

Annual Impact Report

(2018-2019)



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OUR MISSION:
Amazon Frontlines
builds power with
indigenous peoples to
protect the Amazon
and our climate.

Dear friends,

It's an honor to share Amazon Frontlines' inaugural annual report with you. 2018 was a milestone year for the organization. After 7 years of working on-the-ground, in partnership with indigenous communities impacted by decades of oil contamination into their water supply, we achieved our founding goal: **Clean water access for every Kofán, Siona, Secoya and Waorani family impacted by oil contamination in the Upper Amazon.**

With this pivotal achievement we had the opportunity to reflect and consider how to best harvest 7 years of learning and living on the frontlines of the Upper Amazon to further **build power with indigenous peoples to protect the Amazon and our climate.** To reflect our expanded scope of work and highlight our unique model of doing the work where we are making an impact, we changed our name from ClearWater Project to Amazon Frontlines.

As you'll see in the coming pages, 2018 was a groundbreaking year for our programmatic work as well. We won a precedent setting legal case that stopped 52 gold mining concessions and laid the groundwork for a legal victory (in 2019) that has the potential to protect 7 million acres of pristine Amazon rainforest. Through our partnership with our sister organization, Ceibo Alliance (made up of four indigenous nations from the Upper Amazon) we integrated centuries of ancient tradition and forest knowledge with 21st century technology to implement on-the-ground monitoring programs and first-of-its kind mapping to help communities get control of their land and territories.

2018 was also a year of internal growth. For 7 years, the ClearWater

Project operated entirely from the generous support of three incredible donors that allowed us to focus exclusively on the work. In 2018, we made our "public debut" with our first ever online campaign that grew our members' list to over 30,000 individuals; we hosted our first ever friend-raiser that built a community of over 100 new supporters; and we took early steps to expand our funding base—that would result in over 17 new grants in 2019.

For the first time in history there is an alignment of interests between a global audience concerned about the climate crisis (and newly aware of the importance of tropical rainforest conservation), and indigenous peoples who have been swimming upstream alone, for centuries, protecting their forest against innumerable waves of resource extraction. Amazon Frontlines is harnessing this new opportunity to cause a shift in focus from how to "save the Amazon" to how to best support the most experienced and effective protectors of the Amazon.

If we are going to meet the challenge, we need a community that we can rely on. We need you.

In solidarity and appreciation,

Mitch Anderson
Executive Director





What happens here
matters EVERYWHERE.



We cannot protect the climate or stop the extinction crisis if we don't protect this forest. The Amazon is home to 10% of the species on the planet, produces 20% of our oxygen and 20% of our freshwater, and absorbs and stores more carbon than any other place on earth.

This forest is literally keeping us all alive.

Indigenous people are the key to saving the Amazon.

With millenary experience defending their lands, and more than 25% of the entire Amazon basin currently under their stewardship (that's nearly ten times the size of California), indigenous peoples are the best-positioned to protect **forests, rivers, wildlife and biodiversity** at scale, and for generations.

Yet, the intensifying threats of big oil, mining, industrial ag, cattle-ranching and the climate crisis are too great to confront alone. **The cards are stacked against them**, but a new model of indigenous led conservation is inspiring the next generation and delivering real victories for communities today.

A group of indigenous men, likely from the Matsigenka people, are shown in a line. They are wearing green short-sleeved shirts and traditional beaded necklaces. Some have traditional face paint, including red and black markings. They are holding long wooden spears. The background shows a blurred outdoor setting with a building and trees.

EMPOWER indigenous peoples to
PROTECT the rainforest
and we all WIN.



What we do

Amazon Frontlines helps indigenous peoples work together to leverage technology, laws, media, clean energy, the global economy, and their forest knowledge to protect their way of life, their lands, and our climate.



Who we are

The Amazon Frontlines team is made up of human rights lawyers, environmental activists, forestry specialists, scientists, educators, technologists, filmmakers, journalists and anthropologists, all of whom live and work in the Upper Amazon alongside our indigenous partners.

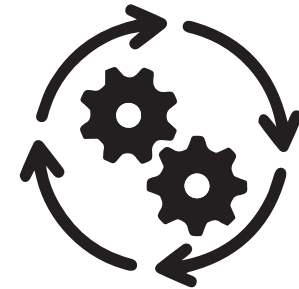
How we partner



1. We **LIVE AND WORK** side by side with our indigenous partners



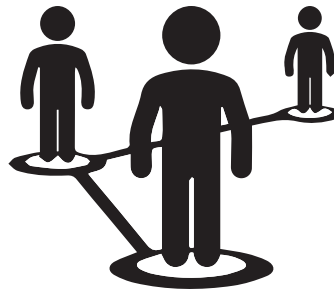
2. We **LISTEN FIRST** to best understand how we as Western allies can most effectively support the challenges of the local communities



3. We **BUILD** communal space for partners to work together, strategize, and activate



4. We **FORGE ALLIANCES** between indigenous nations to embrace a “stronger together” philosophy



5. We **LEVERAGE** global opportunities, networks and resources to fortify indigenous-led climate action in the Amazon



6. **TOGETHER**, we strengthen indigenous capacity to get control, keep control, and thrive in their lands

A model of partnership: The Ceibo Alliance



Amazon Frontlines began in 2011 by tackling the issue of industrial-scale oil contamination of Amazonian waterways. We built the solution from scratch alongside indigenous communities whose water had been poisoned. The result is 1,164 rainwater harvesting systems providing clean water access to over 6,000 indigenous people across 70 villages of Ecuador's Amazon. But what's more, by building the solution to the water crisis together, by nurturing youth leadership, and by building core-capacity, we were able to forge the unprecedented alliance between four indigenous nations now cooperating towards the protection of their lands and cultures.

"The fight for water united us," said Alicia Salazar of the Ceibo Alliance Leadership Council at the Keynote of the Bioneers Conference in California in 2018. "It was like a spark!" The Kofán, Siona, Secoya and Waorani nations had each been fighting alone, struggling to gain ground on the relentless and often bewildering threats their communities faced and unable to raise the on-the-ground support and resources needed to protect their homelands. Their joint-work managing the building of rainwater catchment systems shaped new connections, new leaders and new skills. And with Amazon Frontlines' guidance it led to a new idea: The Ceibo Alliance.

Founded in 2016, the Ceibo Alliance is a first of its kind alliance between ancestral nations of Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. With over 35 full-time indigenous activists working out of a jungle-town organizing center and operating across 80 villages and 5 million acres of primary rainforest, the Ceibo Alliance is developing and implementing strategies to protect their rainforest homelands and way of life. The organization has won the buy-in of local communities, the admiration of civil-society in the capital cities, and the respect and deference of government officials. In just the last few years, the Ceibo Alliance has been awarded the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation Environmental Activist Prize and the Bioneers Award in recognition of its innovative and transformative work.

Too often, indigenous peoples are relegated to the sidelines in the creation and implementation of strategies to protect their forests, their cultures, and our shared climate. The Ceibo Alliance is a scalable and replicable model for indigenous-led solutions and international solidarity to address the Amazon's most urgent problems.



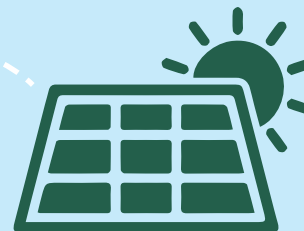
Amazon Frontlines **BUILDS POWER** with indigenous communities to save forests.



By combining cutting-edge technology with bottom-up organizing, we help indigenous nations **GET CONTROL OF THEIR LANDS** — securing land titles for millions of acres of forest and halting illegal activities through real-time forest monitoring.



Then we help indigenous nations **KEEP CONTROL OF THEIR LANDS** by ensuring they can exercise their collective rights to decide the future of their territories. We do this by upending bad laws and closing legal loopholes, pushing for good laws through legal precedent and hard-hitting advocacy, and training indigenous activists and lawyers to lead it all.



All this while working with indigenous youth to build strategic alliances and incubate next-generation initiatives, such as solar energy and regenerative economies, that challenge the existing paradigm of “extraction at all costs” and create a future where indigenous peoples can **THRIVE ON THEIR LANDS**.



Our impact: Get control of land

Together with the Ceibo Alliance, we have created a powerful indigenous-led land patrol model across 4 indigenous territories that is providing real-time protection to over 1 million acres of Amazon rainforest — home to 12,000 species of plants; 650 species of birds; and 165 species of mammals, — using cutting-edge technology and centuries-long forest knowledge to prevent poaching, mining and other illegal threats to their ancestral territory, while supporting their long-term ownership through land-titling of an additional 1 million acres.



Spotlight #1: Get Control of Land



“We all share a vision and we’re creating a path for the protection of our forests.”

- Alex Lucitante to Sierra Magazine

Stopping rainforest destruction in real time starts with him.

We helped Alex galvanize the birth of a community land patrol combining high tech and traditional knowledge to document and halt illegal gold mining, poaching and logging.

The result:

- 79,000 acres of a mega-biodiverse headwaters region protected.
- 52 gold mining concessions permanently cancelled.
- A region-wide gold rush stopped in its tracks.
- A powerful legal precedent established protecting rivers across Ecuador.



Our impact: Keep control of land

By combining legal expertise, frontline organizing, and savvy global campaigning, we have built power with indigenous communities to win landmark victories that sets a precedent for our deeper strategy of ensuring the universal right to indigenous self-determination. In doing so, we have helped four indigenous nations strengthen their capacity to collectively manage and govern over 5 million acres of immensely biodiverse rainforest, while keeping over 1.9 million tons of carbon out of the atmosphere annually.

Spotlight #2: Keep Control of Land



“Our elders have always reminded us that this struggle to protect our land and way of life didn’t begin yesterday. They’ve been leading this fight for a long time and it is now our turn as the next generation to carry on what our ancestors began.”

- Sandro Piaguaaje

Protecting indigenous ways of life depends on him.

Facing armed-conflict, narco-deforestation and prospective oil exploration from the British company Amerisur, Sandro activated comunal ayahuasca ceremonies and mobilized the Siona nations’ youth in Colombia to take back control. We helped Sandro build a powerful legal and communications strategy that is redefining state obligations to indigenous peoples at risk of physical and cultural extinction.

The result:

- Brought alarming dangers to indigenous human rights defenders in Colombia before the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), including testimony at a public hearing and a detailed report.
- Convinced the IACHR to grant the Siona precautionary measures, further obligating the Colombian government to ensure their physical and cultural survival.
- Won crucial injunction in court halting oil exploration in 130,000 acres of Siona lands and putting Amerisur’s drilling plans at risk.
- Gained global attention with three-part series published in The Guardian, putting increased pressure on Colombian government and Amerisur.



Our impact: Thrive on land

By investing in the bold ideas of indigenous youth, and delivering the networks, the capacity, and the resources for them to act on their big vision, we are helping indigenous communities forge innovative solutions to some of the toughest problems facing the Amazon rainforest, such as deforestation, oil contamination and cultural loss. We have ensured access to clean water and solar energy for thousands, built indigenous-led sustainable business models, and trained hundreds of indigenous youth as filmmakers, entrepreneurs, technicians and leaders.

At the heart of it all is a future where indigenous peoples can continue to thrive in their forest.

Spotlight #3: Thrive on Land



“It is up to our generation to think ahead. Not just about how we will make money today, but about what kind of life our children and grandchildren will live in our territories. This question must guide young leaders.”

- Flor Tangoy

The future of the rainforest depends on young leaders like her.

After 50 years of oil spills destroyed the region's water supply, Flor helped start a water project that ensured access to clean water for dozens of villages and brought together a group of indigenous dreamers now building solutions to some of the Amazon's toughest problems, including access to clean energy that allows remote communities to remain free from roads.

Results to date:

- 1,100+ water systems installed in 78 communities providing more than 6,000 people with clean water
- 121 solar energy systems installed and maintained in 16 roadless villages.
- Trained and employed 82 indigenous water technicians and 10 solar technicians.



Our impact: Storytelling

If the world is to support the Amazon's traditional defenders, it first needs to hear their stories and understand their role in the global fight against climate change.

We work to provide the tools, and scale the capacity, for indigenous peoples to share their stories and values with the global community. We have galvanized global awareness through hard-hitting digital campaigns, leveraged a global network of celebrities to propel indigenous stories and victories into the public view, and implemented creative and high-profile multi-nation campaign actions in indigenous communities and cities across Ecuador, Colombia and Peru.

From local radio stations to national newspapers and major international media, putting the spotlight on indigenous peoples as key actors for the protection of the rainforest is an effective strategy to accompany defense processes towards success, amplify indigenous peoples' voices and increase public consciousness on the links between indigenous rights, cultural survival and rainforest conservation.

Through 2018, our work was featured in:

The Guardian

The New York Times

EL COMERCIO
DEL ECUADOR

teleSUR

ALJAZEERA

EL UNIVERSO
EL MAYOR DIARIO NACIONAL

ecuavisa

FP
Foreign Policy

MONGABAY
RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION JOURNAL



Our impact through 2018

Our listen-first approach and model of partnering with indigenous peoples is getting results:

- **Delivering resources to the frontlines:** \$584,000 passed through to local indigenous partners
- **Empowering indigenous solutions to industrial contamination:** clean water access secured for all oil-impacted families of Kofán, Siona, Waorani and Secoya nations
- **Improving indigenous energy autonomy:** 16 roadless communities powered by solar energy
- **Defending indigenous lands through strategic litigation:** 209,000 acres of primary rainforest protected in courts from oil and mining projects setting historic precedents
- **Striving towards stronger land tenure:** legal titling for 880,000 acres of ancestral territory underway in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru
- **Halting deforestation at the source:** 200 indigenous forest guards trained and actively patrolling 1,160,000 acres of land
- **Indigenous maps as tools for protection:** over 1 million acres of indigenous rainforest mapped by 50 mappers among three nations; two digital maps completed
- **Leveling the playing field through capacity building:** created Frontline Defenders and Frontline Journalist training schools with over 35 active graduates
- **Uplifting women's leadership:** 5 women-led community microenterprises now earning a sustainable income for families; more than 480 women have received training through dozens of leadership workshops. Revitalizing ancestral cultures: 11 community ceremonial lodges built, over 30 knowledge sharing workshops, in 10 communities with hundreds of participants.
- **Keeping indigenous plant knowledge alive:** 10 community yoco forests with over 3000 yoco vines bringing a sacred vine back from brink of extinction; created a 15-volume educational video library on medicinal plant use and preparation; 2 medicinal plant gardens established enhousing over 400 useful plant medicines, 4 hectares reforested with culturally important native plants,
- **Earning awareness worldwide:** stories published in The Guardian, Al Jazeera, The New York Times, Foreign Policy, Take Part, Mongabay, Telesur, as well as in all major Ecuadorian outlets

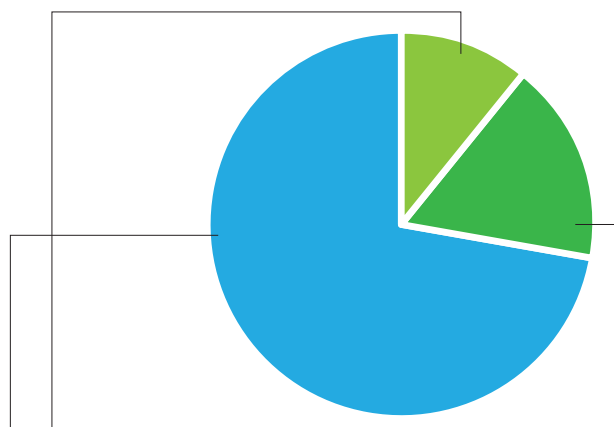


Our Supporters: January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018

Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation
Rainforest Fund
Saving an Angel

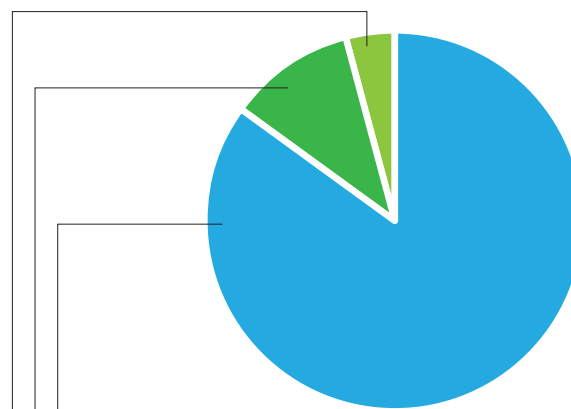
Cambria Fund
Ms. Anne Kiehl Friedman / The San Francisco Foundation
Furthur Foundation
The Nancy P. and Richard K. Robbins Family Foundation
Stephanie & Mark Robinson / Marin Community Foundation
Tyler Riggs Foundation

**The supporters listed are above the \$5,000 threshold. We would like to express gratitude to all of our many supporters not listed here.



REVENUE

Individual donations	\$33,551	11%
Monthly sustainers	\$51,851	17%
Foundations	\$219,605	72%
Other income	\$767	0%
Total Revenue	\$305,774	100%



EXPENSES

Program services	\$1,001,939	85%
Management & general	\$150,976	11%
Fundraising	\$50,115	4%
Total Expenses	\$1,203,030	100%
Net assets as of December 31, 2018		\$1,024,933

*In 2018, Amazon Frontlines received \$1,158,005 from the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation as part of a three-year commitment, of which the full amount was recognized as revenue in 2016.

For a complete financial reporting by McDonald Jacobs, P.C. please contact Amazon Frontlines' development team.



Staff

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Raúl Montala - IT Lead
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Sophie Pinchetti - Communications Lead
Jena Webb - Scientific Consultant
Luke Weiss - Culture & Conservation Lead
Jerónimo Zúñiga - Storytelling Lead, Communications

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Josh Fryday - Board Treasurer
Felicity Lark-Hei Meu - Board Secretary
Justin Winters - Board Member

Honorary Board Members

Raymond Garvey
Franca Sciutto



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