

Consolidated Life Plan of the Achuar People of the Pastaza

This consolidated life plan of the Achuar people of the Pastaza basin was prepared in an assembly of ORACH in Washintsa community on November 23–26, 2003, with the participation of more than 60 leaders and delegates from communities affiliated with the organizations ATI and ORACH who committed to applying and complying with the plan's content.

Territory

1. Achuar territory is globally recognized and titled in accordance with ancestral claims (prioritized to start with the integral territory plan in 2004).
2. Title, extend and define the borders of all the communities that do not have full titles to their territory (prioritized for 2004).
3. Conserve and defend our territory in its current state so that it can be passed on as a healthy inheritance for our descendants.
4. Obtain legal recognition of the footpaths between Achuar communities as a means of communication and integration of our people.
5. Create resource use regulations to conserve valuable timber resources, reforest and recuperate lost fauna, and fish responsibly without using poisons (prioritized for 2004).
6. Respect the agreements of the Achuar congresses which have decided to not accept the incursion of oil, logging or mining companies within Achuar territory.

How do we do this?

1. Applying our Ancestral rights, National Laws and International conventions, particularly ILO 169.
2. Maintaining unity among the communities for the strength of the organization.
3. Maintaining mutual support between the communities and agreeing on boundaries and established integral titles.
4. Educating and disseminating amongst our young people that the Achuar territory is unique, and to share the values of the territory for its defense.

5. To have an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture for titling and to search for financing.
6. Respecting the regulation of natural resources and enforcing these regulations to the Achuar and non-Achuar people.
7. Establishing a month to work as a community for reforestation and another month for road cleaning.
8. Training the communities, leaders, and delegates of the organization about indigenous rights.
9. Solving our communities' internal problems together and correcting each other when we commit mistakes.
10. Informing authorities of our decisions and to resort to legal action if refused.
11. Maintaining unity with other sister indigenous organizations for territorial defense.
12. Obtaining the support and solidarity of the institutions, national people, and foreigners that are friends of indigenous people.

Indigenous organization, civil rights, and politics

1. To strengthen the unity of the Achuar people and to maintain their organizational structure, ATI, ORACH, FECONACO, FENAP, and COBNAEP.
2. To coordinate and form alliances with other indigenous groups and indigenous organizations to exchange experiences and strengthen the defence of rights.
3. To spread the organization and culture of the Achuar people.
4. To promote the reconciliation of the organizations of the Achuar people.
5. Training in management, leadership, politics, and indigenous rights.
6. Participation in national, regional and local politics through the movement or indigenous political party.
7. To promote the creation of district wayus with capital in the community of Christian Alliance.
8. Creation of a civil registry office in our zone and registration of the undocumented.
9. To implement a system of radio communication in all communities and telephones in the headquarters of the organizations.
10. Two landing strips, one for each organization between ATI and ORACH.
11. To establish an FM radio emitter in the Achuar community.
12. Free access, commerce, and navigation between the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Achuar.

How do we do it?

1. Organizing training workshops on rights.
2. Establishing our own location in the city for all the administration needs with public and private entities.
3. Achieving a popular referendum for the creation of the district wayus.
4. Establishing a system of radio communication on a single frequency authorized by the Ministry of Transportation and Communication.
5. Managing all the licenses for communication operations and aerial and fluvial transport.
6. Training for managing the radio transmitter.
7. Training for the communities for the registration in the civil registers.
8. Coordinating with communication avenues for the dissemination of the reality and organization of the Achuar people.
9. Training to participate in local governments.

Health, Nutrition, and Medicine

1. To value the traditional, nutritive, and medicinal gardens and cultivate them in the farms as they form the base for the nourishment and development of the Achuar.
2. To learn to cultivate new nutritious plants to improve the traditional diet.
3. To develop local fish farms to avoid overfishing and to improve nutrition.
4. To initiate the cultivation of palms for construction materials, fruits, etc.
5. To continue raising small animals and begin husbandry of wild species.
6. To disseminate the use and understanding of traditional medicines in the communities.
7. Training the youth to be health professionals and technicians.
8. To reach an agreement with the Ministry of Health in San Lorenzo to train health promoters in the communities.
9. To make local orientation talks on illness prevention.
10. To create a health center in Huituyacu and sanitation posts each with their respective equipment.
11. To supply medicine to communal pharmacies.
12. To reject the state-run family planning programs that don't consult with the communities and the anti-tetanus vaccines.

How will we do it?

1. The mothers will continue teaching cultivation techniques to their daughters.
2. Forming women's groups in each community to learn and recover the knowledge of plants from an indigenous female teacher.
3. Creating training workshops on cultivating new food crops and to how prepare new foods.
4. Prior to marriage a couple should have their own plot of land.
5. The parents should sow and cultivate to set an example for their children.
6. Training in fish farming and wildlife breeding farms.
7. The promoter should visit the families and deliver talks on illness prevention with didactic material and sufficient understanding.
8. Sow medicinal plants in the local plot.
9. Each family should utilize traditional medicines when the need arises.
10. Supporting the experts in traditional medicine to expand their knowledge.
11. Giving economic and moral support to the youth that want to study and work in health.
12. Presenting to the authorities in writing our decision about political involvement in health, especially pertaining to family planning and vaccines.
13. Promoting seed exchanges for useful plants in the communities.
14. Entrusting to the organization with managing the soliciting of funds and agreements with public and private entities.

Identity and culture

1. To promote the strengthening of the Achuar identity and culture.
2. To value and respect the older Achuar leaders.
3. To practice the ancestral values of the Achuar community.
4. To practice imbibing ayahuasca, toe, tobacco, and huayusa in order to have vision and educate the children.
5. To practice and teach the children Achuar knowledge of community history, craftsmanship, home construction, tool fabrication, and others.
6. That the youth establish their homes at an age at which they are prepared to assume the responsibility of parents, recommended as of 20 years of age.
7. The professors and students in schools should practice Achuar culture.

How will we do it?

1. Creating an Achuar institute to investigate and compile all the information on the Achuar history and culture.
2. That the elders impart their knowledge about the Achuar culture to everyone in the communities.
3. Parents should orient and advise their children to respect and practice the values of the Achuar culture and avoid early marriage.
4. The educational centers should incorporate cultural practices (and respect for said practices) into their curriculum and incorporate the elders to pass on their knowledge to the students.
5. Producing educational texts to disseminate the Achuar culture.
6. Producing videos and a magazine for the cultural dissemination of the Achuar.

Education

1. Create a bilingual and intercultural teachers training and professionalization program for the Achuar community.
2. Produce a curriculum that is bilingual and interculturally Achuar.
3. Creation of new primary and secondary educational centers and a university in Achuar territory.
4. Implementation and replacement of schools, colleges, and their furniture.
5. Produce didactic texts and materials that are appropriate for the Achuar communities.
6. Creation of two dormitories for the secondary students.
7. Professionalization of practicing Achuar teachers.
8. Scholarships for youth who graduate.
9. Designation of qualified teachers.
10. Automatic contracts with practicing Achuar teachers.
11. The education specialists should be chosen in assemblies of the organization to which they pertain.
12. The coordinators should be indigenous.
13. Promote the foreign exchange of Achuar students between Peru and Ecuador.

How will we do it?

1. Establishing and seeking financial aid for scholarships and Achuar students in higher education.
2. Organizing before educational authorities' workshops and naming of three student coordinators.
3. Organizing the naming of three coordinators in the Huasaga, Pastaza, and Huituyacu areas.
4. Organizing before the ministry and municipalities the implementation and refurbishing of schools.
5. Seeking funding for student dormitories.
6. Agreement with superior pedagogical institutions on a professionalization program for students.
7. Preparing technical documents for a training program for intercultural and bilingual teachers and for a university in the zone.
8. Compiling and preparing investigations on the Achuar people for the curriculum and educational texts.
9. Organize the naming and creation of vacant plazas for indigenous teachers.

Economy, production, and commercialization

1. To promote sowing plants with short life cycles (groundnut, maize, beans).
2. To instigate two pilot ecotourism projects.
3. To promote the search for a market for artisan crafts.
4. To promote the raising of young animals to sell at market and fish farms for selling fish.
5. To develop the industrialization of products and medicinal plants, essences, etc to sell.
6. To establish a museum of the Achuar people.
7. To establish a conservation zone for forest life that is attractive for tourism.
8. To revive the fluvial transportation services with a tarimat boat.
9. To promote economic initiatives of commercialization of products in communal stores to replace the bartering economy.

How will we do it?

1. Capacity-building workshops for agricultural planting, young animal husbandry and fish farming, to better the quality of artisan crafts, and for the industrialization of products.
2. Identifying locations that are attractive for tourism in Achuar territory.
3. Zoning the forest animal conservation areas.
4. Determining the appropriate location for the Achuar museum and forming a commission for its construction and management.
5. Installing the boat launch and building capacity with administration personnel.
6. Implementing a pilot project of a communal store for the commercialization of products.