



# Annual Impact Report 2019

Indigenous Resilience  
in a Time of Crisis

**AF** AMAZON  
FRONTLINES



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## Dear friends,

I am writing this letter in the midst of a global pandemic that is testing our resilience, individually and collectively, while it exposes many of the world's "pre-existing conditions". Fires caused by deforestation and unabated climate change are raging from California to the Amazon. Democracies from the US to Brazil are teetering on the precipice of fascism. Inequalities are calcifying as our health care systems strain and economies sputter. Yet, we are witnessing heightened global consciousness and connectedness in the growing movements fighting for justice, even as powerful economic interests seek to take advantage of widespread instability.

Over the last ten years I have been living in the Amazon rainforest, working with and learning from Indigenous peoples, who have long-witnessed and weathered the crises that much of the world is awakening to today. The spread of coronavirus through Indigenous territories is a painful echo of history dating back to the arrival of the first European settlers. Indigenous peoples have combated smallpox, malaria, measles, and influenza brought by outsiders by using their own knowledge of the jungle and its medicinal plants to employ traditional healing techniques that have been passed down through generations. Today, Indigenous peoples are also living on the sharp edge of the climate crisis, downriver from rampant extraction and burdened with contamination, territory loss, shrinking biodiversity and deforestation.

Despite so much adversity, Indigenous peoples have been building resilience for generations, adapting new strategies to survive, while staying connected to the land, their spirituality

and ancestral knowledge. Their resilience in the face of numerous threats is essential to maintaining the Indigenous way of life and protecting their culture, as well as the Amazon rainforest, for generations to come. It is also a clue to us all as we navigate the challenges of a world in turmoil.

Amazon Frontlines' work and partnership with Indigenous peoples has been shaped, deepened and enriched through crisis. A decade ago we took joint action with Indigenous communities across Ecuador's Amazon to stem a public-health crisis by building access to clean water for more than 80 villages affected by industrial-scale oil contamination. We then worked hand-in-hand with the same communities to forge the Ceibo Alliance, an Indigenous non-profit that is pioneering community-led strategies to protect their way of life and the forests from intensifying resource extraction in indigenous territories. At the heart of every effort we have undertaken through these partnerships to date is the aim to protect and support Indigenous resilience.

In Spring 2019, this model led us to a remarkable legal victory with the Waorani peoples of Pastaza to protect half-a-million acres of their ancestral territory in the Amazon rainforest. In many ways, the Waorani victory was a turning point for Amazon Frontlines. The victory followed an historic win with the Kofán people of Sinangoe in 2018, which had nullified over 50 mining concessions in their territory, but the lawsuit with the Waorani the following year was a demonstration of Indigenous power on a whole new scale. By leveraging global media, advocacy and partnerships to support Indigenous-led struggles for justice in

## Letter from our Founder & Executive Director

the Amazon, we showed the world that the best defense against rainforest loss and destruction is Indigenous leadership and self-determination. The Waorani victory created a blueprint for rainforest protection against extraction.

By the end of summer 2019, the fires hit with a vengeance. While immeasurably devastating, they catapulted the Amazon onto the world stage, and Amazon Frontlines was able to harness global attention to drive emergency support and resources to Indigenous resilience efforts across the Amazon Basin and Upper Amazon. A few months later, thousands of people in Ecuador took to the streets for eleven days to protest economic reforms linked to a disastrous \$4.2 billion loan deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and to challenge the treatment of Indigenous peoples and unchecked oil and mining on their lands. Those historic, Indigenous-led mobilizations marked a new chapter for the Indigenous movement—and a growing recognition that there is no future for the Amazon without Indigenous peoples.

It is time for the whole world to recognize that Indigenous resilience and leadership are critical to solving the multiple crises of our time—from climate change and extinction, to economic inequality and spirituality in crisis. Indigenous peoples risk their lives every day to protect the Amazon from extraction and preserve their way of life, using their profound ecological knowledge and connection to the land to stop deforestation and biodiversity loss in the most important rainforest on the planet. Their collective struggles, backed by Indigenous values and spirituality, are instructive to learn from if we are to meet the high stakes and dire challenges of the 21st century.

Amazon Frontlines will work to remind the world that these



seemingly distant struggles are not separate. And just as our relationships with Indigenous partners are the engine of our fight for the Amazon, we cannot achieve victories like those of the past year, or scale our model of Indigenous solidarity, or confront the next tidal wave of threats against the Amazon and Indigenous peoples without supporters like you. You make it possible for us to invest in Indigenous resilience and autonomy so that we all may prevail. Together we can build a more sustainable, just and livable world.

Thank you for being a part of this movement.

**Mitch Anderson**  
*Founder & Executive Director*



# *A letter from Alicia Salazar, on behalf of the Ceibo Alliance*

## **Dear friends and allies,**

It's an honor to be writing this letter, though it's also hard to know exactly what to say in such a difficult and urgent time for the Amazon and for our people. Our way of life and our home is under threat. Thousands of years of our wisdom and stories, medicinal plants, so many different kinds of animals, our life giving forest: all of this could soon disappear. We know that if our rainforest is destroyed, so too goes our entire planet.

What I can say is this: We are all connected. Even though the threats we face are great, if we stand together, we are strong enough to face them.

We formed the Ceibo Alliance with this belief. We joined together to protect our forest and build our own solutions to resource extraction. Since the beginning, we have partnered with Amazon Frontlines. Our partnership is powerful, effective, and built on trust and friendship. It has allowed us to grow our own vision for self-governance and to truly imagine a future where our children and grandchildren thrive in a healthy forest. With their support, we have taken action to build this future, and with the help of people like you, a growing global network of friends, we have won some of the most important battles for our rights as Indigenous peoples in recent years.

In 2019, as you'll see in this report, we stood strong and won historic victories for the protection of hundreds of thousands of acres of our rainforest and rivers. We showed the oil companies and the governments that they can no longer walk over us. We demonstrated to the whole world that Indigenous wisdom and leadership is critical in the fight to save our planet.



Today, we are in the midst of a global pandemic, fires are raging across the Amazon, and we are fighting with our lives against powerful interests that want to destroy our forest for profit. As the mother of ten children, and as a grandmother, the world I leave behind for future generations is what matters most to me. I can imagine you feel the same. It's up to us whether our future on Earth is the same or worse than it is today, or whether it is safer, healthier, and more in balance with nature. This is what our struggle is about.

Thank you for being with us.

**Alicia Salazar**  
*Ceibo Alliance Director*

# *A letter from Nemonte Nenquimo, on behalf of CONCONAWEP*

## **Dear Friends,**

I write you this letter out of deep respect and gratitude for your commitment to supporting the struggles of Indigenous peoples across the Amazon rainforest. For centuries, we have been fighting alone—with our knowledge, our spirituality, our bravery and our spears—to protect what we love: our rivers, our forests, our way of life, our homes. But the threats that we face in the 21st century can't be faced alone. And that is why I thank you.

In 2019, you were there for my people as we took on the oil industry and the government to protect our lands from oil drilling. The battle didn't just happen overnight. We had been organizing for years with our friends at Amazon Frontlines—building access to clean water and solar energy; creating territorial maps; holding region-wide assemblies; and training our youth in filmmaking—so when the government tried to auction our lands to the oil industry we were united and ready. And you were there to back us!

Together, we protected a half million acres of our ancestral rainforest territory. Rivers full of fish. Young children harvesting wild fruits. Our elders chanting spirit songs at first light. That is what we protected. And in doing so, we advanced our right to decide what happens in our territories, our right to stop extraction across our lands! Our victory is having impacts across the region, providing a powerful legal tool for other Indigenous nations to protect millions of acres from the ongoing assault of the extractive industries.



Our planet is in the grips of a terrible sickness, an imbalance that the world is calling climate change. As an Indigenous woman, I am asking you to join us in healing Mother Earth. Our struggles to protect our land, our rivers and our way of life is your struggle too! Together we must relearn how to coexist with all living beings on this planet, and in doing so, we're going to need to band together and fight with every ounce of our being to protect the only thing that really matters—life itself.

**Nemonte Nenquimo**  
*CONCONAWEP President*





What happens here  
matters EVERYWHERE.



**OUR MISSION: Amazon Frontlines  
builds power with Indigenous Peoples to  
protect the Amazon and our climate.**

A group of indigenous people, mostly men, are gathered in a lush green forest. They are holding a large, white, rectangular banner that spans across the middle of the image. The banner has text written on it in various colors (red, green, black). The people are dressed in traditional or simple clothing, some with headbands. The background is filled with dense tropical vegetation, including large green leaves and ferns. The overall scene is one of a protest or demonstration in a natural setting.

MONITO OME GORONTE ENAMAI  
NUESTRO TERRITORIO NO SE VENDE  
OUR LAND IS NOT FOR SALE  
NO OIL  
NO AL BLOQUE 22  
BA AMONIPA





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.





**BUILD POWER WITH  
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.



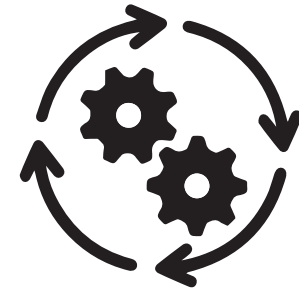
# How we partner



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



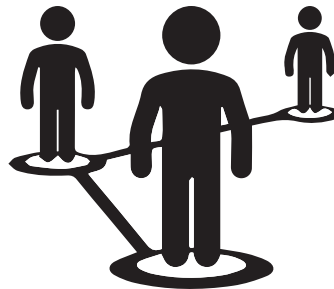
2. We **LISTEN FIRST** to best understand how we as Western allies can most effectively support the challenges of the local communities



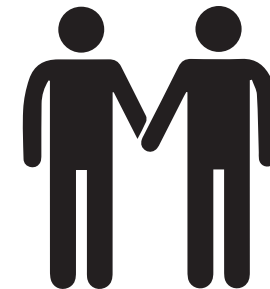
3. We **BUILD** communal space for partners to work together, strategize, and activate



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



# Key moments of Indigenous Resilience in 2019





## Waorani Landmark Legal Victory: Setting Precedent for Indigenous Territorial Protection

On April 26, 2019, the Waorani people of Pastaza won a historic ruling in Ecuadorian court protecting half a million acres of their territory in the Amazon rainforest from oil drilling. This landmark judgment—the culmination of six years of Indigenous-led, community-based organizing in partnership with Amazon Frontlines—recognizes the Waorani people’s right to prior consultation and self-determination and provides an invaluable legal precedent for other Indigenous nations across the Upper Amazon.



When Amazon Frontlines began installing rainwater catchment systems with the Waorani people of Pastaza in 2013, they were on the northern edge of a government-sponsored oil auction to license off over 7 million acres of Indigenous territory in the south-central Ecuadorian Amazon. To many Waorani, oil drilling on their lands seemed like an unfortunate but inevitable fate.

Together we embarked on what would become more than a half decade of community-based organizing in roadless Waorani villages, including the creation of a sophisticated territorial map identifying more than 10,000 points of spiritual, cultural, biological importance to the Waorani - all threatened by the government's oil drilling plans. We installed solar panels in communities to energize the movement and women's enterprise initiatives were incubated to provide families with added income. As new young leaders rose out of the organizing work, talk of innovation and a future determined not by oil, but by Indigenous stewardship of their ancestral lands rippled through the communities.

The Waorani then made a collective decision: "Our land is not for sale." The court battle that followed brought together Indigenous nations from all over the Ecuadorian Amazon, and ignited a global discussion on the power of Indigenous peoples to decide over the future of their forests and lives. Almost 400,000 signatures worldwide in a mere span of months anchored an international campaign that pushed the voices of the Waorani people and story of resistance into the homes of millions of people. News pieces in dozens of major outlets such as The New Yorker, Al Jazeera and CNN; viral social media support from celebrities like Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo and Chris Evans; speeches before the UN in Geneva; and an Indigenous-led online platform not only put enormous pressure on the judges to rule based on the law but brought critical-awareness to the strength of indigenous climate action.

When the Waorani and Amazon Frontlines lawyers defeated the government in court it seemed like the whole world celebrated with them. The landmark judgment, which recognizes the Waorani people's right to prior consultation and self-determination, provides an invaluable legal precedent for other Indigenous nations across the Upper Amazon who are now using the momentum to fight against the remaining 15 oil blocks overlapping 6.5 million acres of threatened rainforest. The Waorani's story is a victory for the Amazon and our climate, but it's also a testament to the tremendous power Indigenous nations can wield to stop the devastation of their ancestral forests when they have support on the ground and around the world.







## **Amplifying Indigenous Voices and Storytelling in the Face of Amazon-wide Fires**

The fires that raged across the Amazon region in summer 2019 served as an urgent wake-up call across the world to the threats facing the Amazon and our shared climate. For Amazon Frontlines and our Indigenous partners, the fires were a tragic byproduct of what we're up against: a global system fueled by the resources in these extraordinary forests, and the companies and actors who push even deeper into the Amazon to access these resources. This global thirst for resources, together with government complicity, will destroy our planet's most important ecosystems unless we take a stand—and lift up the voices that matter.





Despite global attention captured by the fires in Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay's Amazon regions, Indigenous perspectives and narratives on this crisis were often eclipsed or went undocumented. With the goal of chronicling and amplifying firsthand accounts of Indigenous communities impacted by the fires, Amazon Frontlines organized a trip for two Indigenous Siekopai storytellers—participants in Amazon Frontlines' Indigenous journalism training program—and two videographers from the Amazon Frontlines team to travel to the Chiquitanía region in Bolivia's Amazon, where ongoing fires were ravaging the natural environment and threatening the lives and livelihoods of Indigenous communities.

Through film and photography, the Indigenous storytellers captured and helped amplify the often-marginalized voices of the area's Indigenous peoples. Local villagers shared powerful

stories of the correlation between the loss of their territories, the decline in animal populations and deforestation and climate change, especially longer and hotter dry seasons. For the Indigenous peoples of the Chiquitanía, a once lush and abundant forest has become a literal tinderbox, and the fires set by cattle ranchers have become nearly unstoppable. In parallel to this work, Amazon Frontlines' videography team was able to document and film the behind-the-scenes process, in order to present the perspectives, visions and reflections of the Indigenous filmmakers. The Amazon Frontlines team and the two Siekopai storytellers produced [a powerful photo essay about the experience](#), published in Spanish and English, which helped raise awareness and funds for emergency response for communities affected by the Amazon fires across Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil.





## Victory in the Streets: Indigenous-led Demonstrations in Protest of Neo-liberal Policy

In October 2019, thousands of Indigenous peoples, students, and civil society groups mobilized in the streets of Ecuador in protest of a \$4.4 billion International Monetary Fund (IMF) backed loan deal that sought to restructure the Ecuadorian economy towards privatization, resource-extraction, and other severe neo-liberal economic reforms.

These Indigenous-led mobilizations were quickly met with repression and violence by the Ecuadorian government, resulting in seven deaths, 1,340 severely wounded and more than 1,150 detained over the eleven days of demonstrations.



Early on, Amazon Frontlines' legal team helped create the Ecuadorian Alliance for Human Rights (the Alliance) to provide rapid legal support to victims of human rights abuses during the protests. Alongside the Alliance, the Amazon Frontlines team monitored and documented human rights abuses, which were compiled in a report and submitted to both the United Nations and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights during site-visits in Ecuador. Both expressed deep concern for the alarming situations on violence and repression and called for the Ecuadorian government to respect citizens' rights to protest peacefully and avoid excessive force, arbitrary detentions and the miscarriage of due process rights.

To help hold the Ecuadorian government accountable, Amazon Frontlines leveraged its global network of online activists and influential supporters to amplify the story and raise critical funds in order to respond to the government repression. The Amazon Frontlines' network, along with allies Amazon Watch and Land Is Life, responded with over \$25,000 in direct support, 100% of which was regranted to the Ecumenical Commission on Human Rights to assist with humanitarian and legal aid to defend Indigenous people who were arbitrarily detained or charged during mobilizations.

In an extraordinary demonstration of unity and political power, after 11 days of mobilizations the Indigenous movement forced President Lenín Moreno into dialogue, mediated by the UN and broadcast live on national television. After hearing from Indigenous leaders, President Moreno capitulated and called for the nullification of the IMF-backed austerity measures that took away gasoline subsidies, a key demand to avoid sharp increases in agriculture and transportation costs of the Indigenous movement. Protests were subsequently called off while further dialogue proceeded to address the remaining Indigenous demands.

A lot remains to be written as Indigenous peoples prepare for the long road ahead to hold the government accountable for widespread human rights violations during the protests and the complete nullification of the economic measures and extraction policies imposed by the IMF in Ecuador. But the protests undoubtedly left their mark on the country and the region: when united behind a common cause Indigenous peoples hold incredible amounts of power and are not afraid to stand up to repression.







## Reclaiming Ancestral Siekopai Homelands: Setting Precedent for Indigenous Land Titling in Ecuador and Peru

Indigenous nations with ancestral territories that cross one or more international borders are forced to navigate complex legal frameworks on matters of citizenship, land titling, and self-governance rights, including Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC). For the Siekopai people, who were divided between Ecuador and Peru as a result of the two countries' 1941 border conflict, this has entailed a decades long struggle for land title recognition in two countries. To further complicate matters, they face a legal framework that favors government ownership



of “national park” territories over collective rights (in Ecuador) and an obscure, misleading titling system that grants the vast majority of Indigenous titled land to the State (in Peru). Amazon Frontlines has developed a country-specific accompaniment and legal support strategy for the transborder Siekopai nation.

In Ecuador, the Siekopai were forcibly removed by the military from their ancestral heartland of Pëkëya (also known as Lagarto Cocha), a mega-biodiverse, pristine labyrinth of blackwater lagoons, flooded forests and rolling hills that has now been turned into a national park. Despite Congress passing a new law in 2016 to allow Indigenous territories within a national park to be titled, the Ministry of Environment (MAE) has not granted a single land title to Indigenous communities within protected areas, nor set regulations to evaluate land claims or resolve potential land conflicts. Using a multi-tier strategy of public demonstrations, legal and human rights advocacy, and global communications, the Siekopai are working in partnership with Amazon Frontlines to change that, and in the process, set precedent for dozens of other Indigenous groups in Ecuador looking to title millions of acres of ancestral lands within national parks. In 2019, we jointly succeeded in pressuring the MAE to hold off on approving a ministerial decree that would have imposed ineffective and high-cost administrative procedures for land-titling within protected areas until the State guarantees Indigenous participation in the construction of those regulations, as required by law. The Siekopai are preparing for potential actions before the Human Rights Ombudsman on their land claim and even potential litigation down the road.

In Peru, the Siekopai—in partnership with Amazon Frontlines—are fighting to secure land title for three key communities—an area over 500,000 acres—by challenging overlapping federal logging allocations through administrative negotiations with

the threat of litigation. If successful, the Siekopai can guarantee a bi-national biological, social and cultural corridor for their people of over a half million hectares and knock down barriers to land-titling for millions of hectares held by dozens of other Indigenous nations across the country. Amazon Frontlines has been spearheading a legal and advocacy strategy alongside Indigenous leaders from the Peruvian Amazon. At the end of 2019, the Siekopai community of Wajoya received a land-title for an area of ancestral lands of over 100,000 acres (52,000 has).

Further, elders and youth have been working with lawyers, anthropologists and geographers to create a map for the court showing how the current land-distribution in Peruvian titles is irreconcilable with the Siekopai’s relationship with their land historically, culturally, spiritually and materially. With the logging area allocations lifted and titles in hand, the Siekopai will then be in a position to initiate a constitutional fight with huge nationwide impact to reform land-distribution within Indigenous titles in order to guarantee Indigenous, rather than State, ownership of tens of millions of acres.







## Fighting for Survival: Protecting Cultures & Defenders At-Risk in Colombia

Every week across the world, three environmental defenders are killed. With conflicts over natural resources increasing in remote rainforest homelands, the threat against Indigenous leaders and families is higher than ever, representing over a quarter of all victims. The Siona of Putumayo along the border of Colombia and Ecuador live in one of the most dangerous regions in the world for environmental defenders. Recently, the highest court of Colombia declared the Siona to be at risk of physical and cultural extinction due to the armed-conflict. Yet despite the



risks, the Siona and their 60 member land patrol defend their territories on both sides of the border from oil drilling, narco-deforestation and armed-conflict, while providing a model and legal precedent for Indigenous peoples around the world.

Amazon Frontlines and our Indigenous partners at Ceibo Alliance are working closely with the Siona to protect their leaders, their communities, and their culture from the threat of extractive industries, land-invaders, and armed-actors. In 2019, we helped bring the Siona's case, including a public hearing and detailed report, to the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights to demonstrate the alarming dangers to Indigenous human rights defenders in Colombia. Amazon Frontlines helped negotiate an agreement with the Colombian National Protection Agency to provide financial support for the Siona's land patrol and community security. We also succeeded in pressuring the Colombian government to train and hire three Siona to remove anti-personnel landmines covering their territory. We defended the court-order blocking Amerisur's planned seismic testing over 120,000 acres and launched an international advocacy campaign targeting British oil company Amerisur Resources (recently sold to Chilean company GeoPark) and Colombian government to respect the Siona's right to keep their territory safe and oil-free.







## Indigenous Resilience in the Rainforest: Creating an Alternative Future to Sustain Amazonian Cultures and Livelihood

It is not just the Amazon rainforest itself that is at risk. Throughout the region, Indigenous peoples face extraordinary threats to their way of life and their culture. Resource extraction, both legal and illegal, has significantly fragmented, reduced and polluted Indigenous territories. Rivers throughout the region, which function as the primary source of drinking water for thousands of families, have been polluted by multiple oil spills and run-off from mining operations, causing extreme health impacts on communities. Traditional hunting and harvesting practices have been impeded by reduced or fragmented territory, diminished wildlife populations, and polluted waterways. With the land tormented, young people are leaving their ancestral territories in pursuit of jobs and education, which leaves communities struggling to pass on critical traditional knowledge to preserve their cultures for the next generations.

With industry and infrastructure knocking at the door, Indigenous peoples must be able to create an alternative future that sustains rather than exploits their rainforest territories and that supports the vitality and longevity of the very cultures and traditions that ensure their resilience in the Amazon. Working and caring for the land becomes, in this sense,



an act of resistance. Amazon Frontlines is committed to supporting our Indigenous partners in ensuring that their immense cultural heritage and knowledge, including the richness and uniqueness of their perspectives, values and priorities, are protected. In 2019, Amazon Frontlines fostered spaces for knowledge sharing between elder and younger generations to support the cultural survival of our Indigenous partners and supported Indigenous leadership in developing new initiatives to provide sustainable livelihoods and infrastructure for basic needs.

**Recovering the Sacred Yoko vine:** Yoko, a traditionally wild-harvested vine at risk of extinction, is a keystone plant to many of our Indigenous partners. Traditionally consumed as a caffeinated beverage the entire family drinks before dawn, the yoko vine plays a pivotal role in the transmission of knowledge between elders and youth. During these pre dawn ceremonies, grandparents share stories and impart valuable cultural wisdom and life lessons. Restoring yoko's place in the wild and in community life is critical to ensuring Indigenous cultural resilience in the Upper Amazon. In 2019, we continued to expand the Yoco recovery initiative into four new Kofán communities and two Siona communities, bringing the total to 14 comunal Yoco gardens and over 4,000 yoco vines. The project was further supported by a forest inventory collaboration with the US Forest Service to determine tree density, crown size/shape, and basal area of each plot. Perhaps one of the best indicators of the success of this project to date is that Indigenous elders, who had seen the once-prolific vine on the edge of disappearing, were amazed to see such a great number of yoko vines thriving in the community forest gardens.

**Facilitating Knowledge Transfer Between the Elder and Younger Generations:** Indigenous elders are the keepers of an extraordinary wealth of ancestral knowledge about the rainforest

and traditional cultural practices. As the elder generation passes away and youth are tempted by a different life in cities, this knowledge is at risk of disappearing forever and with it, the collective understanding of the inherent value of the rainforest and the will to protect it. Amazon Frontlines works with our community partners to develop initiatives that protect and preserve ancestral cultures and to facilitate knowledge and skill sharing workshops between elders and youth that encourage and inspire the youth to learn about their people's way of life and strengthen their cultural identity. In 2019, activities included building ceremonial houses for the recovery of community yagé ceremonial practices and workshops on hammock weaving, pottery, and traditional games.

**Strengthening Women-led Microenterprises:** The fate of the Amazon depends on its women. Building power with women not only serves them, their families and their communities, but it also better equips communities to defend their cultural heritage and rainforest territories. Together with women from the Kofán, Siona, Siekopai and Waorani Indigenous nations, Amazon Frontlines has been developing and implementing initiatives to strengthen women's leadership, recover ancestral knowledge and develop economic alternatives to the destructive industries that threaten the forest and Indigenous livelihoods. In 2019, we supported Kofán, Siekopai, Siona and Waorani women's associations and their implementation of new and ongoing micro enterprises, including the production and marketing of traditional black pepper sauce among the Siekopai, brown sugar among the Siona, and organic chocolate among Waorani women. Additionally, Amazon Frontlines worked to uplift women leaders at the forefront of rights struggles, including the women-led Waorani organization CONCONAWEP that led the Waorani people to their historic legal victory.





# Financial and Organizational Overview



# Our Supporters

January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

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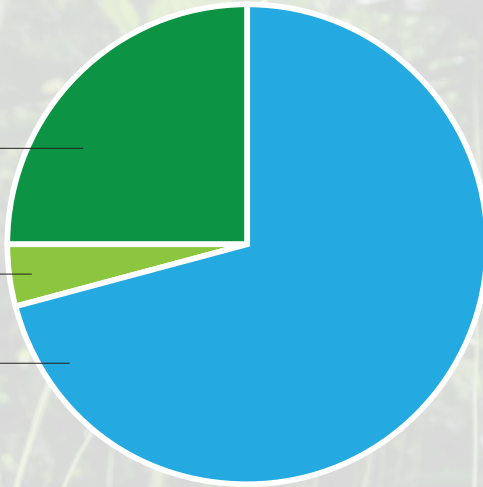
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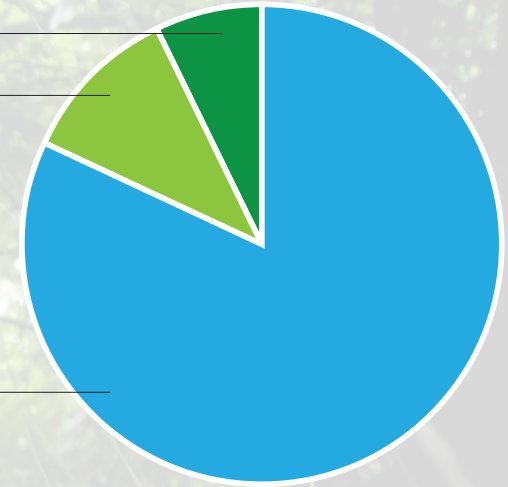
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### REVENUE

Individual donations	\$541,370	25%
Monthly sustainers	\$92,236	4%
Foundations	\$1,532,500	71%
Other income	\$1,121	0%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,167,227</b>	<b>100%</b>



### EXPENSES

Program services	\$1,323,193	82%
Management & general	\$172,184	11%
Fundraising	\$109,334	7%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,604,711</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Net assets as of December 31, 2019** **\$1,587,449**

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





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**Laura Rojas** - Legal Defenders, Program Coordinator  
**Paolo Solis** - Human Resources & Operations Coordinator  
**Ina Shkurti** - Monitoring Lead, Land Protectors  
**Jodie Van Horn** - Communications Director  
**Luke Weiss** - Culture & Conservation Lead  
**Alejandra Yopez** - National Media Coordinator  
**Jerónimo Zúñiga** - Storytelling Lead, Communications

## Board of Directors

**Ginger Cassady**, Board Chair  
**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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