



ACHIEVEMENTS & PRIORITIES

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Amazon Watch works to protect the rainforest and our climate by supporting indigenous peoples across the Amazon Basin.



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RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

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

- Amazon Watch facilitated the participation of Manari Ushigua, leader of the Sapara people of the Ecuadorian Amazon in testifying at a briefing in the U.S. Senate. Manari spoke about the grave threat to the Sapara people represented by oil drilling in the Amazon. At this same briefing Amazon Watch highlighted the role of asset managers - like BlackRock - in driving tropical deforestation. Following the briefing, Amazon Watch worked with Senate offices and NGO allies on the drafting of potential legislation to help curb tropical deforestation.
- Amazon Watch released our Complicity in Destruction report which built upon extended research and analysis of how northern consumers and financiers sustain the assault on the Brazilian Amazon and its peoples. This report generated high-profile media hits in Brazil (including a major exposure on prime-time television), the United States, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Sweden, and in the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights. A report launch press conference in San Francisco with members of the Articulation of Brazil's Indigenous Peoples (APIB) during the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) in San Francisco firmly positioned Amazon Watch as a primary international partner of Brazil's National Indigenous Movement (MNI) during this challenging political moment.
- In October 2018, Ecuador's Hydrocarbon Minister Carlos Pérez unexpectedly announced that the oil auction planned for the end 2018 would be reduced from the original sixteen blocks to two, as leaders of Ecuador's Amazonian indigenous nationalities gathered outside of the country's annual Energy, Mining, and Oil conference. The change takes 2.8 million acres of pristine rainforest off the auction block, for now. This shelving of the majority of the oil blocks in the Amazon that the government had intended to auction is a major victory for Ecuador's indigenous peoples. Adamant community opposition combined with our campaigns finally forced the government to at least partially recognize – oil drilling in the Amazon is a bad investment for companies and disastrous for affected communities and the rainforest.
- October 2018, Amazon Watch joined the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, and the Sunrise Project in launching the BlackRock's Big Problem campaign to garner public and political pressure to bring an end BlackRock's financing of companies that destroy the climate and precious ecosystems - like the Amazon - and to shift their capital out of fossil fuel companies and towards clean energy solutions. We launched the campaign with some creative actions near BlackRock's headquarters in New York City, generating great coverage in a number of investment-focused news outlets. Since then, the coalition has been building relationships with reporters, commissioning new research, and planning responses to CEO Larry Fink's annual letter to CEOs.
- In September 2018, Amazon Watch brought and accompanied the Kichwa of Sarayaku to take part in the GCAS in order to share their solution to the climate crisis, their visionary Kawsak Sacha proposal. One reason these leaders made the long journey to San Francisco was to confront the governor of their province inside the Governors Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF) to express concerns regarding a proposed protected area crafted without the proper consultation or consent of the indigenous peoples across the Pastaza province. Together with indigenous allies from Canada, the USA and the Amazon, Sarayaku leaders drafted and delivered a declaration to the GCF.
- On November 16, 2018 Amazon Watch accompanied our partner Marlon Santi Gualinga, a leader of the Sarayaku Nation, Ecuador, to urge the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to reject the proposed Tropical Forest Standard, a standard that would the groundwork to incorporate tropical forest offsets into California's cap and trade problems. Along with a broad coalition of environmental justice groups, indigenous rights organizations, scholars and a delegation of indigenous leaders from three continents, we held a rally and press briefing in opposition to the Tropical Forest Standard. After listening to hours of testimony, the CARB decided to postpone consideration of the Standard to better understand our concerns and consider alternative tropical forest protection mechanisms.



2018-2019 PRIORITIES

STOP AMAZON DESTRUCTION

Amazon Watch resists the destruction of the Amazon by challenging disastrous development projects and resource extraction and by promoting indigenous rights.

1. Continue to develop our End Amazon Crude campaign, with a particular focus on the financiers of Amazonian oil companies, while deepening ties with California policymakers and forging a diverse and effective campaign coalition.
2. Work with Ecuadorian and global partners to halt the country's planned new auction of oil drilling concessions that threaten vast, pristine forests and the peoples who call them home.
3. Strengthen our campaign alongside Peru's Achuar people and a coalition of partners to force GeoPark to abandon its Amazonian oil concession.
4. Slow Brazil's ongoing assault on the Amazon, environmental regulations, and indigenous territorial rights by exposing and severing international market and investment ties to corrupt government leaders linked to the agribusiness sector.

ADVANCE INDIGENOUS SOLUTIONS

Amazon Watch supports and promotes indigenous-led alternative solutions to climate change, natural resource extraction, and industrial development.

1. Scale up a robust and replicable Power to the Protectors program to deliver solar energy, communications, and transport solutions to remote Amazonian indigenous communities.
2. Support indigenous-led efforts to advance visions and proposals for a permanently protected Sacred Headwaters bio-cultural region located between the Napo and Marañón rivers in the Amazon.
3. Formalize and expand our Amazon Protectors Fund to meet the growing financial needs of both established and new grassroots partners.

SUPPORT CLIMATE JUSTICE

Amazon Watch joins with the climate justice movement to address the fact that the most vulnerable — especially indigenous people and people of color — bear the brunt of environmental destruction, corporate greed, and climate change, and are often excluded from top-down solutions.

1. Build partnerships with research and media organizations and hone our visual storytelling on the importance of indigenous climate leadership.
2. Support inter-ethnic and international alliance-building between indigenous peoples of the North and South calling for climate justice.
3. Grow support for Earth Defenders of the Amazon through advocacy before national and international authorities, emergency response, and communications to amplify the message of indigenous leaders and communities that are at the frontlines of protecting the Amazon rainforest.
4. Support and advance proposals by indigenous women and youth on the frontlines of ecological destruction and climate change in the Amazon.

“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*





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.



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, natural resource extraction and industrial development. Please join us!

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