



# ACHIEVEMENTS & PRIORITIES



**Amazon Watch works to protect the rainforest and advance the rights of indigenous peoples in the Amazon Basin.**



# ACHIEVEMENTS WITH OUR ALLIES

Working with our partners in the Amazon Basin and internationally, Amazon Watch's recent achievements include the following.

- Brazil suspended the auction of the Tapajós mega-dam after the Mundurukú indigenous people, with our support, exposed the proposed dam's negative impacts. The Tapajós River is the last major tributary in the Brazilian Amazon that still runs free.
- We launched a global call to keep fossil fuels in the ground to protect the Amazon and the global climate. Our *Keep the Oil in the Ground* video featuring indigenous leader Nina Gualinga inspired more than 1.7 million views and more than 35,000 petition signatures.
- For the third year in a row, we deterred investment in new oil production in Ecuador's rainforest frontier despite the government's efforts to auction off more than 10 million acres.
- We provided international support to the Yasunidos civil society movement, which inspired more than 750,000 Ecuadorians to take action to protect Yasuní National Park while supporting a just transition to a post-petroleum economy. *The New York Times* published our Op-Ed on Yasuní.
- We supported the third inter-ethnic congress of the Achuar indigenous people of Northern Peru and collaborated with them to advance collective land title to their ancestral territory.
- We supported indigenous voices, particularly the voices of indigenous women, at climate fora in New York, Brazil, and Lima.
- With Amazonian indigenous peoples, we organized a beautiful human banner at the 2014 UN Climate Summit (COP20) illustrating the importance of indigenous rights to protection of forests and the global climate.
- We launched the "Energy for Life" campaign in Brazil to educate, raise awareness, and build support for a clean energy future.
- We provided international support to the U'wa indigenous people of Colombia as they challenged the Magallanes gas project. The gas platform, which had been constructed on U'wa territory without their consent, was dismantled.
- More than 40 NGOs issued a joint statement of concern regarding Chevron's threats to open society and due process of law as the company continued to attack those seeking justice for oil affected communities in Ecuador.
- We convened an expert working group to analyze the growing role of China in the expansion of the Amazon oil frontier and published a widely cited report.
- With the indigenous people of the Xingu and other allies, we continued to document the impacts of Brazil's Belo Monte dam, the largest dam under construction in the world.
- We co-authored and submitted a dossier to the United Nations Human Rights Council on violations of indigenous peoples' rights stemming from Amazonian mega-dams.
- Ivanhoe Energy became the latest oil company to withdraw from a controversial oil project in the Amazon, following the withdrawals of ConocoPhillips and Talisman.
- After we gathered more than 10,000 petition signatures online, Ecuador opened an investigation into a major oil spill by the state oil company Petroamazonas.
- The Ecuadorian government publicly apologized to the Kichwa community of Sarayaku for human rights violations resulting from oil exploration in their territory.

*Since 2010, we have provided small grants totaling more than \$1.6 million to indigenous and local organizations working in the Amazon Basin.*



# 2015 PRIORITIES

The Amazon, the world's largest and most biodiverse tropical rainforest, covers an area larger than the continental United States, houses one-third of the Earth's plant and animal species, and helps regulate our global climate. Nearly 400 distinct indigenous peoples depend on the Amazon rainforest for their physical and cultural survival. The Amazon and its peoples are under threat from unsustainable mega-projects (dams, drilling, pipelines, roads) that, if built, will accelerate deforestation, displacement of indigenous peoples, and climate change. The next several years will be critical to advancing rainforest protection, indigenous rights, and solutions to climate change such as clean renewable energy.

## 1. Advance Protection of the Sacred Headwaters of the Amazon.

The Sacred Headwaters of the Amazon encompasses the rainforest and wetland ecosystems of the Napo and Marañon river basins in Ecuador and Peru. This region hosts extremely high levels of biodiversity and endemism. In fact, it has the highest concentration of plant, bird, mammal, and amphibian species in the Amazon. The majority of the region's rainforests are also the ancestral territories of numerous indigenous peoples. The governments of Ecuador and Peru are aggressively promoting oil development in the Sacred Headwaters region. Amazon Watch is mobilizing international support for indigenous-led initiatives to protect more than 60 million acres of biologically and cultural significant rainforests from oil development in Ecuador and Peru.

## 2. Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground in the Amazon.

To avoid a more than 2°C rise in global temperature, at least two-thirds of proven fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground. In 2015, Amazon Watch will work with researchers to map fossil fuel reserves in the Amazon that overlap with biodiversity hot-spots and indigenous territories, profile the most destructive oil companies in the Amazon, and lead a global campaign with indigenous and NGO allies to keep fossil fuels in the ground in the Amazon.

## 3. Support Indigenous Voices on Climate Change and Rights-Based Climate Solutions.

Recent studies confirm that indigenous rights are key to protecting tropical rainforests, which absorb nearly 20% of global carbon dioxide emissions. We will advocate for rights-based solutions to deforestation and climate change at international fora, including the UN climate summit in Paris in December 2015 (COP21).

## 4. Stop Future Mega-Dams in the Brazilian Amazon and Promote Clean Energy.

The Tapajós River is the last major tributary in the Brazilian Amazon that still runs free. Today, the Tapajós and its vast forests are at risk of destruction from plans to build 29 large dams and approximately 80 smaller dams across its tributaries. We are supporting the indigenous peoples who are challenging these new dams on the Tapajós River while promoting clean energy solutions, such as wind, solar, and energy efficiency.

**“If we want to defend our global climate, we must defend the Amazon. If we want to defend the Amazon, we must support indigenous rights and territories.”**

*– Leila Salazar-López,  
Amazon Watch*

## AMAZON WATCH IN THE NEWS

The New York Times

the guardian

WALL STREET  
JOURNAL

DEMOCRACY  
**NOW!**  
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CNN

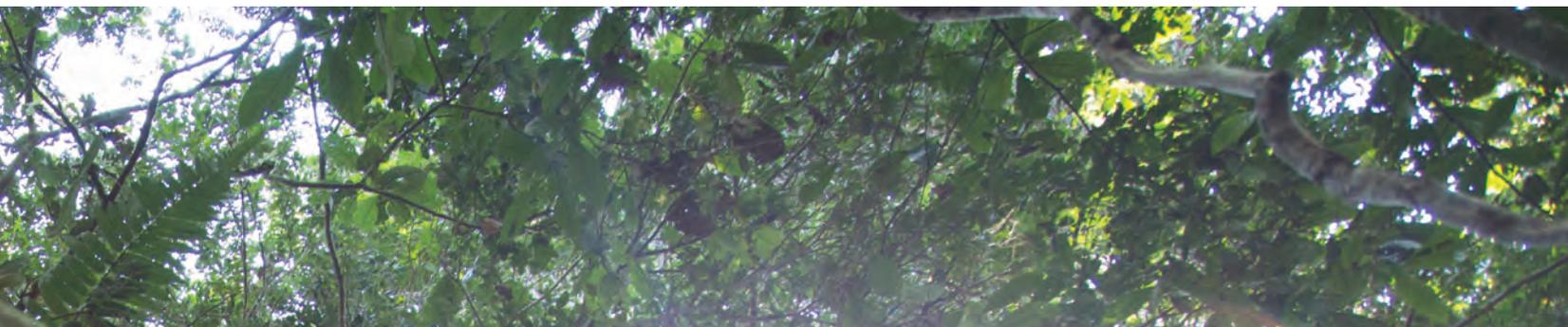
Los Angeles Times

Forbes

SALON



ALJAZEERA  
AMERICA





*Hundreds of indigenous people and their allies came together to create a human banner on Agua Dulce beach in Lima, Peru parallel to the UN COP20 climate summit to demonstrate the importance of guaranteeing indigenous territorial rights in addressing climate change. ©Amazon Watch/Spectral Q*

**“Together we created a beautiful image of what we want to see in the world. We want our rights and territories respected, here in Peru, across the Amazon and around the world.”**

*– Juan Agustín Fernandez, leader of the Shipibo community of Cantagallo who actively participated in the creation of the indigenous peoples’ human banner.*



**It costs only \$.03 per acre per year to support Amazon Watch’s work with indigenous peoples to protect more than 60 million acres of rainforest from oil development and mega-dams. Please join us!**

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