IN MEMORIAM

Jonas Minton
Amazon Watch mourns the passing of longtime board member and supporter Jonas Minton. Jonas, who served on the board of Amazon Watch from 2005-2017, passed away at the age of 73. He was a dedicated, passionate, and active leader at Amazon Watch for many years, helping to guide our organization through critical stages of development and growth.

In addition to his 33 years serving in California’s Department of Water Resources, Jonas was an iconic leader in California’s water conservation movement. He helped to secure protection for 1,200 miles of California rivers, leading to the first major dam removal in state history. In his final months, Jonas successfully pushed for California’s water conservation movement.

Among the many pieces of wisdom Jonas imparted were:

“Be good to the Earth, be good to each other, be good to yourself and be sure to have a little fun too!”

“You may be on the opposite side of policy, but not on the opposite side of the person. Every relationship is important.”

Jonas was described as a “spiritual water policy guru.” He showed us how to go with the flow, like the downstream flow of a river. He will be deeply missed. His legacy lives on in many wonderful ways.

Alejandra was a defender of rights and Indigenous peoples with unparalleled commitment and dedication. She always gave 100 percent of her heart, time, and effort on behalf of the struggle for human rights. She was a defender not only of life, but nature and cultures. And she brought this spirit to her work as Ecuador Communications Advisor at Amazon Watch. Alejandra was loved by her family and friends and profoundly loving towards them. She always extended a helping hand to anyone who needed it. She was a person of deep emotion and tenderness.

Dear Friends of Amazon Watch,

Following years of multiple crises in the Amazon amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we began to see hope on the horizon in 2021-2022. It was a monumental year defending the Amazon and human rights! Together with Indigenous partners, I traveled to Glasgow for the United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP26) to amplify the call to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025. And, finally, I returned to the Amazon after several years. I traveled to Puyo, Ecuador for the inspiring opening of the Casa de Mujeres Amazónicas (Amazon Women Defenders House), and to the central Peruvian Amazon to meet and sit with Shipibo women healers who we supported via our Amazon Defenders Fund (ADF). At times I struggled with a mix of fear and fatigue, followed almost inevitably with renewed hope and inspiration by victories such as the one-year moratorium on new oil and mining in Ecuador, the delay of a massive open pit gold mine in Brazil, and the opening of the Mujeres Amazónicas house in Puyo, Ecuador.

This year, the world seemed to finally grasp what Amazon Watch has been saying for over 25 years: To protect and defend the Amazon and our global climate, we must act in solidarity with Indigenous peoples, for they are the best stewards of the Amazon and global biodiversity. We saw the rise of a Pan-Amazon movement and welcomed announcements by governments and philanthropists to finally invest big in forest protection and Indigenous peoples, yet we still see a massive short-fall in direct investments to Indigenous and forest peoples without carbon offsets.

New research this year confirmed that parts of the Amazon have already reached a “tipping point” due to increased deforestation and degradation. To halt this tipping point requires immediate commitments from governments, corporations and financial institutions to stop deforestation, increased demarcation of Indigenous lands, advanced legal strategy, advocacy, and robust support of Indigenous defenders. In response to the severity of the tipping point crisis, we have expanded our U.S. based staff and teams in Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador, and increased pressure on those corporations and financial institutions investing in Amazon destruction.

While on a walk deep in Shipibo territory in the central Peruvian Amazon, I stopped to take a picture of a beautiful spiraling liana vine, and to my surprise I saw two big black eyes staring back at me - I was face to face with one of the world’s rarest jungle cats, a Tigrillo. I feel so blessed to have met this beautiful animal! My Shipibo friends said they had never seen her either. We chose to view this as a sign for good luck in this “Year of the Tiger.”

Thank you for your partnership with Amazon Watch and solidarity with Indigenous peoples during this critical and transformative time for the Amazon, our climate, and all of humanity.

With deep gratitude for your support,

Leila Salazar-López
Executive Director

Cover top: © André Dib/Amazon Watch, bottom: © Isis Medeiros/Amazon Watch

Leila Salazar-López headshot © Rucha Chitnis
Our Work - Protecting the Rainforest and Our Climate in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples: Jul 2021 - Jun 2022

Since 1996, Amazon Watch has protected the rainforest and advanced the rights of Indigenous peoples in the Amazon Basin. We partner with Indigenous and environmental organizations in campaigns for human rights, corporate accountability, and the preservation of the Amazon's ecological systems.

Amazon in Crisis

The Amazon rainforest is at a tipping point, the point at which the degradation of the ecosystem is irreversible. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report is clear: there is no time left to avert an ecological disaster. Amazon Watch is taking bold, immediate action to avert the tipping point and building and strengthening the movement to increase pressure on financial institutions that finance and invest in the companies carrying out Amazon destruction, Indigenous rights abuses, and deforestation in the Amazon Basin and around the world. This last year, Amazon Watch stepped up our global advocacy and expanded our on-the-ground country teams throughout the Amazon to transform this tipping point into a turning point.

Advancing and Amplifying Indigenous-Led Solutions

Protect 80% by 2025 (“Amazônia 80X2025”):

In September 2021, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) approved motion 129, a call to action titled, “Avoid the point of no return in the Amazon by protecting 80% by 2025.” The motion was proposed by the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) and various civil organizations. The approval of the motion for a global pact to protect the world’s largest tropical forest was a major victory for Indigenous federations.

Amazon Watch was a founding partner in the initiative and actively worked throughout the year to pressure financial institutions invested in fossil fuels and mineral extraction in the Amazon Basin to cease and repair their destruction.

Advanced bank policies to exclude fossil fuel finance in the Amazon: Amazon Watch led the push calling on private banks to end the financing of oil and gas extraction in the Amazon biome. In November 2021, Dutch lender ING pledged to no longer finance the trade of oil and gas in Peru amid concern about the impact of the industry on Indigenous peoples, and in May 2022, in a stunning announcement following years of vigorous advocacy by Amazon Watch and partners, BNP Paribas pledged to end financing for new oil drilling across the Amazon.

Accompanied landmark court ruling against open pit gold mine in Brazil: In April 2022, a regional court in Brazil upheld the suspension of an environmental license for the Volta Grande Project, the planned largest open-pit gold mine in Brazilian history, which Canadian company Belo Sun aims to carve into the heart of the Brazilian Amazon. If implemented, the Volta Grande Project would open a new gold mining frontier in this unique and fragile ecosystem in the Xingu River basin. Local communities have been responding to aggressive attempts to hand over land to Belo Sun. Amazon Watch provided legal and financial support to the coalitions organizing to defend this region of the Xingu.

Elevated Indigenous voices at COP26:

Amazon Watch was at the COP26 UN climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland, elevating Indigenous voices in the halls of international climate negotiations. We held an Amazon Exclusion Press Briefing, supported the Amazonian Youth Climate Strike, facilitated a meeting with Indigenous leaders and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, participated in the Global Assembly on the Amazon, and held numerous meetings with the press and Indigenous leaders.

Climate finance campaign success: Amazon Watch’s climate finance campaign successfully resulted in European banks Credit Suisse, ING, Intesa, and BNP Paribas announcing they would exclude new exports of Ecuadorian Amazon oil from their trading activities, with BNP Paribas announcing an even deeper exclusion.

Holding Global Drivers of Amazon Destruction Accountable

Critical role in coalition organizing: Amazon Watch continued in its role as a leading member of the BlackRock’s Big Problem campaign and the Stop the Money Pipeline coalition, helping maintain focus on the role that large financial institutions play in propelling up extractive industries in the Amazon.

Activism at the Summit of the Americas: Amazon Watch sponsored delegations from Ecuador and Brazil to travel to the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles in May 2022, where U.S. and world leaders met. Amazon Watch launched a major action with our ally Stand.earth to urge Governor Newsom to say no to crude oil from the Ecuadorian Amazon, staged rallies and actions calling out Brazil’s Bolsonaro for his destruction of the Amazon, and amplified Indigenous calls to defend the Amazon.

Responded to Ecuador’s biggest oil spill in more than a decade: In January 2022, there was another massive oil spill on Ecuador’s Coca River, this time from a ruptured pipeline of the company OCP. It was the second major spill in two years, contaminating the water source for tens of thousands of Kichwa Indigenous people. Amazon Watch immediately sent a team to the site, gathered footage, and conducted meetings with local affected communities, sharing broadly with the media.

Return to Colombia: Amazon Watch and a high-level diplomatic delegation traveled to southern Colombia in May 2022 to visit an organized collective of campesino communities called the “Amazon Pearl” to learn about and support local struggles against armed groups and extractive industries. Having worked with Colombia’s U’wa people for 25 years, Amazon Watch isn’t new to the region, but it had been nearly 20 years since an Amazon Watch delegation had traveled there, due to security concerns. With this recent field visit to Putumayo, we are deepening initiatives, inspired by the courageous work of environmental defenders like Jani Silva of the Amazon Pearl.

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commitment, ending financing for new oil drilling in the Amazon. This is the first time global commercial banks have adopted policies that exclude finance for extractive activities in the Amazon rainforest. These commitments represent an end to current major sources of financing for the Amazon oil trade, as these three banks were collectively responsible for over 50% of financing provided in the last decade.

Opposed GeoPark expansion in the Colombian Amazon: For several years, Amazon Watch has accompanied Indigenous communities negatively affected by GeoPark in Peru, Amersur in Colombia, and now GeoPark / Nueva Amersur in the Colombian Amazon. Amazon Watch spent five days in the Colombian Amazon in early May of 2022, meeting with community representatives impacted by at least four separate oil concessions currently held by GeoPark. We released a detailed in a 19-page risk alert coinciding with GeoPark’s quarterly earnings call for investors, outlining the social, political, legal, and reputational risks of GeoPark’s plans to expand operations.

Supported unjustly imprisoned human rights lawyer Steven Donziger: Imprisoned longer than any other American for a misdemeanor, Donziger continued to be persecuted by Chevron for the 2013 $9.5 billion judgment the oil giant was ordered to pay in Ecuador for contaminating a stretch of the Amazon rainforest. Amazon Watch kept the case in the media spotlight and rallied support for Donziger. Chevron continues to refuse responsibility for the toxic mess it left in Ecuador.

Accompanied Amazon defenders from Brazil to meet with gold refinery representatives in Switzerland: Following an Indigenous delegation from the Brazilian Amazon accompanied by Amazon Watch, Swiss refineries published a statement pledging to remove illegal gold mined within Brazilian Indigenous reserves from their supply chains. Illegal gold mining on Indigenous territories is a humanitarian crisis, due to the extreme violence and environmental wreckage caused by ‘wildcat’ miners.

Pressured Danske Bank to divest in deforestation causing companies in Brazil: Danske Bank announced it was divesting from agribusiness giant Cargill and placed investment restrictions on the mining company Vale - both of whom were named in Amazon Watch’s “Complicity in Destruction III” report - as actors involved in the invasion and deforestation of Indigenous territories in Brazil.

Banking on Amazon Destruction: This July 2021 scorecard and report fails global banks for their oil and gas investments in the Amazon, revealing that despite sustainability commitments and risk management screening, banks continue to fund corruption, human rights violations, environmental harms, and climate chaos.

Linked Fates: This December 2021 report exposes the Amazon oil commodity chain. As Ecuador surpasses Saudi Arabia as the primary source of oil for California, this exposé linking end use to extraction garnered powerful media attention, including an NBC News exclusive. Amazon Watch is following up with extensive advocacy throughout California.

Providing in Depth Reporting

Over the last 12 months, Amazon Watch released a series of deeply researched reports backed by media and grassroots action campaigns, with powerful results:

Complicity in Destruction IV: How Mining Companies and International Investors Drive Indigenous Rights Violations and Threaten the Future of the Amazon, produced by Amazon Watch and the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), was released in February 2022. It sounded the alarm about the scores of applications for mining permits submitted during the Bolsonaro regime that encroach on Indigenous lands.

Human Rights and Chinese Business Activities in Latin America: This March 2022 report by the Collective on Chinese Financing and Investments, Human Rights and the Environment (CICDHA), a coalition in which Amazon Watch is a leading member, examines 26 cases of rights violations perpetuated by Chinese companies and financiers across Latin America, over half of which are in the Amazon. The recommendations in this report became part of China’s Universal Periodic Review, a process U.N. member states undergo every four-and-a-half years concerning their human rights.

Carbon Offset Briefer: A LEAF Out of an Old Book: This June 2022 report illustrates how the LEAF Coalition, a major carbon credit program used by some of the world’s worst polluters, enables carbon market colonialism across the Amazon and beyond.

The Amazon Rainforest-Sized Loophole in Net Zero: This July 2021 report profiles how net zero pledges can lead to false solutions for Amazon rainforest and climate protection.
The 10 principles of the Amazon Defenders Fund are guided by Indigenous cosmovision.

1. Indigenous movement-led
2. Participatory grantmaking
3. Solidarity, respect, reciprocity, and partnership
4. Accountability, flexibility, and responsiveness
5. Collective leadership and process
6. Dismantling patriarchal systems of power and white supremacy
7. Committed to long-term processes of change
8. Committed to rapidly and safely supporting allies in crisis and at risk
9. Organizing philanthropic actors
10. Celebrating and regenerating the cycle of life

Amazon Watch Expanded Rapid Response and Advocacy Grantmaking

The activist-led Amazon Defenders Fund (ADF) forges a bond of solidarity between Amazon Watch and our Amazonian partners and allies, and contributes to the woven tapestry of direct actions in their territories. The ADF addresses the urgent security needs of Earth Defenders at risk and channels resources to Indigenous leaders, communities, and organizations, as well as to traditional communities and allied non-profits and social movements. This rapid solidarity grantmaking goes to organizational and legal support, Indigenous-led communications, travel, and mobilizations, as well as to small-scale local Indigenous economic initiatives.

From July 2021 to June 2022, the fund redirected $1.62 million to Indigenous and forest peoples, respecting their holistic, interrelated, and reciprocal cosmovision while committing to support accompanying processes of self-determination, autonomy, Indigenous rights, and territorial integrity.

The COVID-19 emergency in the Amazon continued to escalate dramatically, with government responses to the virus woefully inadequate. Amazon Watch raised crucial funds for urgent needs including oxygen, rapid-response health care, food and medicine, PPE, and vaccines. Infection rates in some remote Indigenous communities were as high as 90%, with community elders dying at unprecedented rates. Amazon Watch made a major grant to AeroSarayaku in Ecuador, whose planes serve remote Indigenous communities in roadless territories, transporting medical personnel, food, and medical supplies. The only airline founded and managed by Indigenous people from the Kichwa community of Sarayaku, AeroSarayaku provided a life-saving service, as other airlines refused to transport people ill with COVID-19.

Emerging Women’s Leadership, from Territorial Defense to Political Changemaking

In October 2021, the women’s leadership of the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) carried out its first Women’s Summit in Colombia — with solidarity funds from ADF — in an effort to advance the movement to dismantle patriarchy in an Amazonian context. The resulting declaration from the summit represented the deliberations of the leadership of 511 Amazonian peoples. The declaration decreed the creation of an Amazonian Women's Fund, the formation of a Women Defenders of Amazonian Territories Network, and the establishment of a Colombian Amazon Women’s Movement, while demanding the equal participation and decision-making of women in all COICA spaces, including in its member organizations, both locally and internationally.

“Keep walking, sharing, and learning in unity, and above all, recognizing the great strength of our diversity” (COICA Women’s Leadership Declaration, October 2021)

Forms of Resistance and Revitalization:

Ecuador’s Mujeres Amazónicas strives to challenge, expose, and address all forms of violence against Amazonian women. Employing various strategies, Mujeres Amazónicas centers the priorities of women enduring the negative impacts caused by the exploitation and expropriation of their body-territory and the Earth we share.

Brazil’s Free Land Camp: Transforming Horizons Along Diverse Paths and Directions

The ADF worked with partners in Brazil to enable the travel of several Amazonian delegations to the annual gathering of Brazil’s Indigenous movement, the Free Land Camp, or Acampamento Terra Livre (ATL). The largest gathering in its history, 2022’s ATL convened 7,000 Indigenous representatives from across the country in Brasilia. During a week of activities, participants centered Indigenous voices and cultures while confronting the forces undermining their rights and making the movement’s demands heard. The ATL brought solutions to the table as well as important non-Indigenous voices, including former Brazilian president Lula da Silva, who committed to supporting the Amazonian Indigenous movement’s agenda.

Mujeres Amazónicas has forged a unique healing process by holding “Healing Circles,” spaces where Indigenous women who have experienced violence can meet others and heal collectively and individually. This process enables the creation of solidarity networks as a practice to recover and develop individual and community capacities and resources. In early 2022, the ADF backed the opening of the Casa de Mujeres Amazónicas, with a central gathering space, office, and large kitchen, serving as a critical organizing hub. Women under threat can retreat here, gathering and supporting women to build the movement.

“In indigenous women are holders of ancestral knowledge and the carriers of language and culture. But gender-based violence against Amazonian women continues to be overlooked in Indigenous communities and by society at large. Extractive violence against the land and Indigenous women’s bodies go hand in hand. We think that healing women also heals the Earth.” - Mujeres Amazónicas
While Amazon Watch has maintained a regranting fund over its 26-year history, today’s Amazon Defenders Fund eclipses our previous ability to mobilize solidarity funding to our partners and allies on the ground. This comes at a critical moment, as the Amazon and its peoples suffer an unprecedented assault, requiring new levels of support to resist mounting threats and back much-needed solutions that keep the rainforest standing and its defenders safe.

**Amazon Watch Elevated Indigenous Women’s Voices**
Led by Nina Gualinga, an Ecuadorian Amazon defender and Indigenous women’s rights leader, Amazon Watch’s Women Defenders Program elevates the work of Indigenous women in defending the Amazon against industrial extraction. Amazon Watch supported the Bi-Annual Meeting of Women Defenders in Ecuador and supported convenings leading up to International Women’s Day in 2022, including a delegation from Ecuador for the second annual Indigenous Women’s mobilization in Brazil, where 5,000 Indigenous women gathered. Highlights of Women Defenders projects over the last year include:

**The Opening of the Casa de Mujeres Amazónicas**
Through a grant from the Amazon Defenders Fund, Amazon Watch supported the opening of this new organizing space, healing site, and mobilization hub for Women Defenders in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

**At COP26, held Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women action with Indigenous women leaders**
Nina Gualinga, Mireya Gualinga (Kichwa), and Nemo Andy (Waorani). At the Global Assembly on the Amazon and Climate Crisis, Amazonian Indigenous women met and delivered demands to Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and UN Human Rights Commissioner and Chair of The Elders.

**Provided support for the Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of the Ecuadorian Amazon Women’s march, assembly, and press conference and support to relaunch the Women’s Program at the Inter-Ethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest.**

**Provided legal support** for women facing domestic and gender violence in Ecuador.

**Provided direct legal and security accompaniment** for threatened Indigenous women leaders including Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights awardee Alessandra Korap Munduruku.

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**AMAZON DEFENDERS FUND’S IMPACT**
**FY 2021-2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women-led Initiatives</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Mobilizing, Organizing,</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Strategy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defenders at Risk</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADF GRANTS 2021-2022**

- Number of Grants: 316
- Average Grant: $5,131
- Highest Award: $40,000
- TOTAL FUNDING: $1,621,410
This year we expanded field teams in Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil, augmented the operational team, and expanded the Amazon Defenders Fund. With this organizational growth came self-inquiry and recognition of the need for continued accountability to partners and allies.

The destruction of the Amazon is rooted in the historic and perpetual colonization that began with the Spanish and Portuguese, and continues today via government and corporate exploitation. The driving factors of colonial, white-supremacist, and capitalist ideologies provide the justification for treating Indigenous peoples and their territories as sacrifice zones. As Amazon Watch grows in staff and influence, the organization is adopting new measures and practices to actively work for decolonization, both interpersonally among staff, team, and partners, and institutionally with hiring, fundraising, organizational relationships, strategies, and campaigns. Amazon Watch is committed to these critical decolonization guidelines as well as our justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) goals.

**ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022**

**INCOME**

- Foundation Grants: $683,486
- Funds for Amazonian Groups: $1,049,324
- Individual Donors: $3,673,265
- Organizations & Businesses: $820,019
- Delegations & Other Income: $12,621

**TOTAL INCOME**: $6,238,715

**EXPENSES**

- Programs and Campaigns: $3,513,582
- Grants to Amazonian Groups: $1,621,410
- Total Program Services: $5,134,992
- Management: $215,630
- Fund Development: $322,371

**TOTAL EXPENSES**: $5,672,964

**Net Income**: $565,751

**Net Assets on July 1, 2021**: $6,610,566

**Net Assets on June 30, 2022**: $7,176,317

**Note**: This report is based on the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2022.

**FY 2021-2022 INCOME SOURCES**

**FY 2021-2022 EXPENSES**

**DECOLONIZATION GUIDELINES**

- Shift power to frontline communities
- Lift up Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous systems thinking
- Build equitable relationships
- Practice humility and integrate lessons learned
- Engage in clear and transparent communication
- Be accountable to harm

**JEDI GOALS**

- Staff diversity at every level and on every team of the organization
- Commitment to ongoing learning and transformation
- Institutional implementation and active practice of JEDI objectives
- Multi-lingual accessibility
- A culture of self and collective care
- Equitable timelines and expectations
- Skills and systems for constructive feedback and generative conflict
Protecting the rainforest and our climate in solidarity with Indigenous peoples