



AMAZON FRONTLINES

Annual Report 2022



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OUR MISSION

**AMAZON FRONTLINES BUILDS POWER WITH
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO PROTECT THE
AMAZON RAINFOREST AND OUR CLIMATE.**



WHO WE ARE

**WE ARE A GLOBALLY-BACKED, INDIGENOUS-
LED PARTNERSHIP THAT BUILDS POWER WITH
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO PROTECT THEIR
LANDS AND WAY OF LIFE IN THE AMAZON.**





OUR MODEL IS SIMPLE: PARTNERSHIP

Indigenous leaders, communities and Nations are fighting to protect their lands and their cultures.

CEIBO ALLIANCE

Ceibo Alliance is an unprecedented alliance of Indigenous nationalities working together to create strong leaders, strong communities and strong organizations.

AMAZON FRONTLINES

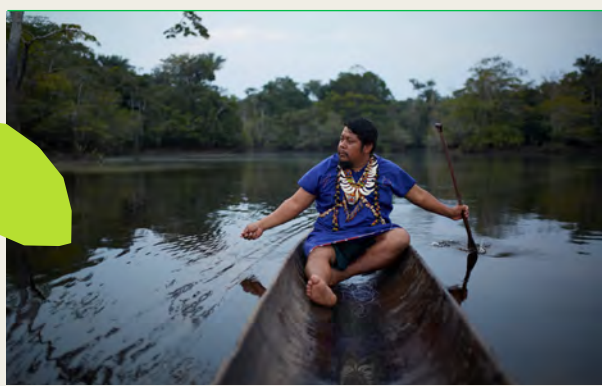
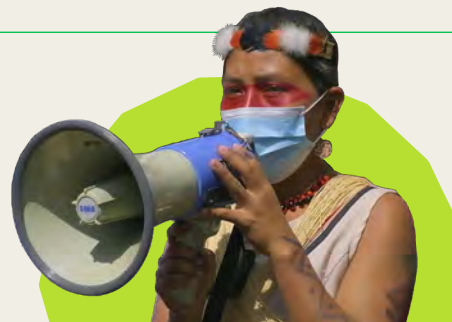
Amazon Frontlines is an interdisciplinary team of human rights lawyers, journalists, filmmakers, scientists and activists who live and work in the Amazon rainforest alongside our Indigenous partners.

Together, Amazon Frontlines and the Ceibo Alliance ensure they have the tools, resources and networks needed to win these battles.

2022 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

MAKING THE LAW WORK FOR GUARDIANS OF THE FOREST:

We won a historic legal victory at Ecuador's highest court, advancing the Indigenous right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent. **(Impact: 14 Indigenous nations, collective owners of approximately 9 million hectares of rainforest, have stronger legal precedent to "veto" extractive projects on their lands.)**



KEEPING OIL IN THE GROUND:

Through legal challenges, media campaigns, and legal accompaniment in negotiations following a nation-wide Indigenous-led strike, forced the Ecuadorian government to cancel plans to double oil production in the Amazon rainforest. **(Impact: Approximately 400,000 barrels of oil per day kept in the ground; avoided more deforestation across 6.8 million hectares of rainforest and approximately 68 million tons of additional annual carbon emissions.)**

SECURING INDIGENOUS GUARDIANSHIP OVER ANCESTRAL LANDS:

Advanced pioneering land-titling claims with both the Siekopai and Kofán Nations for 123,000 hectares of sacred black-water lagoons, mountainous headwaters, and highly biodiverse forests. **(Impact: These claims will secure Indigenous stewardship of key wildlife corridors and open legal pathways for Indigenous ownership over 1.5 million additional hectares of land.)**



LEVERAGING NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO PROTECT WOODS AND WILDLIFE:

Equipped and trained 190 Indigenous monitors and rangers with cutting-edge technologies, including GPS, camera traps, drones, and high-res satellite imagery, to detect, document and deter illegal activities, such as poaching, logging and gold mining. **(Impact: 800,000 hectares of forests protected in real-time, 34 communities with strengthened capacity to protect the rainforest.)**

LIFTING UP INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ON THE FRONTLINES:

Through our women's leadership school and our grantmaking program, we expanded investment in women-led solutions to the climate crisis, focusing on economic empowerment, education and advocacy. **(Impact:** 52 women with training and resources to advance community-based economic initiatives; 5 women's associations led by 263 women running small businesses benefitting 10 communities; 17 women storytellers raising visibility and shaping narratives.)



LAUNCHING A NOVEL MODEL OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL REVITALIZATION:

We developed and launched novel Indigenous-driven, community managed models of intercultural education among three Indigenous nations in the Upper Amazon – the Waorani, Siekopai and Kofán peoples – to revitalize ancestral cultures and practices and provide Indigenous youth with the values and skills critical for the long term protection of Amazon rainforest and Indigenous ways of life. **(Impact:** Waorani: New intercultural education model developed and piloted in 3 Waorani schools, benefitting 43 Waorani children and youth; 2 traditional school houses built; Siekopai: Five-year intercultural education curriculum finalized; Kofán: over 80 community members engaged in a robust community diagnostic to assess educational needs and aspirations in order to develop a new educational model for the Kofán nation.)



BRINGING VISIBILITY TO THE INDIGENOUS-LED FIGHT TO PROTECT THE AMAZON:

Leveraged hard-hitting communications campaigns, earned media, Indigenous made films and celebrity endorsement to position our work before local, regional and global audiences. **(Impact:** More than 4 million people reached through social media, over 20 articles published about our work in major media outlets, 2 Indigenous partners won the Goldman Environmental Prize.)



MOBILIZING RESOURCES TO THE FRONTLINES:

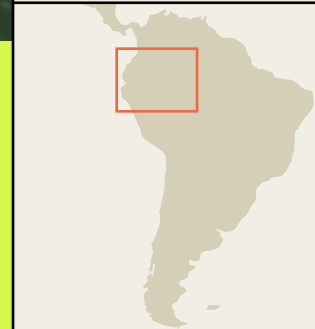
While less than 1% of all global philanthropy reaches frontline Indigenous communities, in 2022 we ensured a steady flow of funding to our Indigenous partners in the Upper Amazon. **(Impact:** \$1.2M granted to Indigenous partner organizations and communities)

AMAZON FRONTLINES' AREA OF IMPACT



- Areas of Direct Impact
- Areas of Overall Impact

Location in South America



SECURING INDIGENOUS RIGHTS THROUGH STRATEGIC LITIGATION



**“WE DEMAND, AS ANCESTRAL
PEOPLE, IN OUR TERRITORIES
THAT OUR CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHTS BE RESPECTED,
GUARANTEED AND FULFILLED”**

Wider Waramag,
Kofán Sinangoe leader



Guaranteeing the right of frontline Indigenous communities to decide what happens on their lands is a key strategy to halt destructive resource extraction in the Amazon. Despite the international recognition of Indigenous rights and their incorporation into constitutions of various Amazonian governments, these rights are often trampled or go unenforced. At Amazon Frontlines, we wage hard-hitting legal battles and advocacy campaigns with our Indigenous partners that upend bad laws and close loopholes, jam destructive extractive projects, and advance Indigenous rights, regionally and globally, through legal precedent and improved legal frameworks.



The political climate in the region in 2022 posed a significant threat to Indigenous peoples and their rainforest territories. Governments across the Amazon continued to promote resource extraction as a core part of their post COVID-19 economic recovery plans. As an example, Ecuador's president Guillermo Lasso stated, "Now that the world is transitioning away from fossil fuels, it's time to extract every last drop of oil." His aggressive extractive agenda, coupled with alarming surges in food and fuel prices, sparked a nation-wide strike in June 2022 spearheaded by Ecuador's Indigenous movement – a firm stance against the prospect of expanded resource extraction in Indigenous territories across the country. The political crisis that unfolded in Peru in 2022 also brought about significant challenges for Indigenous peoples, as it underscored the urgent need for policies that observe Indigenous collective and land rights in the country and gave rise to new waves of repression and racism directed at Indigenous communities.

In 2022, Amazon Frontlines embarked once again on strategies that combined litigation, advocacy and grassroots organizing to uphold Indigenous peoples' rights and counter pressing threats. Among significant achievements, we helped Ecuador's Indigenous movement force the government to cancel plans to double-oil production in the Amazon rainforest. Additionally, we obtained a groundbreaking court victory in Ecuador for the Free, Prior and Informed Consent in Ecuador, setting historic legal precedent and providing Indigenous peoples all across the country with a tool to say no to extractive projects on their rainforest territories. More of this work is detailed in the sections below.

GROUNDBREAKING LEGAL VICTORY AT ECUADOR'S HIGHEST COURT



In February 2022, Ecuador's highest court acknowledged the Kofán community of Sinangoe, located along the Aguarico river in the northwestern region of the Ecuadorian Amazon, has the right to say no to oil drilling and gold mining on their lands, **establishing their right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) at the constitutional level.** This directly protects 32,000 hectares of Sinangoe's territory, and sets legal precedent to protect 9 million hectares of rainforest.

This historic victory is the result of a years-long battle carried out by Amazon Frontlines lawyers alongside our Indigenous partners. The ruling stems from the Kofán community of **Sinangoe's 2018 lawsuit** that successfully annulled 52 gold-mining concessions granted by the government along their most important river. In 2021, Sinangoe brought this case before Ecuador's Constitutional Court, hosting the first ever constitutional court hearing in Indigenous territory in the heart of the Amazon, and resulting in the establishment of a groundbreaking legal precedent.

Ecuador now has one of the most powerful legal tools in the world on the internationally recognized right of Indigenous peoples to FPIC, crucial for Indigenous survival and the protection of huge swaths of forests and mega-biodiverse ecosystems.

"This decision is an essential tool to ensure that consent is respected in Ecuador and throughout the region. By acknowledging the life, history, and future of Indigenous Peoples, this also recognizes the long-term value of maintaining natural environments for humans around the world." — Jorge Acero, Amazon Frontlines lawyer

TAKING THE ECUADORIAN GOVERNMENT TO COURT

Despite securing successful legal victories, governments persistently advocate for extractive agendas and display noncompliance with court rulings that uphold Indigenous rights. In response, Amazon Frontlines actively works to secure the effective enforcement of laws and court rulings that protect Indigenous rights and territories, with the ultimate objective of holding the state and companies accountable for their actions and preventing new extractive activity jeopardizing Indigenous peoples and their territories.

In the face of persisting extractive activity in Kofán and Waorani territory, in September 2022 we brought a case against the Ecuadorian government before the nation's highest court for failing to implement the rulings in the Kofán of Sinangoe's 2018 case and



the [Waurani of Pastaza's 2019 case](#), which recognized the right of both communities to FPIC, and irrevocably annulled mining and oil concessions, respectively. The claim was filed on the basis that resource extraction continues in these territories without the communities' consent. We are targeting advocacy efforts to provide additional evidence to encourage the Ecuadorian Constitutional Court to review the case in an effort to ensure the government effectively complies with the rulings, halts further extractive encroachment by industries in Kofán and Waurani territories, and secures effective remediation for the communities affected.

THE POWER OF GRASSROOTS CLIMATE ACTION



In response to the Ecuadorian government's aggressive and environmentally reckless extractive agenda and an increase in fuel and food prices across the country, and after repeated thwarted attempts to enter into dialogue, in June 2022 Ecuador's Indigenous movement organized an [18-day national strike](#). As highway blockades stopped traffic in 16 of the country's 24 provinces, allied groups and social movements across Ecuador joined the protests in defense of the rights of Ecuador's most vulnerable and undervalued citizens. Despite an initially violent and repressive response by the government, the nationwide peaceful protest succeeded in bringing the

government to the negotiating table.

Amazon Frontlines' legal team accompanied Ecuador's Indigenous movement in post-strike negotiations with government officials during the second half of 2022 that secured the annulment of a decree that would have doubled oil drilling and changes to a decree that aimed to fast track mining, requiring prior consent from Indigenous peoples for all new mining projects. The government also agreed to a 12-month moratorium on all new oil drilling in Indigenous territories until a stronger FPIC law is defined to ensure Indigenous peoples' rights to consultation and consent.

This is clear proof of the power and importance of investing in grassroots, Indigenous-led climate action. In October, we helped organize a general assembly between Indigenous partner organizations and representatives of Ecuadorian Indigenous federations CONAIE and CONFENIAE to prepare for the follow-up talks with the Ecuadorian government planned for 2023, and shift focus towards developing a legislative proposal on FPIC. We have the opportunity to push for a stronger FPIC law that clarifies both the right to prior consultation and consent, and defines clear guidelines for consultation with Indigenous peoples, strengthening Indigenous rights for generations to come.



**“WE RISE UP BECAUSE THE WORLD
MUST LISTEN. WE ARE DEFENDING
OUR LANDS, OUR CULTURES, AND
OUR DIGNITY AGAINST A SYSTEM
THAT WANTS US TO DISAPPEAR.”**

Nemonte Nenquimo,
Waorani leader and co-founder of
Amazon Frontlines.



SEEKING JUSTICE FOR KICHWA INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AFFECTED BY OIL SPILLS

We continued to work alongside Kichwa communities to seek resolution of a lawsuit filed in 2020, which demands justice for more than 27,000 Kichwa living along the banks of the Coca and Napo rivers in the Ecuadorian Amazon impacted by the worst oil spill in Ecuador in 15 years.

In February 2022, the same Kichwa communities impacted by the 2020 oil spill were affected by a second, equally disastrous spill that further polluted their river and soils, and compromised their livelihoods for the years to come. Our lawyers attended an assembly convened in April by the United Communes of the Kichwa Nationality of the Ecuadorian Amazon (FCUNAE), where plans were laid out to conduct an investigation into the effects of the new oil spill, including an analysis of soil quality, a study of emotional impacts, and a geospatial analysis of the oil spill's impact. Subsequently, members of the Amazon Frontlines team traveled to the region to investigate the environmental and social impacts of the second spill. As a result, we developed a report based on in-field findings and submitted it before the Constitutional Court, backing the ongoing lawsuit filed in 2020 in support of the affected Kichwa communities. Evidence was also submitted to the Ministry of Environment in efforts to build further pressure at the national level.



SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS AGAINST THREATS



Indigenous advocates face the threat of violence when they stand up against the governments and industries that have a vested interest in profiting off the resources found within their territories. According to [Global Witness](#), worldwide more than 40% of all fatal attacks on environmental defenders target Indigenous people, even though Indigenous peoples make up only 5% of the world's population. Unfortunately, Latin America is an especially vulnerable area when it comes to the violent prosecution of environmental defenders, with more than 3/4 of worldwide attacks happening here.

The 18-day national strike in Ecuador in June of 2022 presented momentous opportunities as described above, and also human rights violations, including [unjust detentions of close to 100 peaceful protesters by national police, as many seriously injured, and at least 2 brutal assassinations.](#)

Amazon Frontlines took an active role in monitoring human rights abuses during the strike, and bringing international attention to the situation. Maria Espinosa, Amazon Frontlines' human rights lawyer, publicly denounced the government's actions:

"We condemn the illegal and arbitrary detention of our friend and leader, Leonidas Iza, president of CONAIE. We also reject the criminal practices that President Lasso, together with the security forces, are carrying out against social protestors and the Indigenous movement. In a country where the levels of poverty and violence are increasing, and fewer citizens have access to education and healthcare, and neoliberal and extractive measures are imposed over the lives and territories of Indigenous peoples, protesting is legitimate and necessary! The Indigenous movement has tried to dialogue with the State and work on concerted measures to fix this serious violation of rights, but Lasso's response continues to be: criminalize, persecute, and impose extractivist and neoliberal measures by force."



In August, Espinoza received death threats for her work defending Indigenous rights and the right to protest. We gathered more than 20,000 signatures on [a petition](#) demanding Ecuador's government provide reinforced protection for human rights defenders.

As a complementary strategy, we published several reports during the year including one on the violation of Indigenous collective rights in Ecuador and a report on the dire conditions facing human rights and environmental defenders across the Upper Amazon. Both reports were presented to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR) and the UN to raise awareness of the issues and advocate for more effective enforcement of Indigenous rights.

Amazon Frontlines stands firm in its commitment to elevating the profiles of at-risk human rights and environmental defenders through our human rights and communications work.



"I have been criminalized for my work to defend Mother Earth and to defend Indigenous rights and the rights of nature, but I will not give up. Fear is a tactic those in power use to silence us, but history and the planet are on our side."

– Leonidas Iza, President of Ecuador's Indigenous umbrella organization, CONAIE

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION FOR THE SIONA OF PUTAMAYO



The Siona of Putumayo are located along the border between Ecuador and Colombia in an area beset by narco violence, organized criminal activities and resource extraction. Throughout the year, we supported the Siona people of Putumayo in their struggle for control of ancestral land using litigation and reports submitted to national and international human rights agencies.

At the end of 2022, our advocacy efforts in 2020-22 led to the opening of the Siona's land restitution case and a court hearing before Colombia's Land Restitution Court, where we shared evidence of crimes committed against the Siona people with an

emphasis on threats derived from the armed conflict that led to loss of control of their ancestral territory. A positive outcome in this case would lead to property title granted to the Siona Buenavista community in Putumayo province in Colombia over 58,000 hectares of ancestral territory.

As a complementary effort, we filed a collective case before Colombia's Special Jurisdiction for Peace, seeking institutional recognition and reparations by the state of Colombia for harms caused by military and paramilitary groups (including torture, executions, and other acts of violence). This case seeks to identify both the Siona peoples and the land itself (Siona ancestral territory in the Putumayo province) as victims of the armed conflict.

We are also applying pressure at the national level for the effective enforcement of precautionary measures required by the IACHR in 2018 to protect the Siona against physical and cultural threats. As part of this work, we presented a new report to the IACHR which sheds light on rights violations in Siona territory and the lack of appropriate state response.

ECUADOR'S HUMAN RIGHTS ALLIANCE

Amazon Frontlines provided legal support for 9 cases for rights violations across the country, including the territories of Intag, Napo, and Gualaquiza, all affected by mining. The cases were filed with Ecuador's Human Rights Alliance, of which Amazon Frontlines is a founding member. For each case, we have participated in a series of hearings to speed up the review process and provided legal support and *amicus curiae*.

RECLAIMING ANCESTRAL TERRITORIES **THROUGH** **LAND TENURE**



According to a 2021 FAO report, rainforest territories protected by Indigenous peoples **experience 50% lower deforestation rates** compared to any other land, while also preventing the **release of 42.8 to 59.7 million metric tons (MtC) of CO2 emissions annually**. In line with these findings, Amazon Frontlines recognizes Indigenous land tenure is one of the most effective and comprehensive tools to protect the remaining standing forest. Through innovative community-based mapping technologies and pioneering legal strategies, we help Indigenous partners file titling claims that secure Indigenous land tenure across hundreds of thousands of hectares of primary rainforest across the Upper Amazon, halting the expansion of resource extraction across these forests. In 2022, we actively worked alongside Indigenous communities in Ecuador and Peru to reclaim title to ancestral lands, and thereby recovering the right to inhabit and govern these lands. Below is a summary of this work.

LAND TENURE IN PERU



The Siekopai, an Indigenous nation whose ancestral territory extends between modern day Ecuador and Peru, have long been fighting to reclaim their ancestral lands across these borders, and to save their territories from the expansion of extraction and logging. In 2000, Peru's government ruled that all forests nationwide could be used for commercial exploitation, and began granting logging concessions over approximately 24.5 million hectares of Indigenous land in the Amazon watershed, permitting rights for commercial actors and thus essentially nullifying Indigenous legal claims to formal ownership or title. Amazon Frontlines has been working hand-in-hand with the Siekopai nation in Peru to uphold existing laws that violate Indigenous people's right to access, use and govern their ancestral territories.

In partnership with Peru-based Legal Defense Institute, in 2021 we supported three Siekopai communities in Peru – San Martín, Mashunta and Wajoya – to file a lawsuit against the Peruvian government to recover ownership over 120,000 hectares of Siekopai ancestral lands subject to extraction and logging and challenge an existing law that grants only temporary land concessions to Indigenous communities, consequently restricting their access and control over their ancestral territories. After a first dismissal of the lawsuit, in 2022 we presented an appeal to reopen the case, and secured a hearing for April 2023. If successful, this case can clear a path for Indigenous nations across Peru to secure legal recognition for their ancestral territories, with potential impact over more than 4 million hectares.

To build further pressure for resolution on this case, in May 2022 we met with Mr. Francisco Cali-Tzay, the UN's Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples, alongside Siekopai leaders, Indigenous federations and human rights organizations from Peru. We presented the legal and mapping processes carried out by our partner Siekopai communities in Wajoya (described below), demonstrating a clear path towards securing wider Indigenous land tenure and with the ultimate goal of garnering increased international support for a favorable resolution in the pending 2021 lawsuit. Cali-Tzay committed to sharing all observations with the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council, marking an important step in our efforts to bring visibility to the struggle of Indigenous peoples in Peru to regain ownership of their ancestral lands.

In 2022, we also made significant headway in a concurrent case in Peru. In June, after years of negotiations between Amazon Frontlines and the Peruvian government, Peru's forestry authorities (SERFOR) approved a resolution that frees up over 70,000 hectares of Siekopai Indigenous land from government-designated areas known as "Permanent Production Forests" (PPFs), which facilitate the granting of logging allocations in Indigenous territories within these areas.

The resolution also opens a major opportunity for the Siekopai to finally claim full land titles over their ancestral territories overlapping PPFs, helping to ensure the long-term protection of these threatened forests and setting a precedent that can be expanded across the Peruvian Amazon. We've begun actively advocating with the relevant authorities for state compliance with this resolution. We held meetings with Peru's state authorities including SERFOR, the national system of public registries (SUNARP) and the regional agrarian directorate of Loreto (DISAFILPA) to find solutions to the obstacles that prevent the resolution from being enforced.



LAND TENURE IN ECUADOR



In Ecuador, 1.5 million hectares of Indigenous ancestral territories currently fall within government owned lands (including national parks) and are therefore at greater risk from extractive activity. With Amazon Frontlines support, the Siekopai Indigenous people in Ecuador **presented a landmark land titling demand** in September 2022 to recover ownership of 45,000 hectares of Siekopai ancestral land illegally turned into a national park in the 1970s. The case has the potential to set precedent for the granting of Indigenous titles in government-owned lands across the whole of Ecuador, eventually leading to better frameworks at the national level to strengthen Indigenous guardianship of forests threatened by extractive encroachment.

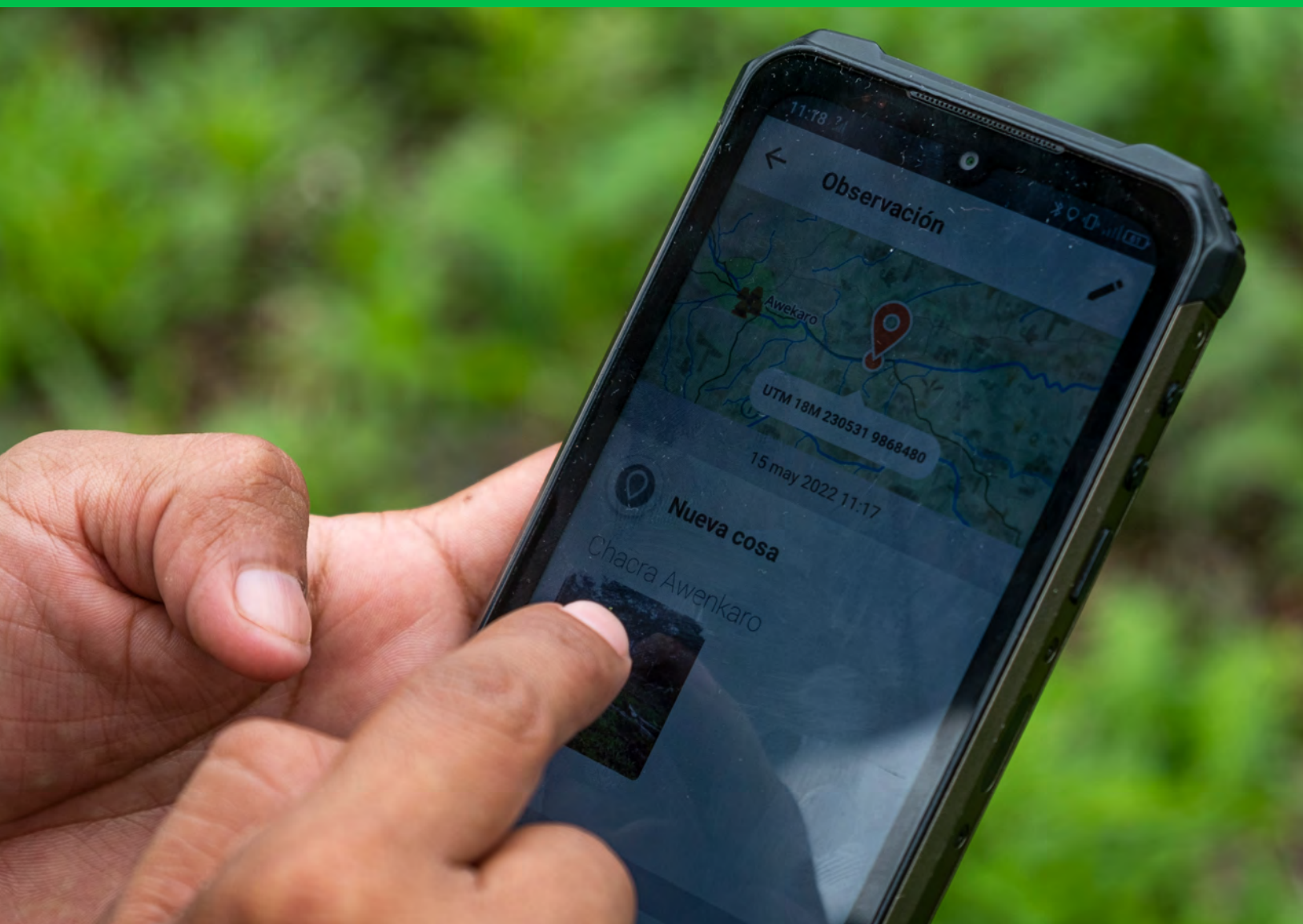
Amazon Frontlines is also working closely with the Kofán of Sinangoe to advance a land titling claim filed in 2021 to recover ownership of Sinangoe's ancestral lands falling within a national reserve that is similarly threatened by government-granted extraction contracts. In October 2022, we presented a draft legislative proposal before Ecuador's Ministry of Environment, developed jointly with the Kofán and Siekopai plaintiffs to lay out effective standards for granting land titles to Indigenous peoples in Ecuador based on the two cases. This was the result of months of community organizing and talks with the state. If successful, the demand could set precedent that would support titling efforts over 1.5 million hectares of Indigenous territories in national parks in Ecuador.

“WE ARE NOT FIGHTING FOR A QUANTITY OF LANDS – IT’S THE AREA, IT’S THE PLACE, IT’S THE SPIRIT, IT’S WHAT SOMEONE AS A SIEKOPAI PERSON CAN FEEL BEING THERE THAT DOESN’T HAPPEN ANYWHERE ELSE, ONLY THERE CAN A SIEKOPAI FEEL FREE.”

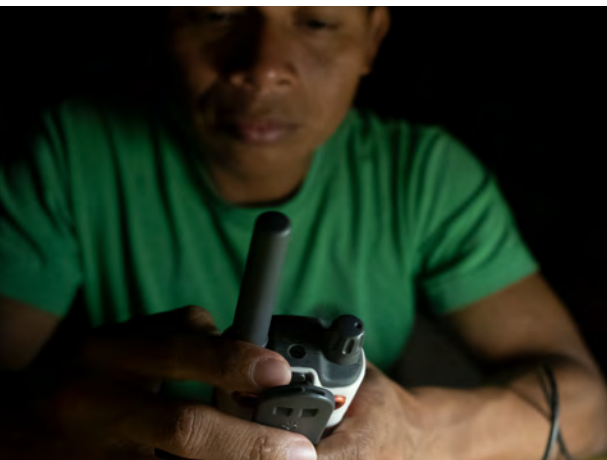
Alfredo Piaguje,
Siekopai grandfather



DEFENDING INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES IN REAL TIME THROUGH MAPPING AND MONITORING



Since 2015, Amazon Frontlines has supported Indigenous land patrols from the Kofán, Siona, Siekopai, and Waorani Indigenous nations to establish effective territorial monitoring and mapping strategies to protect hundreds of thousands of forested hectares in the Upper Amazon between Ecuador, Colombia and Peru. Modern cartography tools including GPS, satellite imagery, and aerial drones allow Indigenous communities to demarcate their territories, and show historic battle sites, ancestral migration routes, ancient village grounds, current communities, gardens, orchards, creeks, and hunting trails deep within the rainforest.



This process brings together elders and youth to walk their forest territories together, while elders share their knowledge of the territories and youth capture this knowledge using offline mapping tools and GPS, while developing a deeper understanding of the importance of their territories. In land tenure legal cases, this digital cartography has become an invaluable tool for demonstration of Indigenous claims to ancestral territories in the rainforests of Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. These same technologies also allow communities to monitor vast territories and to identify and stop illegal incursions in real time, before irreparable environmental damage occurs. Territorial monitoring is also used to collect evidence to back legal cases against extraction.

In 2022, we provided 15 tailored training sessions to 13 land patrols composed of 190 Indigenous monitors and mappers from across the Upper Amazon, and accompanied them on more than 40 monitoring outings, where the use of technology tools and monitoring strategies were put into practice to monitor threats from illegal resource extraction (mining, drilling, poaching, fishing, and logging) and gather evidence to inform community response, including legal action. We provided new field equipment for all land patrols, including camera traps, computers, and smart phones for mapping, and supported stakeholder communities in the development of community statutes (Indigenous territorial laws), used by land patrols to regulate peaceful confrontation with and removal of illegal actors they encounter on monitoring outings. Simultaneously, we began a process to establish biodiversity baselines in territories where we have identified a high risk of biodiversity loss, in an effort to provide clearer guidance to the land patrols during their monitoring activities and enable them to be more effective in safeguarding these crucial ecosystems.

As a strategy to scale our efforts regionally, we also ran the second year of our innovative Community Cartography School, which provides training to youth from across the region in territorial mapping. Additionally, we facilitated a series of regional exchanges bringing together land patrols from diverse locations in the Upper Amazon in an effort to foster knowledge sharing and promote unified territorial defense action throughout the region.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LAND PATROLS

KOFÁN OF SINANGOE:

52 Kofán families live in the community of Sinangoe, in a territory spanning nearly 63,000 hectares of a biodiverse headwaters region. We have been working closely with the Sinangoe patrol since its formation in 2015, and it is one of the most experienced of the land patrols we support. Years of dedicated territorial monitoring work have been central in gathering evidence that has led to historic legal victories in 2018 against gold mining and in 2022 regarding the Indigenous right to consultation.



In 2022 the Sinangoe patrol carried out 30 outings, monitoring the presence of new illegal mining activity and gathering evidence of an hydroelectric project that menaces a major river system in Sinangoe's territory. Due to the land patrols' proficiency in utilizing GPS, GIS, and other monitoring technologies acquired through previous training, we added drone training for the land patrols to increase the technology tools available to gather evidence of these threats.

We also supported the development of a community statute, also known as External Regulation and Notification Letter, which is an important tool for increased land management and territorial protection across Sinangoe territory. The community statute is used by land patrols to regulate peaceful confrontation with and removal of illegal actors when they encounter them on monitoring outings. The use of this statute has already yielded results: the land patrol caught 9 illegal miners in the act in the upper Aguarico River, and confiscated equipment and expelled the miners from the territory. In a multi-day excursion, the land patrol also identified almost 10 hectares of new deforestation in their ancestral territory and made use of External Regulation and Notification Letters and press releases to remove the illegal settlers.

Their work throughout the year was also instrumental in gathering evidence we presented in September 2022 against the state for lack of compliance with a 2018 ruling against gold mining in the territory.

KOFÁN OF BERMEJO:

Early in 2022, as part of our vision to scale our land patrol model, we began training a new patrol from the community of Bermejo, where there has been a concerning uptick in mining activity over the past two years. The rainforest territory of the Kofán people in Bermejo spans 58,000 hectares. We accompanied the patrol on 10 monitoring trips. During these trips, the patrol installed dozens of camera traps where a higher presence of illegal actors and miners was detected. The success of the patrols included detection of 2 illegal camps and mining equipment along the territorial boundary. They also began conversation with local authorities for the development of a new community statute to lay out regulations for the effective and safe expulsion of illegal actors.



WAORANI OF PASTAZA:

Waorani territory in Pastaza is one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on Earth, and a critical carbon sink. 800 Waorani people live in 22 communities within the Nushino, Curaray and Akaro river basins in Pastaza province, areas at high risk from imminent and ongoing extractive operations, and a new road planned by the Ecuadorian government through Waorani territory in Yasuni Park.

In 2022, 24 monitoring trips were carried out by community land patrols. Throughout the year, we provided training and accompaniment focused on use monitoring technologies and data systematization to inform new community action against these threats, including collecting data on the impacts of the road and making a public denouncement.



SIEKOPAI IN ECUADOR:

Approximately 600 Siekopai live in the northern Ecuadorian Amazon across 30,000 hectares of ancestral territory, long affected by illegal poaching and logging. We accompanied the Siekopai's land patrol and helped with enforcement of their Indigenous law during 20 territorial monitoring outings carried out in 2022. This resulted in the confiscation of hunting equipment and the expulsion of poachers. Several of these monitoring outings contributed to our biodiversity baseline work described below.



We also supported the land patrol follow up on a demand filed in 2021 to expel invaders from the Siekopai's ancestral territory of Cocaya, where there is a 10-year history of illegal non-Indigenous settlement and unchecked deforestation. That same year, [the court ruled for the eviction](#) of these illegal settlers, recognizing Cocaya territory as Siekopai ancestral land, and paving the road for demanding Siekopai title over these lands. In 2022, we worked alongside Siekopai land patrol members to legally evict illegal settlers that did not comply with the ruling (e.g. issuing warnings and then bringing authorities to remove the illegal settlers from the territory). The case was successfully closed in August. This was a major victory for our Siekopai partners in Ecuador, who recovered control of part of their ancestral lands, and a testament to the crucial role land patrols play in the protection of their territories against illegal encroachment.

SIONA OF CUYABENO:

The Siona are a transborder Indigenous nation, located along the border between Ecuador and Colombia and affected by a history of land dispossession, narco-violence and border militarization. Amazon Frontlines works hand-in-hand with 4 community land patrols in the Siona territory of Cuyabeno, supporting their efforts to mark clear territorial boundaries and establish monitoring strategies to confront relentless oil and poaching threats to Siona territory.



In response to escalating encroachment and resource extraction, in 2022 the patrol carried out 20 field outings, during which we offered comprehensive training in monitoring techniques including camera traps, GPS, GIS and deforestation alert tools. We hired a topographer to accompany the land patrol in different outings to demarcate boundaries and work towards developing a territorial map of Siona territory. We also provided technical counsel in community assemblies focused on conflict resolution with neighboring Indigenous nations.

SIONA OF BUENAVISTA:

The Siona of Buenavista face extreme threats of violence from narco-trafficking in addition to resource exploitation across their 40,000 hectares of ancestral land. In May 2022, the Siona of Buenavista completed a new community statute (Indigenous territorial law), three years in the making with close support from Amazon Frontlines. The statute lays out Buenavista's rights and decisions as Indigenous peoples, ranging from autonomous laws on territorial governance to regulations governing the expulsion of illegal actors, representing a potent tool for self-determination, community land management and territorial defense for Buenavista.



Throughout the year, the land patrol used the community statute as a legal tool to give formal notice to and expel illegal actors from the territory. We are also training Siona youth from Buenavista in territorial mapping through our Cartography School, with the goal to build capacity of these young individuals to join Buenavista's land patrol in the near future, contributing to Siona's territorial defense strategies with the knowledge and skills they have gained through this training program.

DEVELOPING BIODIVERSITY BASELINES



In 2022, we began a process to establish biodiversity baselines in Siekopai and Kofán territories, where communities have identified a high risk of biodiversity loss and where land patrols are positioned to undertake these assessments. These baselines will allow communities to track both the loss of biodiversity across 80,000 hectares of threatened forests as well as measure the impact of land defense initiatives. We worked closely with communities to establish a methodology for developing these baselines in partnership with Princeton University.

The ultimate goals of this initiative are to share results across stakeholder communities to raise awareness of existing threats of biodiversity loss in order to inform forest management practices, as well as to track the impact from territorial protection activities with concrete data.

As a first step in the process, Amazon Frontlines provided training sessions on the use and installation of camera traps and identification of fauna-critical trees, and land patrols installed more than 60 camera traps across the respective territories. In 2023, land patrols will collect and analyze data gathered through camera trap imagery to determine species richness and population density, and will begin the second phase of the assessment which involves walking transects to analyze biodiversity and conduct interviews with stakeholder community members around sustainable hunting and fishing practices, which will then inform conservation recommendations made by local leadership.



LAND PATROL EXCHANGES



To help scale the reach of Indigenous guards, in 2022 we organized a series of exchanges between land patrols from different Indigenous nations to promote the transmission of Indigenous monitoring and rights knowledge among land patrols from across the region, with the ultimate aim of building a bulwark of resistance to extraction in the Upper Amazon.

We organized the first-ever, 3-day land patrol exchange in April 2022 between the Waorani and the Sinangoe land patrols, in effort to leverage the latter's extensive monitoring experience and foster the development of new territorial defense strategies across the two

nations. During the event, we provided training on the use of GPS systems, mobile monitoring apps and conflict de-escalation techniques, equipping Indigenous patrol members with the necessary tools to face and expel invaders across their territories.

A Regional Indigenous Land Patrol Exchange in September was held in Sinangoe territory, bringing together 200 members of land patrols from 12 Indigenous nations from across the Upper Amazon. As a result of three days of discussions and interactions, we supported participants in the development of a new Regional Land Patrol Mandate that affirms the collective and territorial rights of Indigenous peoples and reiterates the legitimacy and critical role of Indigenous land patrols in the fight for the defense of Indigenous rights and forests.

In November 2022, land patrols from 21 trans-border Indigenous nations from across the Upper Amazon gathered in the Colombian Amazon for the second Regional Indigenous Land Patrol Exchange of the year to share experiences utilizing innovative territorial defense strategies in transborder territories. Amazon Frontlines provided technical and legal counsel to assess the present situation of threats and rights' violations in Indigenous territories across Amazonian borders.

MAPPING WAJOYA TERRITORY

With Wajoya and other Siekopai communities in Peru, we're working to upend existing laws that impede titling of their ancestral lands. Since 2021, we've supported the development of the Siekopai's digital map of Wajoya's 80,000-hectare territory to back their titling claim by demonstrating their historic presence in this territory. In 2022, we accompanied community members on 4 mapping outings (helping to collect territorial data and document interviews with community members and elders) and provided 4 training sessions to 15 Wajoya mappers in data collection, systematization and management to build the territorial map for use in hearings in future years. We plan to release the final map in 2024.



CARTOGRAPHY SCHOOL



To build long-term and regional Indigenous mapping capacity across the Upper Amazon, we completed the second year of our Cartography School, designed to provide mapping training for Indigenous communities and nations across the Upper Amazon. In 2022, the School provided theoretical and in-field training that equipped 20 Siona youth from Buenavista with the necessary tools and skills to develop their own territorial mapping processes autonomously with their communities. Siona youth trained in the school are helping to create a map to back a land restitution process for 58,000 hectares of Siona ancestral territory. Building on the first years of implementation, we will scale the school in

future years to reach more Indigenous youth in different communities.

PROTECTING INDIGENOUS CULTURES AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE





The Amazon is at both an ecological and also an equally devastating cultural tipping point, the result of environmental degradation, industrialization, forced assimilation into the capitalist economy and the influence of colonial education systems. Strengthening Indigenous autonomy and resilience by investing in traditional practices, knowledge, and livelihoods is essential to Indigenous cultural survival and their ability to continue protecting rainforest territories that are a vital part of the global climate.

In 2022, we helped incubate women-led enterprises, helped Indigenous communicators bring their stories to a global audience, strengthened the resilience of ancestral cultures through intercultural education and supported communities cultivating traditional food and medicine gardens to restore food and medicine sovereignty at the community level.

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHOOL

Since 2015, Amazon Frontlines has worked directly with Indigenous communities to uplift women's leadership and develop women-led economic alternatives to fossil fuel extraction. In 2021, as a means to scale this work regionally, we launched a novel Women's Leadership and Entrepreneurship School, designed to provide training for Indigenous women from the Upper Amazon in Ecuador, Colombia and Peru in leadership skills, business administration, and revitalization of cultural practices, increasing their capacity to run sustainable income-generating projects and to be leaders in their communities.



In the school's second year, we offered tailored training to members of 7 women-led associations, increasing their capacity to run sustainable income-generating projects and strengthening their role as leaders in their communities. We provided 15 training sessions and mentorship in business administration, communication strategies, teambuilding, accounting, sales, and marketing. 52 women who completed the program received certificates at a graduation ceremony in December.

DEVELOPING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES LED BY WOMEN

To deepen the School participants' impact in their communities, we worked closely with 5 women-led associations from the Kofan, Siona, Siekopai and Worani territories to enhance productivity and growth of their businesses. Despite the distinct business focus and product offerings, these economic projects have a common denominator: they all center the values of reciprocity, regeneration, and respect for nature in their business models, representing a viable solutions-based alternative to the extractive sector in their territories. Our work with these associations stems from a diagnostic conducted in 2021, with the goal to identify core needs and challenges of each association.

The results informed our work in 2022, which included customized training, mentorship and financial support for each association to improve their productivity, expand the commercialization of products made by women, and develop business management skills to support long-term growth. The following sections provide a more comprehensive overview of each association and the extensive work undertaken to support them.

SHAME'CCO

Is made up of 30 Kofán women who produce and sell traditional clothing and jewelry. To improve the organization's capacity and productivity, Shame'cco purchased new equipment, remodeled the association's infrastructure, and established a new carpentry workshop. As a result of training in product marketing, Shame'cco also released its first merchandise, including cloth bags and t-shirts with Shame'cco's logo.

We partnered with The Nature Conservancy to assess the viability of Shame'cco's wish for a new eco-tourism project in the Sinangoe region. We are now working with the association to incubate the project, with plans to generate income for Kofán families in Sinangoe while upholding the Kofán's cultural heritage, as part of a broader rainforest protection strategy.



SUKÛ

Is run by 50 women from the Kofán community of Dureno. Sukû sells handcrafted products ranging from jewelry to traditional tools, including blowguns and spears. The association increased capacity by buying new machinery to increase productivity, opening a bank account, and developing a barcode system for product sales.

With tailored training and mentorship, we helped Sukû reform its organizational statute to improve internal structure and processes for better business management. Together we carried out an assessment on potential links to local and national markets for increased visibility and sales, and developed a sales plan for 2023. In 2022 Sukû inaugurated a new space to manufacture and sell traditional textile and jewelry products, and sold products at two fairs in the province of Sucumbios in the Amazon and in Quito, Ecuador's capital, increasing its client base and building commercial networks.



NOMI WA'IYA

Is run by 13 women from the Siekopai communities of Wa`iya and San Pablo. They produce two ancestral Siekopai food products: *neapia*, a black chili sauce, and a type of bread called *casabe*, both derived from the Amazonian tuber yuca which is collected from traditional family gardens.

We helped the association develop a new organizational statute to improve their structure and leadership, open a bank account, and develop a barcode system for product sales. In partnership with Amazon Frontlines and the Raíz Foundation, the association inaugurated a new processing plant that will improve fabrication of raw materials for the production of *neapia* and *casabe*, in order to increase the association's productive capacity and increase sales in the national market.



THE ZIOBAIN ROMI CUARO TAYË WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

Is run by 10 Siona women from the transborder Buenavista territory in Ecuador and Colombia. The association produces raw sugar (panela) and syrup to provide income for families impacted by decades of armed conflict in Colombia. We helped the association develop mission and values statements, open a bank account, and create a barcode system for product sales.

Through tailored training in business and organizational management, together we created commercialization plans for the association, which included assessment of costs of cultivation and production of panela, links to national markets for sales, and increasing business profitability in 2023.



THE ASSOCIATION OF WAORANI WOMEN FROM THE ECUADORIAN AMAZON (AMWAE)

Is made up of 160 Waorani women from Pastaza, Orellana and Napo provinces. AMWAE employs traditional and agroecological methods to sustainably cultivate and process local cocoa from Yasuni territory, one of the most biodiverse regions in the Amazon rainforest, to produce organic chocolate bars. The association also produces traditional crafts, manufactured using local plants and products.

In 2022, we focused our mentorship on strengthening AMWAE’s organizational structure, providing support for the implementation of measures that strengthen cohesion among its different departments, expand their distribution points across the three provinces, and increase production volume.



LAUNCH OF A NEW INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION MODEL



Neocolonial educational models continue to contribute to an ongoing process of cultural assimilation in the Amazon. Western knowledge systems imposed initially by missionaries and then by the state on Indigenous youth are gradually eroding Indigenous languages and cultural identity. Compounding this, with both the loss of the elder generation and the outward migration of Indigenous youth to cities, the gap in knowledge transmission between generations represents a threat to the survival of crucial territorial knowledge and Indigenous ways of life.

But in the same way that education can be a tool for repression, as it has been in Indigenous territories across the Americas, it can also be a tool for long term survival and liberation. Revitalization of Indigenous traditional education is a key strategy to provide Indigenous youth with the knowledge and cultural values critical for the long-term protection of the Amazon rainforest. Amazon Frontlines and our Indigenous partners are creating a truly intercultural education system that balances Western technical knowledge with the revitalization of Indigenous ancestral knowledge, worldviews and ways of learning. This program is providing Indigenous youth with the values and skills critical to access employment opportunities while building capacity with the next generations of Indigenous leaders, whose decisions will determine the fate of one of the world's largest and most biodiverse rainforests.

→ WAORANI PILOT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The development of a new intercultural curriculum for our Indigenous partners was a highly participatory process, and began with Waorani peoples in the Pastaza province of Ecuador in 2020. As an initial step, we carried out a robust participatory diagnostic to identify the current state of Waorani education across more than 20 villages, engaging more than 100 community members in the process. Waorani elders were key participants for incorporating ancestral knowledge into the newly forged curriculum, successfully introduced at the end of 2021.

Fundamental aspects of the Waorani worldview and way of life are incorporated in the new curriculum, including: geography and biodiversity of Waorani territory; historical, cultural, spiritual and material significance of the territory; resource extraction and other threats to Waorani forests; and creating healthy family and community dynamics in accordance with Waorani culture.





A substantial part of the curriculum is taught in the Waorani language (*Wao Terero*) and by applying traditional pedagogical methodologies. Learning is framed in the meaningful context of the cycles of nature, economic and productive activities, sociocultural experiences, spiritual practices and the academic calendar. The above subjects are combined with standard Western curriculum elements, including Spanish, mathematics and science.

In 2022, the new intercultural education curriculum was piloted in 3 Waorani Schools, benefitting 43 children and youth ages 3-18. Six training sessions were held for 24 teachers (12 Waorani) in intercultural pedagogy, the 14 curriculum modules and accompanying teaching guides and didactic material. Dozens of community members gathered in community work sessions to repair aging and insufficient school infrastructure to construct usable indoor and outdoor learning spaces for 3 of the schools.

→ EXPANDING TO KOFÁN AND SIEKOPAI NATIONS

The new intercultural education model developed and tested by Waorani communities has inspired Kofán and Siekopai communities to develop similar education systems tailored to their own cultures and languages. As a first stage of developing a new curriculum central to the Kofán's new intercultural education model, which is planned to be implemented across 5 Kofán schools, we carried out an education diagnostic across the 5 communities to assess educational needs and aspirations, involving more than 70 community members. The curriculum will incorporate Kofán language, history, and knowledge – including traditional music, myths and spiritual practices – as the pedagogical foundation of the new model. As a next step we will hold community assemblies to discuss results of the diagnostic and incorporate community feedback into the new education plan.



The Siekopai held 5 community assemblies in 2022 to discuss results of an education diagnostic carried out with over 80 Siekopai community members in 2021 and incorporate community feedback into their new education plan, resulting in the development of the first draft of curriculum tailored to their history, geography, language and culture. Next steps will include finalizing the curriculum, getting approval from state authorities, and implementing the education model in 7 pilot schools.

To unify educational efforts regionally, in 2022 Amazon Frontlines formed an Education Commission made up of 30 Waorani, Siekopai and Kofán representatives to oversee all education initiatives across the three nations and guide the process of implementation of the new model.

COMMUNITY FOOD SOVEREIGNTY



Deforestation and contamination of soils and waterways from resource extraction are rapidly eroding livelihoods of Indigenous families dependent on the forest and its resources for their physical and cultural survival. Augmenting this, colonization and cultural assimilation have caused deep loss of traditional agrobiodiversity knowledge and cultivation practices, and ignited dependence on industrial foods, which has led to the spread of health issues linked to poor nutrition and decreased use of traditional medicines.

During COVID-19 we saw that Indigenous communities can be more resilient if they are less dependent on produce and medicine from outside their territories, and Indigenous communities also discovered the efficacy of traditional medicines in treating the virus. Drawing from these experiences, our food and medicine sovereignty initiative seeks to reduce dependency on outside markets while also recovering culturally significant foods and medicines, at the same time as promoting reforestation and bolstering biodiversity.



→ WAORANI TRADITIONAL FOOD GARDENS



In 2021, we supported our partner Indigenous organization the Waorani organization of Pastaza (OWAP) in launching an initiative to strengthen food sovereignty in the Waorani territory of Pastaza. The Waorani established 20 traditional gardens of food producing plants and fruit trees across 15 Waorani communities, benefitting approximately 150 community members.

To strengthen long term food sovereignty, in 2022 we trained 27 Waorani community members to maintain and improve productivity of the gardens, and to educate fellow community members about dietary health. 6 workshops included agroforestry practices, production and use of organic fertilizers, nutrition, and creation of traditional products for personal use and sale using plants from the gardens. To expand the reach of this project, 6 more gardens are planned for 2023.

This project benefits household economies by reducing dependency of beneficiary families on food purchased in towns, while a more balanced diet and plant medicine recovery helps limit family expenses on visits to health clinics and hospitals. We are also training families to prepare and market surplus products, generating a moderate income for families. Ecological benefits of the gardens include restoring endangered native species, improving soil quality, and functioning as biological corridors between flora and fauna. To date, 26 native species have been cultivated in these gardens, paving the way for their renewed use across Waorani families and representing an important step in our efforts to restore essential biodiversity in Waorani territory.

→ KOFÁN, SIONA AND SIEKOPAI TRADITIONAL MEDICINE GARDENS



Concurrently, we worked with Indigenous communities from the Kofán, Siekopai and Siona nations to establish gardens to cultivate traditional medicines, designed to recover local plants crucial for the survival of Indigenous cultures and livelihoods across these territories. We planted and provided maintenance for 17 traditional medicinal plant gardens in the Kofán communities of Dovuno and Sinangoe, the Siona territories of Putumayo, Buenavista and Aguarico, and in the Siekopai territories of Aguarico, San Pablo and Remolino.

One of these gardens is the traditional medicine garden planted at a school in the Siekopai community of San Pablo in March 2022. The adoption of a traditional medicine garden into a school is designed to incorporate traditional knowledge and practices into the current educational curriculum in San Pablo, and thereby transmit ancestral knowledge to current youth and future generations. Community members planted Siekopai traditional agricultural and medicinal plants as well as palm and fruit trees. In October and November 2022, we accompanied Siekopai youth in their first harvests.

AMPLIFYING INDIGENOUS VOICES





Indigenous voices are systematically marginalized from public fora and media both regionally and globally, a consequence of the enduring legacies of colonization, marginalization and imposition of Western perspectives. Despite these challenges, Indigenous-led communications play a pivotal role in bringing visibility to the ongoing struggles faced by Indigenous communities. By sharing an authentic portrayal of their experiences, not only they are able to counter prevailing stereotypes and misrepresentations, but also amplify their call for justice on a global scale, sharing crucial lessons with the world around the importance of safeguarding climate-critical ecosystems and garnering support

for the Indigenous cause. Additionally, Indigenous communications play a vital role in strengthening connections within and across Indigenous territories, facilitating coordination, information sharing, and documenting ancestral cultures – and ultimately, fostering unity in the collective fight to protect the Amazon rainforest from mounting threats.

Building off seven years of experience, Amazon Frontlines trains Indigenous youth to use multimedia technology and platforms essential to Indigenous peoples' efforts to protect their territories and way of life, allowing them to document Indigenous ancestral knowledge, organize resistance processes across remote territories, and raise awareness and build support globally. Central to this mission are our Indigenous Communications School and Storytelling Lab, through which we build the capacity of Indigenous youth to produce and share multimedia stories that capture their experiences, the issues Indigenous people face in the Amazon, and stories of hope and resilience in the Indigenous-led fight to protect the Amazon. Below are more details about this work carried out in 2022.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNICATIONS SCHOOL

In 2022, our Indigenous Communications School provided media training to 20 Indigenous youth from the Siekopai, Kofán, Siona, and Waorani nations. We provided 7 training modules focused on audio, photography, video-making and production, editing, use of social media and acting. The school incorporates a "learn-by-doing" methodology. Students are not just trained in the classroom, but learn photography, video, editing, and sound production in the field, making stories that matter to them. Throughout the year Students produced a total of 20 audiovisual products and a short film, which will be distributed through a [brand new Instagram page](#) recently created by school graduates. The 2022 class included 16 women from 4 different Indigenous nations of the Upper Amazon who completed our first [Women's Communications School](#) in December 2021.



Our goal is for trainees to gain the necessary expertise to grow as communications professionals and to join our Storytelling Lab (described below), where they will have the tools and support to create powerful content and films into the future.

INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING LAB

In 2022, we launched a new Indigenous Storytelling Lab, which serves as a production company for Indigenous-made films and as a vital expressive tool for youth empowerment in the world of communications. The lab, led by 3 Indigenous communicators previously trained under Amazon Frontlines' communications program, produced more than 20 multimedia materials in 2022, and began 2 documentaries. Materials produced serve both to amplify stories and experiences from their communities and strengthen grassroots communications across communities.

The lab communicators also launched a diagnostic across dozens of partner Indigenous communities to assess core needs and aspirations for improving communications across communities. The diagnostic will help inform future communications efforts for increased information sharing both around threats to the respective territories and our joint work to confront and prevent those threats, in order to prepare communities and create cohesion. As such, results of the diagnostic will be incorporated into our communications strategy in future years and guide content production at our Storytelling Lab.

Throughout the year, the three expert communicators collaborated with professional film production companies, including the Goldman Prize, Paramount and Canal Plus filming teams, to co-produce filmed materials for a series of projects with global reach. The lab is part of our overarching strategy to build capacity and autonomy with Indigenous communities throughout the Upper Amazon.

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTIVISM

Indigenous peoples are known to be primary leaders in their fight against climate change, yet their voices continue to be excluded from international spaces. Amazon Frontlines works to bring Indigenous voices to the forefront of climate action, enhancing Indigenous leaders' participation in global events to share stories of effective Indigenous forest stewardship and drive global support to the Indigenous struggle.

In September, Amazon Frontlines staff accompanied Waorani leader and Amazon Frontlines' co-founder Nemonte Nenquimo and the president of Ecuador's national Indigenous organization CONAIE, Leonidas Iza, to New York City for Climate Week, one of the biggest global climate events, in which heads of state, the UN General Assembly, and climate activists converged on the city for speeches, events, meetings and protest actions. Both leaders traveled with a clear message for decision makers and the global public, that they shared through a series of speaking events, press opportunities, and at the massive climate march that culminated at the end of the week.



“I’m tired of all the talk from world leaders about stopping climate change with little real action. Indigenous peoples have been protecting the Earth for millennia. We didn’t create the climate crisis but we are the ones on the frontlines, fighting with our lives to stop it. We need a seat at the table in discussions about climate solutions. We need people to trust us and invest in our solutions!”



- Nemonte Nenquimo, Waorani leader and co-founder of Amazon Frontlines

Uplifting Indigenous voices is a key part of Amazon Frontlines' strategy and we will continue to ensure that leaders, like Nemonte, have a platform to make their voices heard.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION



Our close partners Alexandra Narvaez and Alex Lucitante of the Kofán community of Sinangoe were honored this year with the [Goldman Environmental Prize for South America](#), considered the Nobel Peace Prize for environmental defenders. The Prize recognizes their tireless efforts at the forefront of the Kofán community of Sinangoe's historic legal victory in 2018 that freed up 32,000 hectares of biodiverse headwaters territory from gold mining. Their 2018 legal victory was later brought before Ecuador's highest court, leading to the landmark legal victory in 2022 that guarantees Indigenous peoples' right to decide what happens on their land.

With this recognition, the Goldman Prize is sending a clear message: Indigenous leadership and land stewardship is paramount to stopping climate change and to protecting our shared planet. Alexandra and Alex have donated every cent of their prize money to the Kofán community of Sinangoe to bolster the ongoing fight to defend their ancestral lands.

| OUR SUPPORTERS

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022



“Something my elders would tell me is that our spears are no longer enough to protect our home. We are up against forces that are much bigger than we have faced before. Our greatest weapon today is our unity—both between Indigenous peoples and with others around the world who care about what is happening to our territories and want our forest and our cultures to live on.

This is what is so special about Amazon Frontlines. It embodies the importance of this unity and its potential. Over the last 7 years, we have achieved things together that we never would have imagined: formed our own Indigenous organization, the first of its kind, trained our youth and women with the technologies to monitor and map our lands and to tell our stories through film, social media and in major news outlets, won historic legal cases that establish for the first time in Ecuador our right as Indigenous peoples to decide what happens in our territories. None of this would have happened without the deep friendship, trust and vision we share with Amazon Frontlines.

None of this would have happened either without the trust and partnership with core supporters, who have invested in our vision and our dream for a better world today and for our children tomorrow.”

Nemonte Nenquimo,
Waorani leader and co-founder
of Amazon Frontlines.



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Global Greengrants Fund
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Annenberg Foundation
National Geographic Society
Nia Tero

Rainforest Action Network
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

REVENUE		
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$693,924	9,8%
FOUNDATIONS	\$6,323,225	89,9%
OTHER INCOME	\$18,410	0,3%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$7,035,559	100%

EXPENSES		
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$2,407,872	81,2%
MANAGEMENT & GENERAL	\$323,093	10,8%
FUNDRAISING	\$237,178	8%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,968,144	100%

NET ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022	\$6,092,515
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For a complete financial reporting by **McDonald Jacobs, P.C.** please contact Amazon Frontlines at info@amazonfrontlines.org



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