

30 years

AMAZON WATCH

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2025 - June 2026

Protecting the Rainforest and our Climate in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

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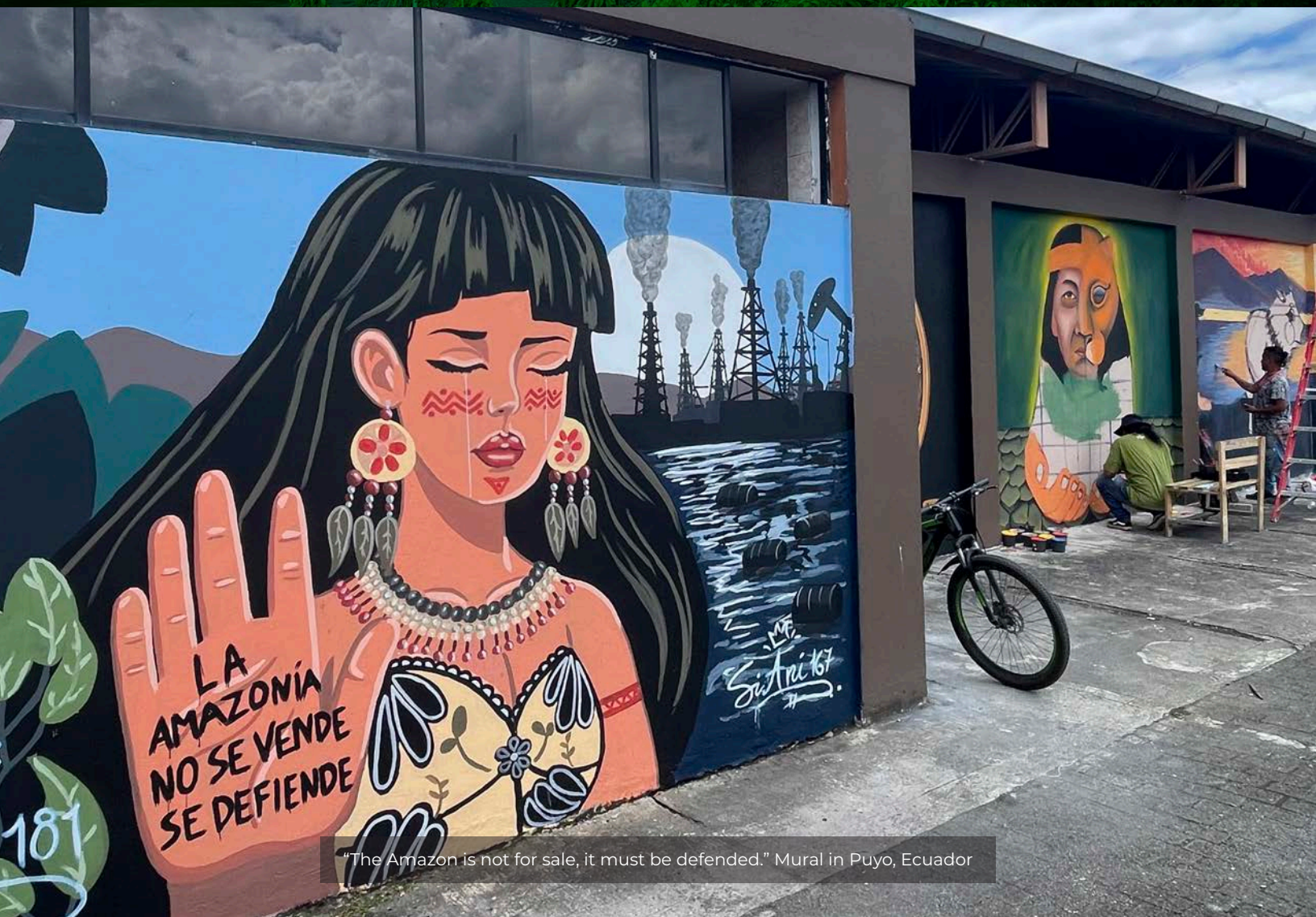
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Top cover photo: Free Land Camp Indigenous gathering in Brazil, 2026. Photo: Anderson Barbosa



"The Amazon is not for sale, it must be defended." Mural in Puyo, Ecuador



Dear Friends of Amazon Watch,

Even in the face of extraordinary challenges, collective action can create meaningful change. As we celebrate 30 years of standing alongside Indigenous peoples in defense of the Amazon, we are reminded that systemic transformation is built through courage, persistence, and partnership.

Today, nearly 30% of the Amazon is lost or degraded, and powerful economic interests continue to fuel its destruction. **Yet this past year also demonstrated that Indigenous leadership is reshaping what's possible.** While COP30 fell short of many expectations, Indigenous peoples secured important victories, reminding the world that the most effective solutions already exist in the territories they have stewarded for generations. The First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, which took place in Santa Marta, Colombia, offered another source of hope while underscoring the political progress still needed to move beyond an extractive economy.

Against this backdrop, I am immensely proud of what our team and partners accomplished this year. Together, we exposed the growing threat of illegal economies across the Amazon, expanded our work in Colombia, and strengthened our regional presence. We also deepened our commitment to Indigenous-led solutions – from supporting the Chapra Nation's transition to solar energy in Peru, to advancing regenerative initiatives with the Munduruku people in Brazil, to improving access to clean water for communities impacted by mining in Ecuador.

As we navigate this pivotal moment, strong leadership and a clear vision are more important than ever. We are honored to welcome two extraordinary Indigenous women leaders to the Amazon Watch Board of Directors: Patricia Gualinga, a renowned Kichwa leader from Sarayaku, Ecuador, and Thalia Cachimuel, a Kichwa-Otavalo organizer, philanthropic strategist, and international climate specialist. Their wisdom and experience will help ensure that our work remains grounded in territorial defense, Indigenous leadership, and intersectional solidarity.

Looking ahead, we are finalizing a new five-year strategic plan, expanding support for regenerative economic initiatives, and continuing to shift more resources and decision-making power to the communities and movements leading change across the Amazon.

The pages of this annual report tell the story of what we have achieved together: victories won through courage, persistence, and partnership. They also offer a roadmap for the work ahead to defend the Amazon, uphold Indigenous rights, and help build a more just and sustainable future.



Thank you for standing with us.

For the Amazon,

Leila Salazar-López
Executive Director

Mission

Amazon Watch works to protect the rainforest and advance the rights of Indigenous peoples in the Amazon Basin. In partnership with Indigenous and environmental organizations, we campaign for human rights, corporate accountability, and the preservation of the Amazon's ecological systems.

Purpose

Spanning nine countries, the Amazon is the largest rainforest on Earth, home to 500+ Indigenous nations and more than 10% of the planet's species. It holds one-fifth of the world's flowing freshwater and helps regulate the climate we all depend on, keeping rainfall and weather systems in balance globally.

Yet, nearly one-third of the forest has already been cleared or severely degraded, reducing areas with high ecological function to 70%. **Scientists warn that we have reached a dangerous tipping point**, where the Amazon could shift from stabilizing our climate to accelerating global warming, intensifying droughts, floods, and catastrophic storms.

We all want to sustain this precious place, but how?

Indigenous nations have protected their rainforest territories for thousands of years. Research confirms that where Indigenous land rights are secure, forests stand and biodiversity thrives.

The tipping point is not an inevitability, but an opportunity for action. With bold, immediate support for Indigenous peoples and their rights, we can step back from the brink and safeguard the living heart of our world for generations to come.



Mobilization at the First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

Our Impact

For 30 years Amazon Watch has partnered with Indigenous peoples and movement allies to achieve transformative victories. Beyond these numbers lies our partners' enduring work of defending territories, strengthening Indigenous governance, and advancing self-determination - which unfolds over years and generations.

BY THE NUMBERS

12.9M
Hectares of rainforest defended by partners

250K
Indigenous people represented by partner organizations and communities

$10M+
Mobilized through the Amazon Defenders Fund since 2020

26
Oil and mining mega-projects stopped or delayed

8
Power to the Protectors solar and communications system installations across four countries

13
Legal victories in defense of the rainforest



CAMPAIGNS

Secure Indigenous Land Rights

Indigenous land rights are climate justice
Indigenous peoples steward over 40% of the Amazon, lands that are scientifically proven to be the healthiest and least deforested in the region. Yet, one-third of these territories lack legal recognition, leaving them vulnerable to invasion and destruction. Amazon Watch partners with Indigenous communities to secure land rights and defend their territories long-term. We provide legal, financial, and technical support, amplify Indigenous voices, and strengthen community resistance against extractive industries.



Alessandra Munduruku at COP30. Photo: Laurel Sutherlin

Catalyzing the Enough Soy Alliance (ESA)

Agribusiness expansion in Brazil poses a critical threat to Indigenous rights, biodiversity, and climate stability. Driving this surge is the Northern Arc logistics complex - including the 933-kilometer Ferrogrão railway - designed to transport commodities to export hubs. To counter these threats, Amazon Watch helped convene the ESA in 2024, uniting over 40 organizations across the Amazon and Cerrado biomes to halt destructive mega-projects, defend territories, and advance agro-ecological alternatives rooted in traditional knowledge and food sovereignty.

Highlights

- **In the lead-up to COP30, we helped catalyze The Answer Caravan** alongside the ESA. Following a key Amazonian shipping route, Indigenous leaders, farmers, and civil society allies traveled 3,000 kilometers over 13 days by road and riverboat to challenge Brazil's export-driven agribusiness model while advancing agro-ecological alternatives. In one of the defining moments of COP30, *The Answer* joined 200+ boats in Guajará Bay outside Belém, bringing together 5,000+ participants from 60 countries. **Result:** The Answer elevated frontline voices on the global stage, strengthened cross-movement alliances, and generated widespread media coverage at COP30.



The Answer Caravan to COP30.
Photo: ©Coletivo Apoena Audiovisual

- **Supported Brazil's largest Indigenous gathering, Acampamento Terra Livre (ATL or "Free Land Camp")**, which drew 7,000 participants from across the country to Brasília. With funding, a photographer, and a media team, we amplified opposition to the Ferrogrão and Belo Sun gold mine. **Result:** Following strong pressure from the 200 Indigenous peoples gathered outside the court, the Supreme Court postponed deliberations on Ferrogrão that would have allowed environmental licensing to proceed.

- **Provided political, logistical, and communications support for a major ESA assembly** in Munduruku territory. Bringing together 100+ leaders from nine Indigenous nations, the gathering addressed threats from agribusiness, port expansion, and Ferrogrão. Leaders hosted a People's Hearing with prosecutors to document the lack of prior consultation and sent a letter to President Lula. **Result:** Participants coordinated upcoming advocacy plans, brought impacted voices directly to officials, and secured a high-level meeting with President Lula and his Chief of Staff.



“Ferrogrão will cause a great deal of damage to the environment. This kind of project threatens the forest, the rivers, and our territories, and it cannot move forward.”

Legendary Kayapó Chief Raoni Metuktire

Kayapó Chief Raoni Metuktire. Photo: ©Coletivo Apoena Audiovisual

Advancing Land Demarcation for the Munduruku, Brazil

For over a decade, Amazon Watch has partnered with the Munduruku people to defend their territory in the Tapajós River basin, a critical link between the Cerrado and the Amazon rainforest. The Munduruku are advancing land titles for two territories, Sawré Muybu and Sawré Ba’pim, covering 365,000 hectares of intact forest, while resisting gold, timber, soy, and hydropower projects. In 2025, sustained advocacy advanced the federal recognition process for both territories, bringing the Munduruku closer than ever to permanent legal protection.

Highlights

- **Supported the Munduruku to attend COP30, funded the boundary marking of their territory, and provided technical support to government agencies** conducting an analysis of land tenure claims, a crucial step forward. **Result:** Following a Munduruku protest at the gates of COP30, Brazil advanced the recognition of 10 new Indigenous territories spanning hundreds of thousands of hectares, which included moving Sawré Ba’pim closer towards full demarcation.

- **Received a significant grant to catalyze a community-led territorial regeneration project** in the Upper Tapajós River basin. Integrating Indigenous knowledge and scientific practices, the Munduruku will launch clean water pilot projects to address mercury contamination from illegal mining and build a long-term restoration plan. **Result:** This 18-month project kicked off in the spring of 2026.

River Blockade Forces Historic Policy Reversal in Brazil

For 33 relentless days, Indigenous leaders from across the Brazilian Amazon stood their ground in extreme weather to protect the future of the Tapajós, Madeira, and Tocantins rivers. These vital waterways were threatened by a federal decree opening the path for industrial hydroways, destructive dredging, and heavy barge traffic.

Delegations from the Tupinambá, Munduruku, Kayapó, and Panará peoples effectively shut down operations at US agribusiness giant Cargill’s Santarém grain terminal. In solidarity, Amazon Watch mobilized rapid-response grants for food, travel, and logistics while ensuring high-impact communications. As digital coverage went viral across the Americas, solidarity protests emerged across major Brazilian cities.

Facing overwhelming public pressure, President Lula revoked the decree - a historic victory for Indigenous sovereignty. With agribusiness attempting to advance river privatization by other means, Amazon Watch is mobilizing within the Enough Soy Alliance to defend this hard-won victory.

CAMPAIGNS

Stop Amazon Crime

Strengthening Indigenous defense against illegal economies
As illegal mining, coca cultivation, and trafficking of illegal commodities expand across the Amazon, they are driving unprecedented deforestation and violence. Amazon Watch supports Indigenous movements from the ground up, advancing local territorial solutions like land rights, community monitoring, and local governance. We combine groundbreaking research, cross-border alliance building, and strategic advocacy to hold institutions accountable and help turn the tide.



Jacqueline Odicio, Kakataibo leader, at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Exposing Threats and Elevating Indigenous Solutions

From local communities to the United Nations, we are shifting the global understanding of Amazon crime from a law-enforcement issue to a climate, biodiversity, and human rights crisis. Combining grassroots media strategies with international advocacy, we help Indigenous leaders deepen expertise, strengthen territorial governance, and demand institutional accountability. Over the past two years, this approach has successfully elevated these critical issues across global media, policy platforms, and the broader Indigenous movement.

Highlights

- **Launched *In the Shadows of the State*, a groundbreaking report exposing illegal economies and armed control** in the tri-border region of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. We presented it to diplomats, media, and regional leaders at the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) President's Summit in Bogotá, alongside digital and media campaigns. **Result:** We reached hundreds of thousands of people, raising public awareness to reduce threats and violence against Indigenous leaders. We directly informed peace process negotiations in Colombia while ACTO adopted key security recommendations.

- **Convened 60+ leaders from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru for a Defenders workshop** in the Peruvian Amazon that served as a powerful space of solidarity, exchange, and strategic planning. Participants shared testimonies, mapped illegal activities across their territories, and built collective strategies to strengthen governance and territorial defense. **Result:** This gathering fostered a unified voice, producing the **Pucallpa Declaration** and a joint letter demanding Indigenous participation in UN global security discussions. Consequently, several territorial initiatives secured increasing recognition and backing from state governments and international institutions.

- **Partnered with 15 Indigenous organizations to launch *Amazon Under Siege*, the first systematic report mapping the impacts of illegal economies on Indigenous peoples** at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This was backed by an advocacy letter signed by over 40 Indigenous organizations. **Result:** Secured a recommendation in the Forum's final conclusions calling for Indigenous participation at the UN Conference Against Transnational Organized Crime, approval of a thematic study on illegal economies, and widespread media coverage.

Supporting Kakataibo Land Titling through Creative Campaigning, Peru

Amazon Watch stands beside the Kakataibo people in resisting invasions from illicit coca cultivation, airstrips, and clandestine laboratories. Over the last two years, we have partnered on a campaign demanding the collective land titling of their territories – an urgent step to prevent further conflicts with coca-growing settlements. This initiative combines traditional advocacy, social media strategies, research, and investigative journalism.



“Indigenous patrols, community monitoring, and ancestral knowledge are already protecting our territories. What we need is recognition, protection, and support. Without this, there will be no military solution to the expansion of organized crime in our territories.”

Herlin Odicio, Vice-President, ORAU (Organización Regional AIDESEP Ucayali)

Herlin Odicio, Kakataibo leader and Andrew Miller, Advocacy Director

Highlights

- **Partnered with Peruvian influencer Alessandra Yupanqui and media collective Sapiens on a social media campaign** urging viewers to tag the regional governments of Huánuco and Ucayali. The campaign reached 600,000 people, with nearly 80,000 taking action, while community and allied networks amplified the content. **Result:** Officials acknowledged that online pressure increased the priority of Kakataibo land titling. Three Kakataibo communities have now advanced to the final land title phase, with our legal, communications, and direct funding support.

- **To keep up the pressure, we launched a second phase of the campaign with over 50 content creators** to share the video report and mobilize audiences. **Result:** In October, we delivered thousands of petition signatures to local and national authorities demanding land titling and protection for the Kakataibo Nation.

Leveraging Film to Amplify the Wampís’ Story

Charip: Lightning in the River is a documentary short film produced by the Autonomous Territorial Government of the Wampís Nation, Amazon Watch, and Mullu TV. It follows Charip (“lightning”), an Indigenous guard patrolling rivers to confront illegal gold mining while protecting their forests, rivers, and way of life in the Peruvian Amazon.

Charip has gained international recognition through selections at Indigenous, environmental, and human rights film festivals. The film serves as a tool for advocacy, education, and movement building, strengthening global support for Indigenous autonomy and climate justice.



Indigenous leaders mapping threats to their territories at a Defenders workshop in Pucallpa, Peru

CAMPAIGNS

End Amazon Crude

Making the Amazon a no-go zone for oil drilling
The western Amazon is one of the world's last oil frontiers – and one of its most biodiverse regions. New oil extraction threatens Indigenous territories, contaminates rivers, accelerates deforestation, and fuels the climate crisis. Amazon Watch partners with Indigenous peoples to stop oil expansion at its source while reducing global demand and financing for Amazon crude. Together, we are working to keep oil in the ground and protect one of Earth's most important ecosystems.

Nadino Calapucha, Kichwa representative, PAKKIRU



Mobilizing Against Oil Extraction in Ecuador

With Indigenous partners, Amazon Watch is resisting Ecuador's plans to auction nearly 3.4 million hectares of roadless rainforest for oil development, threatening the territories of seven Indigenous nations. Through grassroots organizing, international advocacy, and market campaigns, we are building pressure to stop new extraction before it begins.

Highlights

- **Mobilized opposition by supporting assemblies and grassroots organizing** as well as conducting virtual briefings and strategic communications around the ***Drilling Toward Disaster*** report. These efforts culminated in the launch of the *No Más Petróleo en la Amazonía* (No More Oil in the Amazon) campaign, led by the seven Indigenous nations, in 2026. **Result:** Strong Indigenous and civil society resistance has helped prevent Ecuador's planned oil auction from moving forward.

- **Strengthened coordination with the Wampís, Achuar, and Chapra Nations to amplify Indigenous opposition to cross-border oil infrastructure**, supporting joint public statements and broad media outreach. **Result:** Indigenous leaders elevated international awareness of the risks posed by Amazon oil expansion while continuing to avert oil drilling in Ecuador and Block 64 in Northern Peru.

- **Supported a delegation of 30 Indigenous women from communities threatened by the oil auction** on a "toxi-tour" of the northern Ecuadorian Amazon, documenting the destructive environmental and cultural impacts of decades of oil extraction. **Result:** The delegation strengthened solidarity among Indigenous women leaders while generating international visibility for their resistance.

- **Advanced implementation of California State Senate Resolution 51** (SR 51), which commits the state to identifying pathways to end imports of Amazon crude, by organizing a delegation with Ecuadorian Indigenous leader Nadino Calapucha. **Result:** Following unanimous approval of SR 51, California State Senator Josh Becker advanced a bicameral effort to forge a working group focused on Amazon crude, laying the groundwork for future policy action.

> **"We will not stop the climate crisis with small steps. As long as dollars continue to flow into fossil fuels, our peoples, our rivers, and life itself will continue to die. We demand that banks adopt financing exclusion policies, both at the project and corporate levels, for any extractive company operating in the Amazon."**
>
> Olivia Bisa Tirko, President of the Autonomous Territorial Government of the Chapra Nation, Peru



Indigenous leaders at the First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels

Challenging the Economics of Extraction

Stopping oil expansion requires changing the financial incentives that drive it. Amazon Watch works alongside NGO allies and Indigenous partners to influence international policy, engage investors, and pressure financial institutions to stop financing destructive oil projects in the Amazon.

Highlights

- **Led a delegation of Indigenous leaders from Ecuador and Peru to The First International Conference on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels** (TAFF-1) in Santa Marta, Colombia, where we elevated the *No Más Petróleo en la Amazonía* campaign and advanced policy recommendations for Fossil Free Zones. Together with Rainforest Action Network, we released *Financing a Fossil-Free Future*, outlining actions banks can take to support the transition. **Result:** AW and partners influenced TAFF-1 outcomes. Financial architecture is one of three major work streams coming out of the summit. Fossil Free Zones were included in the TAFF-1 cohosts' official takeaways as a strategy for governments to halt the expansion of fossil fuels.

- **Partnered with the NGO Urgewald to publish *The Money Trail Behind Fossil Fuel Expansion in Latin America***, exposing the financial institutions backing destructive oil projects in Ecuador and Peru. We engaged directly with major banks, including JPMorgan Chase, on the financial and human rights risks of financing Petroperú and Ecuador's proposed oil expansion. **Result:** JPMorgan Chase strengthened its restrictions on financing Amazon oil projects, including enhanced safeguards for Indigenous rights.

> **"I believe this Senate resolution is a call for coherence. As Indigenous peoples, we are already protecting the forests, life, and culture, and resisting extractive activities by presenting new alternatives like the Living Forest proposal. It's time for others to assume their social responsibility and take meaningful action."**
>
> Diana Chávez, Head of International Affairs and Organizations for the Representative Organization for the Kichwa Nation of Pastaza (PAKKIRU), Ecuador


Earth Defenders Jani Silva (Colombia) and Luene Karipuna (Brazil) in Santa Marta

CAMPAIGNS

Mining Out of the Amazon

Indigenous Rights, Not Mining Rights
The Amazon rainforest sits atop vast reserves of critical and strategic minerals, drawing intense interest from the global mining industry. Yet, mining is a deadly threat to the forest and its Indigenous peoples, contaminating water sources, driving deforestation, and fueling human rights abuses. From Brazil to Colombia, Amazon Watch is supporting Indigenous and community resistance to some of the Amazon's most controversial mining projects.



Free Land Camp Indigenous gathering in Brazil, 2026.
Photo: Anderson Barbosa

Exposing the Threat of Mining in Brazil

The Canadian company Belo Sun seeks to carve Brazil's largest open-pit gold mine in the Amazon, threatening Indigenous territories and riverine communities in the Volta Grande do Xingu region of Pará state. Meanwhile, the Mura people are challenging another Canadian interest, Brazil Potash, which aims to establish a massive fertilizer mine that threatens their rights, lands, and local governance. Together, these frontline campaigns are exposing the destructive footprint of foreign mining corporations, elevating Indigenous leadership on the international stage, and advancing stronger protections for Amazonian ecosystems.

Highlights

- **Challenged Belo Sun's efforts to secure environmental licensing** by developing media strategies, press materials, and an influencer network that amplifies the voices of communities defending the Volta Grande do Xingu. **Result:** By elevating international scrutiny of Canadian mining companies in the Amazon and positioning Belo Sun as a primary example of the threats of extraction without Indigenous consent, we have helped keep the project mired in legal disputes.

- **Supported the launch of a landmark report on mining impacts on Indigenous peoples and the climate,** developed with the Volta Grande Alliance, the Mura resistance movement, and endorsed by Brazil's Ministry of Indigenous Peoples. **Result:** Launched during COP30, the report identified Belo Sun and Brazil Potash as cases of severe rights violations and provided policy recommendations to strengthen protections for Indigenous communities.

- **Brought Amazon mining conflicts to global attention at COP30 through advocacy, media, and public actions.** Amazon Watch participated in panels, roundtables, and campaign actions focused on Belo Sun, Brazil Potash, critical minerals, and the role of financial institutions in enabling destructive extraction. **Result:** Generated international media coverage from outlets including Reuters, AFP, and The New York Times while strengthening global pressure on companies and investors to respect Indigenous rights.

- **Supported frontline Indigenous leadership and direct action through the Amazon Defenders Fund,** including a Mura delegation's advocacy in Brasília and communications support for the month-long occupation of Brazil's federal Indigenous agency (FUNAI) by Juruna, Arara, Xipaia, Parakanã, and Xikrin communities opposing Belo Sun. **Result:** Communities successfully postponed a key licensing hearing for Belo Sun, creating additional time to challenge the project's legality and impacts.



Paola Silva, Guardians of the Andes-Amazon Collective

Amplifying Community Resistance to Mining in Mocoa, Colombia

Where the Andes mountains descend into the rainforest of Putumayo, Colombia, Canadian company Copper Giant Resources plans to develop one of the country's largest copper mines. While copper is often framed as a vital metal for the clean energy transition, plans to mine here face fierce resistance from local communities protecting their drinking water and ecosystems from irreversible damage.

The city of Mocoa sits in a high-mountain sanctuary that is the source of four of the country's major rivers – the Cauca, Magdalena, Caquetá, and Patía. It also forms a vital natural bridge between the mountains and the rainforest, allowing wildlife to migrate freely while bringing together diverse cultures, ancestral wisdom, and deep-rooted traditions.

Supported by new funding, Amazon Watch expanded our presence and impact in Colombia this year. Following a delegation to examine the intersections of armed conflict, oil, and mining, we produced a video amplifying local resistance to mining that garnered over 1.3 million views on Instagram and earned coverage in *The Guardian*. Through the Amazon Defenders Fund, we helped establish a community checkpoint and meeting hub, while supporting the Collective of the Nature Guardians to host the Fourth Festival for Water, the Mountain, and Life – a gathering for Indigenous, *campesino*, environmental, women, and youth groups to unite and build collective power through art, culture, and education.





Xingu Resist protest ahead of COP30. Photo: Alessandro Falco

"Belo Sun is betting on a policy that renders us invisible. With the support of the Pará state government, they downplayed impacts on paper to deny rights to peoples who will be concretely affected on the ground. There is no real consultation when entire communities are excluded from the process and treated as if they were not part of the Volta Grande. That is why we will continue to resist."

Ngrenhkarati Xikrin, Xikrin leader from the Middle Xingu River



Mura Assembly in Amazonas. Photo: Paulo Bastos/APIAM



Leslie Guimaraes, a young Shipibo-Konibo leader from Flor de Ucayali and Angela Martínez, ADF Director

The Amazon Defenders Fund (ADF)

The ADF is an activist-led solidarity fund that mobilizes flexible, timely, and direct support to frontline communities defending their territories, cultures, and collective rights. Rooted in decades of trusted partnership and guided by the principles of **relationality, reciprocity, and interconnectedness**, the ADF is shaped by the wisdom and cosmology of Indigenous peoples, reflecting our belief that lasting change begins with those most directly impacted and most equipped to lead solutions.

Over the last six years, Amazon Watch has mobilized more than $10 million to regional partners. As movements grow stronger and transborder initiatives become increasingly vital across the Amazon, we actively collaborate with aligned funders to leverage collective resources and maximize our shared impact in solidarity with frontline movements.

AMAZONIAN PEOPLES' FOCUS AREAS

The ADF directly responds to Amazonian partners' priorities, including:

- **Organizing, Mobilizing, and Strategizing**: Autonomous Indigenous governance, ancestral knowledge, legal advocacy, Indigenous media, mobilizations, assemblies, and congresses
- **Women-led Initiatives**: Protection and security, leadership, health, political advocacy, legal defense, regenerative economies, revitalization of ancestral wisdom
- **Alliance Building**: Formation and strengthening of local, national, regional, and international alliances
- **Defenders at Risk**: Individual and collective protection plans, Indigenous guards, legal defense and advocacy, security, well-being, and healing
- **Crisis Response**: Responding to emergencies including fires, floods, droughts, and oil spills
- **Other**: Capacity building, health initiatives, solar power and communications, infrastructure improvements, and funeral services for murdered Earth defenders

ADF Highlights

Percent of Solidarity Funds by Country



29% Brazil **27%** Ecuador

24% Peru **13%** Colombia

7% Regional & ED Discretionary

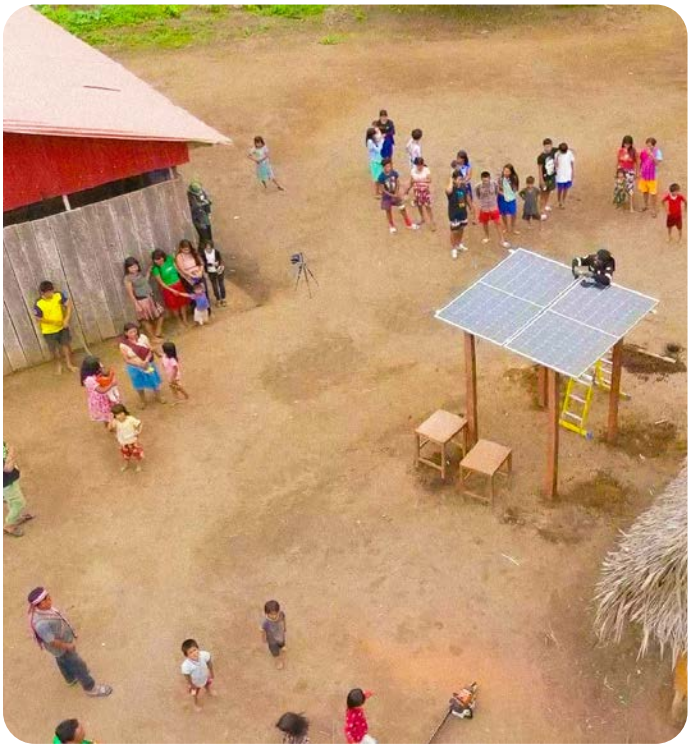
*$500,000 from the ADF budget and $650,000 in pass-throughs

276
Solidarity grants mobilized

76
Indigenous peoples reached across **111** organizations

PERU

Bringing Solar Power to Remote Chapra Territory - The Chapra People of the northern Peruvian Amazon have successfully defended their remote rainforest territory from oil extraction for decades. With support from EKOenergy, Empowered by Light, and the InterAmerican Institute for Clean Energy, we partnered with the Chapra Nation to install solar power, satellite internet systems, and refrigeration in 12 communities, reaching over 2,000 people. The systems will help the Chapra access education and health care, strengthen food security, and generate income from fish-farming, while also improving territorial monitoring and threat response. This is Amazon Watch's eighth community solar project.





Leader Hicler Rodriguez hosts Defenders in the Shipibo community of Flor de Ucayali

BRAZIL

Tapajós-Arapiuns Extractive Reserve Fire Brigades - Amazon Watch facilitated a significant grant from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy to the Tapajós-Arapiuns Extractive Reserve (RESEX) for integrated fire management to prevent and combat forest fires, prioritizing community involvement and strengthening local governance. RESEX has a history of organizing, rapid response, and Indigenous fire brigade training, including firefighting techniques and prevention, first aid, and the combination of traditional knowledge with conventional technical expertise. The new funding will support firefighting equipment, training, and coordination over an area of 647,611 hectares in Pará state.

COLOMBIA

Gathering of the Kokonuko Indigenous Guard - In Kokonuko cosmovision, the Indigenous Guard are caretakers and defenders of life, territory, and culture, maintaining control and harmony. The community has a long history of organized resistance to protect their ancestral territories and water sources from external exploitation. To address the Kokonuko's challenge in coordinating across distant reserves, the ADF mobilized solidarity funds to convene a gathering of the Indigenous Guard as a space for coordination, training, and political organization to advance the territorial control and self-governance of the Kokonuko People.

REGIONAL

Protecting Spaces of Life Through the Transboundary Indigenous Guard - The ADF mobilized solidarity funds to the Regional Organization of AIDESEP-Ucayali (ORAU) to strengthen Indigenous territorial governance along the Peru–Brazil border in the Yurúa region. This critical ecological corridor faces severe threats from drug trafficking, illegal logging, and illegal mining. In response, local Indigenous communities are organizing to establish a trained, community-based, and officially recognized Cross-Border Indigenous Guard. Key project activities include launching an early-warning territorial surveillance system, engaging in dialogue with government authorities, and conducting joint operations against environmental threats. This cross-border collaboration provides a concrete, Indigenous-led model for forest protection.

ECUADOR

Emergency Assembly to Respond to New Oil Concessions - Located in a vital Kichwa border territory, Morete Cocha is on the front lines of resisting new oil concessions. Under the leadership of their first woman president, Salomé Aranda, the community is protecting their land from oil exploration. Aranda conducted a "toxic tour" of northern Ecuadorian oil fields, offering firsthand testimony about the damage caused by oil spills and gas flaring. The ADF mobilized solidarity funds for the emergency assembly to develop a collective strategy and to protect leaders from potential threats and intimidation.



Indigenous women's march, Brazil. Photo: Anderson Barbosa

Women Defenders of the Amazon

Indigenous women are key stakeholders in the movement for the Amazon, with growing representation and leadership in organizations and state institutions. Amazon Watch has helped facilitate this shift by accompanying Indigenous women to exercise their leadership in dignified conditions. Solidarity funds have also supported women's coalition-building, safety and security, and participation in strategic advocacy, legal, and decision-making processes.

Over the last year, ADF mobilized funds to women defenders across Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and regionally. Nearly half of these grants went to support women's leadership, alongside women's health, defenders at risk, revitalization of ancestral wisdom, political advocacy, and prevention of gender-based violence.

BRAZIL

Juma Xipaia Security and Legal Support - As the first female chief of the Xipaya people in Brazil's Middle Xingu region, Juma has survived six assassination attempts while defending her people's land from illegal miners, as profiled in the documentary *YANUNI*. The ADF provided solidarity funds for the implementation of Juma's protection and well-being plans, and supported her safe return to her territory after working as Brazil's first Secretary of Indigenous Rights. The fund supported her submission of a criminal complaint to the Federal Prosecutor, the National Indian Foundation, and the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, to address repeated threats and intimidation.

> **"I am what I was taught to be, just like my ancestors were and what my children will be: defenders of the standing forest, ensuring our existence."**
>
> Juma Xipaia, Leader of the Xipaya people, Chief of Kaarimã Village and Founder of Instituto Juma



Awajún-Wampís Women's Council protesting against sexual violence. Photo: Awajún-Wampís Women's Council

PERU

Responding to Gender-Based Violence & Demanding Justice - In response to hundreds of reported cases of sexual violence against Awajún youth in Condorcanqui province since 2010, the ADF is standing alongside the Awajún-Wampís Women's Council (COMUAWUY) to advance justice, leadership, and community protection. Over the past year, the ADF funded the construction of the construction of a traditional maloca, a safe space for women affected by violence, and supported Nuwa Tajimat ("Resilient Women"), an initiative integrating maternal health with violence prevention. To end impunity, we partnered with media collective Sapiens on a viral campaign pressuring prosecutors to advance investigations that reached nearly 900,000 shares in 24 hours. Additionally, the ADF mobilized emergency support for an urgent march demanding culturally appropriate care and justice for victims, while providing critical security for council leaders experiencing threats and harassment in pursuit of justice.

ECUADOR

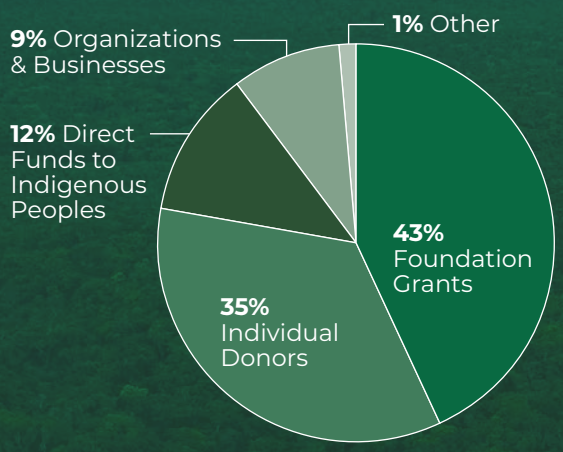
Territories Free of Violence - The Sápara People face major challenges related to the loss of community cohesion, practices of exclusion, and various forms of violence, both from external forces and within the home. In 2022, Sápara women established the *Yarishaya Itium* ("Women Blooming") collective. Women gathered from across Sápara territory, conducted dialogue and self-reflection circles, and developed proposals rooted in ancestral practices for protecting their bodies and ancestral lands. The ADF supported the women's collective to undertake a training process for Sápara women, both to encourage the active political participation of women and to prevent gender-based violence. This initiative seeks to contribute to the revitalization of ancestral values, organizational strengthening, and the promotion of coexistence based on respect and equity.

COLOMBIA

Protection for the Inga People's Leadership - The Association of Indigenous Councils of the Municipality of Villagarzón, Putumayo (ACIMVIP) manages local sustainable production, sustains community operations, and advocates for the Colombian government to uphold collective Indigenous rights. Their effective territorial governance and strong leadership – particularly by women and ACIMVIP's female president – have drawn both respect and severe threats from armed groups and criminal syndicates seeking regional control. In response, the ADF supported the protection and well-being of the ACIMVIP President, Vice President, and the Governor of the Cachiaicu Andaki community. Funding enabled temporary emergency relocation, security skills training, self-protection measures, and ancestral ceremonies for spiritual harmonization and resilience.

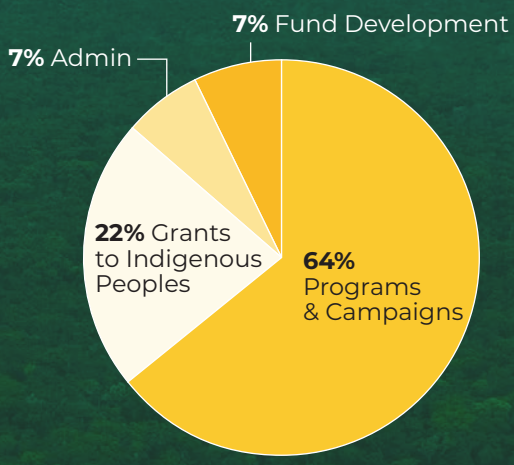
Financials

INCOME



Foundation Grants	$2,651,739
Individual Donors	$2,135,079
Direct Funds to Indigenous Peoples	$715,250
Organizations & Businesses	$522,405
Other Income	$77,563
Total Income	**$6,102,036**

EXPENSES



Programs & Campaigns	$3,404,466
Grants to Indigenous Peoples	$1,169,853
Fund Development	$369,651
Administrative	$346,069
Total Expenses	**$5,290,039**

STAFF AND BOARD

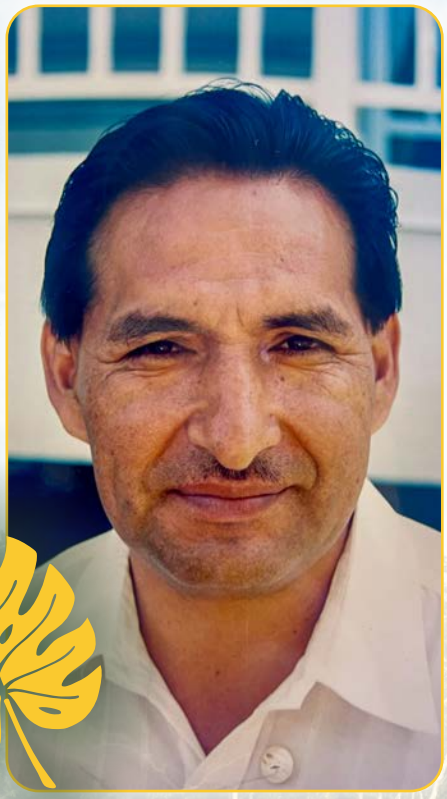
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Cyndie Berg, Director of Philanthropy
Joseph Kolb, Director of Finance and Accounting
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Mariola Fernández, Administrative and Database Specialist
Cinthya Flores, Multimedia Communications Manager
Rhea Gossett, Database Assistant
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Ilonka Zlatar



In memoriam:

Luis Yanza, Defender of Justice

We express our deepest condolences for the passing of Luis Francisco Yanza Angamarca, our friend, colleague, and defender of the Amazon and human rights for more than 40 years.

As founder of the Amazon Defense Front (*Frente de Defensa de la Amazonía*), Luis worked tirelessly to demand accountability for communities affected by oil operations in the northern Ecuadorian Amazon. His efforts helped bring about the landmark litigation against Texaco, now Chevron, a case to which he dedicated his life. In 2008, he received the Goldman Environmental Prize in recognition of his decades of work. But prizes were never his goal. Justice was.

Amazon Watch worked closely with Luis and the organizations and coalitions he helped build: the Frente, the Union of People Affected by Chevron-Texaco, and Selva Viva. In solidarity with Indigenous and campesino communities, we launched the Clean Up Ecuador Campaign, mobilized international pressure, and monitored legal proceedings against Chevron. In 2012, we were elated when the $10 billion judgment against Chevron was announced. Yet these corporate reparations remain unpaid.

In his final days, Luis shared that all he wanted was justice, and for the people of the Oriente, the northern Ecuadorian Amazon, to be respected and treated with dignity. Like many from that region, he was diagnosed with cancer and did not live to see that vision achieved. His legacy will endure through our continued efforts and especially through his daughter, who has committed to defending the rights of nature and animals.

Our heart goes out to Luis's family, his colleagues at the Frente, and all who worked with him over these decades. He will be deeply missed.

May he rest in peace, power, respect, and dignity!

¡Luis Yanza Presente! ¡Hoy y Siempre!

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AMAZON WATCH