering with indigenous peoples and local communities on shared conservation and sustainable development goals is called the "Voice, Choice, and Action Framework" – or VCA Framework for short. Developed through an extensive review of literature and evidence from current TNC projects, this framework describes TNC's overarching theory of change for partnering with indigenous peoples and local communities.



Where sustainable natural resource management and community well-being are interdependent, achieving lasting positive results for people and nature generally requires the presence of four interdependent and mutually reinforcing conditions:



A stronger **VOICE** leads to the inclusion of traditional knowledge, cultural identity,

local priorities, and values

in plans and solutions.

The ability to exercise and influence **CHOICE** builds leadership and engagement in decision-making.

Greater **ACTION** allows communities to initiate and participate in programs and management of resources that impact their well-being.