



# Amazon In Focus

FALL 2012



## Celebrating 15 Years

+ ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2011-2010



# OUR MISSION & VISION

## Our Mission

Amazon Watch is a nonprofit organization founded in 1996 to protect the rainforest and advance 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.

## Our Vision

We envision a world that honors and values cultural and biological diversity and the critical contribution of tropical rainforests to our planet's life support system. We believe that indigenous self-determination is paramount, and see that indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contribute greatly to sustainable and equitable stewardship of the Earth. We strive for a world in which governments, corporations and civil society respect the collective rights of indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent over any activity affecting their territories and resources. We commit, in the spirit of partnership and mutual respect, to support our indigenous allies in their efforts to protect life, land, and culture in accordance with their aspirations and needs.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Our Mission and Vision</b> .....  | 2  |
| <b>Message from the Executive Director</b> .....                                       | 3  |
| <b>Our Strategies</b> .....  | 4  |
| <b>Resistance and Revelry in Sarayaku</b> .....  | 6  |
| <b>2011-2012 Strategic Milestones</b> .....  | 10 |
| <b>Brazil Program Overview</b> .....   | 13 |
| <i>The Star Woman, Notes from the Bacajá</i> .....                                     | 14 |
| <i>Clean Energy Solutions for the Amazon, Its Peoples and the Global Climate</i> ..... | 16 |
| <i>Occupying the Xingu!</i> .....  | 17 |
| <i>Indigenous Voices at Rio+20</i> .....   | 19 |
| <b>Colombia Program Overview</b> .....   | 20 |
| <b>Ecuador Program Overview</b> .....  | 21 |
| <i>Chevron's Legal Nightmare Goes Global</i> .....                                     | 23 |
| <b>Peru Program Overview</b> .....   | 24 |
| <i>Victory! Talisman Withdraws from Peru</i> .....                                     | 25 |
| <i>Oil, Not in Our Dreams</i> .....  | 26 |
| <b>Special Report: 15 Years of Amazon Watch</b>  |    |
| <b>Amazon Watch by the Numbers</b> .....   | 28 |
| <b>Summary Financial Report 2011</b> .....   | 29 |
| <b>Summary Financial Report 2010</b> .....   | 30 |
| <b>Our Partners and Supporters</b> .....   | 32 |



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of the Amazon:

This special 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary issue of *Amazon in Focus* celebrates the hard work and accomplishments of our team, our indigenous partners, and you—our growing network of supporters who now number more than 165,000 and span 137 countries. We have much to celebrate, and I am deeply grateful for your commitment and creativity in helping to shape Amazon Watch into the powerful force it is today.

With your dedication and support Amazon Watch has evolved into a highly effective team, working relentlessly in remote jungle communities, the halls of power and around the globe to tackle the root causes of rainforest destruction and to advance indigenous rights. We have recently seen the fruits of our collective efforts with several significant triumphs.

The Inter-American Human Rights Court found the government of Ecuador guilty for violating the rights of the Kichwa people of Sarayaku by failing to consult their community regarding oil development on their land, a monumental case for indigenous rights worldwide.

Talisman Energy announced that it would cease oil exploration activities in the Peruvian Amazon, withdrawing from areas where the Achuar people have long opposed oil development on their ancestral rainforest territory.

An Ecuadorian appeals court stood firm on orders for Chevron to pay \$19 billion for environmental cleanup, health care and clean water for the toxic mess it is responsible for in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

In Brazil, opposition to the massive Belo Monte Dam and Brazil's current unsustainable energy path has reached an all time high. Escalating international opposition, targeted protests and legal actions have delayed dam construction and the release of \$10 billion in project loans.

Our actions are making a difference. As we scale up our work to safeguard the Amazon in one of the defining battles of our time, I invite you to take a moment to revel in these recent victories and I hope you will continue to invest in Amazon Watch and our partners.

For the earth and future generations,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Atossa Soltani'.

Atossa Soltani  
Founder/Executive Director



Photo: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch

## OUR STRATEGIES

Amazon Watch works directly with indigenous communities and with regional, national and international organizations to protect ecologically and culturally sensitive ecosystems in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, where millions of acres of rainforest and wetlands are under threat from oil and gas development, mega-dams, roads, and other unsustainable infrastructure projects.

Within this context, we work on five cross-cutting initiatives—corporate accountability, indigenous rights, clean energy solutions, international finance and development, and climate change—to target systemic causes of deforestation in the Amazon.

In partnership with indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, concerned shareholders and global citizens, we utilize the following strategies:

**Campaign** to persuade decision makers in corporations, international financial institutions and national governments to honor the rights of indigenous peoples to self-determination and free, prior and informed consent over “development”



decisions in their territories and to fund full cleanup of areas devastated by past and present oil drilling. We use media exposure, legal action and shareholder campaigns to demand corporate social and environmental justice and accountability.

**Strengthen capacity** of indigenous organizations in the Amazon to defend their rights in local, national, and international fora. Through legal advocacy, media, technology training and the donation of equipment, we help our indigenous partners assert their collective and territorial rights and advance an alternative vision for conservation-based development of their territories.

**Seek long-term protection** of threatened areas and support indigenous populations in the Amazon rainforest by promoting sustainable alternatives to resource extraction-based economic development, monitoring and publicizing new threats in pristine or vulnerable Amazon frontiers, and seeking an end to public financing for destructive projects.

**Educate** corporate executives, shareholders, public officials and the general public using media coverage, websites, publications, documentary films and dialogue. We strive to foster widespread understanding of the intrinsic value of indigenous peoples stewardship and the global significance of the Amazon rainforest. By building awareness and promoting green economic alternatives to the current export-oriented fossil fuel based development model, we are helping to bring about a paradigm shift within key institutions and society.

**Leverage** cutting-edge online organizing and social media tools to mobilize support for our indigenous partners. Amazon Watch's network of online constituents has grown more than 700% over the past 18 months and includes more than 165,000 email subscribers, 40,000 Facebook fans, and 15,000 Twitter followers. We engage these constituents through frequent bulletins, targeted email updates and action alerts. More than 356,000 actions have been taken on our websites, and Amazon Watch has helped to raise more than \$150,000 for our indigenous partners through online appeals.



Photo: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch (top); Ryan Hogan

# RESISTANCE AND REVELRY IN SARAYAKU

Kevin Koenig

In the early morning jungle heat one Saturday in August, Sarayaku leaders gathered in their communal house to prepare for a special and rare event: to celebrate a human rights victory.

Sarayaku—a Kichwa community of the Ecuadorian Amazon—recently won a historic ten-year legal battle against the Ecuadorian government for rights abuses stemming from oil drilling activities on their lands. The decision, handed down by the Inter-American Human Rights Court of the Organization of American States (OAS), bolstered critical rights such as “Free, Prior, and Informed Consent” (FPIC) and the right to territory, culture and identity. It was also a stinging indictment of the Ecuadorian military and government energy policy. The victory further established the Sarayaku case as symbolic of resistance to resource extraction in Ecuador and throughout the Amazon.

Celebration was in order! But this wasn't just any party. With new oil threats on the horizon, the situation called for a strategic jubilee. Connected to the outside world by a solar



Photo: Kevin Koenig/Amazon Watch

powered satellite internet connection, Sarayaku invited neighboring indigenous groups, national indigenous leadership, and NGO allies including Amazon Watch to their rainforest territory to analyze the verdict and strategize a united way forward. The goal: To leverage the court's decision in order to challenge government plans to auction off some ten million acres of Amazonian lands for oil drilling. It was a party with a point, and was covered by every major media outlet in Ecuador.

Some 200 guests, press and indigenous leaders arrived throughout the day. By sunset the evening cacophony of jungle sounds was in full effect, and the sky glittered with celestial bodies of the southern hemisphere.

Exhausted from travel and with a day of revelry on tap, guests retired early after a dinner of fish steamed in banana leaf with yucca and plantain.

At 3am the festivities began. The sounds of drumming broke through the din of insects and an occasional rooster. Households began preparing *wayusa* tea, a medicinal and caffeinated brew using leaves from the *guayusa* tree, an endemic species of the Holly. In most parts of the Ecuadorian and Peruvian Amazon, ceremonies occur in the wee hours of the early morning and are times for collaboratively interpreting dreams and discussing matters of the day.

Guests gathered on the plateau, a clearing-turned-soccer field between

Sarayaku schoolhouses, and passed around a gourd full of steaming *wayusa* under the star-strewn twilight sky. Conversation quickly led to the origins and destiny of Sarayaku.

Sarayaku is both a place and a people. Ethnically, Sarayaku are Amazonian Kichwa. The word “*Sarayaku*” translated literally means “river of corn.” But Sarayaku is more commonly known as the “*Pueblo del Medio Dia*” or “People of the Zenith”—zenith being when the sun is directly above the earth. According to a millennial prophecy of Sarayaku elders and shamans, the community was destined to be a pillar of resistance. The vision held that many of their indigenous brothers and sisters would succumb to outside pressures



Photo: Mitch Anderson/Amazon Watch

and that Sarayaku would be left fighting against all odds until the end.

## The Sarayaku v. Ecuador Decision

The July 25, 2012 court decision outlines the most detailed binding language to date regarding the parameters of the indigenous consultation process and will serve as the new standard as nations update and implement regulations regarding the consultation of indigenous peoples. The court found the state guilty for “failing to conduct a process of free and informed prior consultation in accordance with international standards, violating the rights to communal indigenous property and cultural identity of the Sarayaku people” and “endangering the life and integrity of their members with the presence of high powered explosives in the territory.” (Argentine oil company CGC had left explosives in its attempt to conduct seismic testing.)

“The state’s failure to consult created a climate of unrest, division, and confrontation with the indigenous communities of the area, particularly with the Sarayaku people,” the court decision goes on to say. “Additionally, the environmental impact plan was prepared by a private entity subcontracted by the petroleum company, without state control, without the indigenous people’s participation, and with no consideration for the social, spiritual, and cultural impact that the



Photo: Kevin Koenig/Amazon Watch

planned activities could have on the Sarayaku people.”

Concrete recommendations of the court include that the state of Ecuador be obligated to consult with the Kichwa of Sarayaku “in the eventual case that they plan to carry out any natural resource extraction activity or project in their territory,” done in “good faith and in an adequate, accessible, and informed manner.”

Additionally, the state must “neutralize, deactivate, and dig up the pentolite (explosives used to search for oil) on the surface and buried within the Sarayaku people’s territory,” carry out a public act recognizing their international responsibility, and pay reparations for the material and nonmaterial damages to the indigenous people.

Most remarkable was the fact that the community of Sarayaku was at the forefront of the battle, and the case was truly theirs. Community members were protagonists from beginning to end and made all decisions. Sarayaku live-streamed the final hearing from the



Photo: Mitch Anderson/Amazon Watch

courthouse in Costa Rica over Skype to the community and to allies and press in Quito. When the Ecuadorian government tried to postpone what it rightly perceived would be an unfavorable verdict and invited the court to visit Sarayaku, the community leapt at the chance, and used it to tell their story.

Against great odds the Sarayaku community had decided to test whether the system worked for indigenous peoples, to see if international agreements carried any weight in practice, and to set a precedent for indigenous rights across the Americas. The Correa administration has agreed to respect the decision and comply with the court's order to pay Sarayaku some \$1.4 million.

But, while principles of FPIC were strengthened by the Sarayaku v. Ecuador decision, Sarayaku President Jose Gualinga posed a broader question to the crowd:

"How do you consult the *Sacharuna*? How do you consult *Yakaruna* or *Amazanga*?" he asked, referring to what Sarayaku believes are the living spirits of the trees, water, and forest.

### The Living Forest

According to Gualinga, the larger goal of the case was "to establish the living principle of *Sumak Kawsay* in our territory, and force the state to recognize and respect how we've been

living for millennia—in harmony with our rivers, our forests, the air, with nature as a whole." *Sumak Kawsay* is the Kichwa concept of living well in holistic accordance with the natural world. It is explicitly recognized in Ecuador's 2008 constitution and was designed to be a guiding principle of the country's development plan.

"Clearly, true *Sumak Kawsay* doesn't involve resource extraction," Gualinga explained to the crowd. "But Sarayaku is not just saying 'no' to oil extraction. We have our plan," he continued, laying out Sarayaku's pro-active vision for protecting their extremely biodiverse territory.

Sarayaku is seeking to advance the concept of *Kawsak Sacha*—a "Living Jungle"—by proposing legislation that defines preserved territorial space of indigenous peoples in Ecuador. This category would recognize the spiritual dimension of indigenous territory, combining it with biodiversity and culture heritage, as well as land rights and exclusion from oil, mining, and logging projects. Sarayaku has already begun demarcation of its territory by planting flowering native trees as a symbolic representation.

### The 11th Round

The Sarayaku decision caps a truly remarkable feat. Since Ecuador's government first concessioned the block in 1996, oil drilling plans have been



**"Against great odds, the Sarayaku community had decided to test whether the system worked for indigenous peoples, to see if international agreements carried any weight in practice, and to set a precedent for indigenous rights across the Americas" ...And they won.**

thwarted for 16 years. But Sarayaku finds itself on the line once again as the Ecuadorian government makes plans to auction off some 18 new oil blocks—close to ten million acres—in a new oil concession bid dubbed the “11th Round.”

The 11th Round is slated to open in late October 2012, and companies from China, South Korea, Chile and Colombia are already chomping at the bit. All of Sarayaku would be up for grabs, along with the titled territory of the Achuar, Shuar, Zapara,



Photo: Kevin Koenig/Amazon Watch

Shiwiar, Andoa and part of Wuaorani indigenous territory. A tentative new deal with Peru would allow Ecuador to transport and export crude from these remote lands through the Northern Peruvian Pipeline, opening up a border region that includes some of the most intact rainforest in the western Amazon Basin. Perversely, the oil reserve estimate in this area is a mere 120 million barrels of heavy, low-grade crude—enough to last the US for roughly six days.

Back at the ceremony, leaders of other nationalities took the microphone and announced solidarity with Sarayaku, and pledged resistance to what could be the largest land give away in modern Ecuadorian history.

“The 11th Oil Round is death for us. There has never been a bigger threat to our peoples, our lands, our culture,” declared local Achuar President Jaime Vargas. “Our indigenous brothers and sisters in the north have lost everything to oil extraction. But here, we will change history, and make a new future—one without oil.”

“For decades governments and oil companies have tried to enter these lands. Each time, we have won,” added Humberto Cholango, President of Ecuador’s national indigenous federation. “This will be no different. If we stay united, we can do anything. We will fight until the end, and we will prevail! Viva Sarayaku! Viva justicia!”



Photo: Kevin Koenig/Amazon Watch

## **WELCOME INDIGENOUS LEADERS FROM SARAYAKU, ECUADOR!**

Amazon Watch is honored and delighted to welcome our indigenous allies and leaders from the Kichwa community of Sarayaku in the Ecuadorian Amazon to the Bay Area from **October 15-21, 2012** to share news about their major victory for indigenous self-determination in the face of industrial development threats. **A huge welcome to:**

- **Tupac Amaru Viteri**, Sarayaku Vice President
- **Marlon Santi**, National Indigenous Leader from Sarayaku, Former CONAIE President
- **Nina Sicha Gualinga**, Sarayaku youth leader

Ask us where you can meet our guests of honor during this exciting week!



Photo: Spectral O/ChicoPaulo /Amazon Watch

## **2011-2012 STRATEGIC MILESTONES**

In partnership with indigenous communities, NGO allies, and you—our supporters around the world—Amazon Watch celebrated the following milestones during 2011-2012.

## Advanced Indigenous Rights

- The Kichwa people of Sarayaku won a major victory before the Inter-American Human Rights Court, which found that the government of Ecuador violated their rights to consultation regarding oil development on their land. The court also set new standards for the consultation of indigenous peoples.
- ConocoPhillips committed to adhere to the principles of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and agreed to withdraw from controversial oil Block 39 in Peru, where there are protected areas inhabited by isolated peoples.
- Talisman Energy announced it would cease oil exploration activities in the Peruvian Amazon, withdrawing from areas where the Achuar people have strongly opposed oil development on their remote and biodiverse rainforest territory.

## Promoted corporate accountability

- We expanded our network of institutional investor allies to support our corporate accountability campaigns targeting key oil industry players in the Amazon basin including Chevron, Talisman Energy, Ivanhoe, ConocoPhillips, and Occidental Petroleum (Oxy).
- New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli joined with 39 other investors, with a combined total of \$580 billion in assets under management, to call on Chevron to settle its two-decade-long legal battle in Ecuador.
- 2012 shareholder advocacy campaigns resulted in: the filing of five resolutions challenging the competency of Chevron's management and Board of Directors, including a call for the separation of CEO and chairman that received 38 percent of the vote (double the vote

received in previous years); the filing of a resolution requesting a Board member with environmental expertise at Oxy; a delegation of Achuar indigenous leaders to Talisman's Annual Meeting where the CEO announced that the company was preparing to leave Peru; and a surprise visit by a Kichwa indigenous leader to Ivanhoe's Annual Meeting.

## Deterred or delayed industrial mega-projects in pristine areas while working to implement long-term protections

- We engaged with Pluspetrol over its expansion plans for the Camisea gas project in Southern Peru. After we met with the CEO of Pluspetrol Peru and wrote letters and issued press releases and blogs over the impact on isolated peoples, in October 2011, the government withdrew permission for Pluspetrol to expand oil drilling in the KN isolated peoples' reserve.
- We supported the Ecuadorian government's Yasuni-ITT proposal to leave its largest oil reserve unexploited—some 800 million barrels found beneath the incredibly biodiverse Yasuni National Park—in exchange for compensation from the international community.
- In Brazil, opposition to the massive Belo Monte Dam and Brazil's current unsustainable energy path has reached an all time high. We stood with the indigenous communities of the Xingu as they led protests against the dam construction works and drew international attention to the dam consortium's failure to comply with human rights and environmental loan conditions. Escalating international opposition (including petitions signed by more than two million people), targeted protests and legal actions have delayed dam construction and the release of \$10 billion in loans.

## **Held oil companies accountable for past harms**

- In a major victory for corporate accountability, an Ecuadorian appeals court upheld the precedent-setting lower court verdict against Chevron for the environmental and social harms caused by its irresponsible oil extraction practices in the Ecuadorian Amazon. The court ordered Chevron to pay \$19 billion for environmental cleanup, health care, clean water, and other restoration efforts.
- The Chevron decision is globally significant as it represents the first time that indigenous people have sued a multinational corporation in the country where the damage occurred, and won. As Reuters reported, the case “is being watched closely by multinationals accused of pollution elsewhere in the world.”

## **Promoted Clean Renewable Energy**

- To advance clean energy alternatives to destructive dirty energy projects in the Amazon, at the June 2012 Rio + 20 Earth Summit, Amazon Watch and partner groups organized the Symposium on Clean Energy Solutions for Brazil’s 21st Century.
- More than 1500 people participated in a powerful “human banner” action on Rio de Janeiro’s Flamengo Beach. Their bodies spelled out the phrase “Rios Para A Vida” (Rivers for Life) and evoked the importance of indigenous knowledge and wisdom, clean energy alternatives, and rivers free of large hydroelectric dams. Aerial photos of the action were published far and wide and the event, which Amazon Watch helped to organize and publicize, made it into the New York Times’ online coverage of the Rio+20 summit.

## **Elevated environmental and human rights concerns of rainforest-dependent communities to top decision-makers**

- We organized and accompanied 10 delegations of indigenous leaders from Amazon countries to North America and Europe to meet with corporate executives, boards of directors, shareholders, NGO allies, and senior government officials.
- We also supported the participation of local and indigenous leaders in key international meetings, such as COP 17 and Rio + 20.

## **Worked to improve the policies and practices of International Finance Institutions, which control billions of dollars in financing for infrastructure policies in the Amazon**

- We and our allies sought and won reforms in the Inter-American Development Bank’s (IDB) energy and climate policies and influenced the IDB to strengthen its commitment to transparency and environmental and social safeguards.
- Amazon Watch collaborated with key partners in Brazil, including Plataforma BNDES and REDE Brasil, to help build a strong coalition to work on reforming the financing policies and practices of the National Development Bank of Brazil (BNDES), the second largest development bank in the world.
- We responded to the call for help from indigenous allies and activities in Bolivia, who were marching to stop the BNDES-financed TIPNIS road. Through international media coverage and action alerts that gathered more than 500,000 signatures (in collaboration with Avaaz), we helped influence BNDES to postpone financing for the road.



# BRAZIL

Photo: Atossa Soltani/Amazon Watch

It means “Beautiful Mountain” in Portuguese. In reality, Belo Monte is a massively destructive hydroelectric dam project that would forcibly displace up to 40,000 indigenous and riverbank people and destroy their way of life, flood a large swath of rainforest, dry up a portion of the Xingu River, and pave the way for up to 70 new dams in the Brazilian Amazon. If built, Belo Monte would be the third largest dam on the planet. It would also be one of the most inefficient, generating very little energy during the three to five dry months of the year. Despite overwhelming local, national, and international opposition, the Brazilian government is moving forward with plans to build the dam and began

initial construction in late 2011. But the battle to stop the Belo Monte dam is far from over and is critical in the fight for the future of the Amazon, Latin America, and the entire planet.

Together with the people of the Xingu River and dozens of Brazilian and international NGOs, Amazon Watch is working to document and publicize the dam’s devastating impacts on local indigenous populations. We are directly supporting our partners on the ground, including Movimento Xingu Vivo and its allies. Amazon Watch is also partnering with Brazilian specialists and NGOs to catalyze debate in Brazil about alternatives to the country’s current energy policies. We are also targeting

the institution that is bankrolling Belo Monte, the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES). Together with a coalition of indigenous groups and NGOs from the region, Amazon Watch is working to push BNDES towards greater social and environmental responsibility, accountability and transparency, and to shift its investments towards clean, renewable energy.

We aim to keep the Belo Monte dam controversy in the media spotlight and to bring an unprecedented level of pressure on the Brazilian government to suspend dam construction and ultimately prevent future upstream dams on the Xingu River and throughout the Amazon rainforest.

# THE STAR WOMAN

## NOTES FROM THE BACAJÁ

Words & Pictures by Caroline Bennett

Tears swirled with drops of sweat as smoke spiraled up the corner of the dusky hut, its inner walls pierced by a cascade of golden rays that shot through cracks and cast a warm glow on her crimson-painted face.

“For strength!” she said in her native Kayapó chant-like tongue, and gestured me to follow. She took my hand in her strong fingers, weathered and black with fresh paint, and curiously twirled a lock of my foreign blond with her other hand. I sat cross-legged next to her on the earthen floor. Her wise eyes caught mine and softened as I smiled. She began to paint my body.

In the Kayapó myth of the Star Woman, a legendary heroine, the metamorphosis from star to human being is realized through the use of body painting and decoration. Red and black insect and animal-like markings zigzag and speckle the tan skin of Xikrín men, women and children, who believe that painting their bodies allows them to more easily connect to the spirits. I closed my eyes and envisioned her, a goddess wrapped in the same intricate pattern emerging on my right bicep.



Earlier that day we arrived in Potikrô after navigating the vast waters of the Volta Grande to reach the heart of Xikrín territory on the bank of the Rio Bacajá, an affluent of the Xingu south of Altamira in the northeastern Amazon of Brazil. The Xikrín are a subgroup of the Kayapó, the westernmost group of the Northern Gê. The Kayapó – who call themselves “Mebengnôkre,” or “people of the big water” – are divided into 15 autonomous groups, each with its own name and distinct cultural characteristics. Our invitation had come from the Bacajá Xikrín, who live in eight communities scattered about the river’s lofted clay banks.

Perched atop a grassy hill above the river, the village is a central plaza bordered by spacious thatched huts leading to the surrounding forest. Homes create a nearly perfect circle around a central “Men’s House” – a political, juridical, and ritual meeting space that is said to represent the center of the universe. It was there that I realized the tragic dimensions of the physical threat to the very pulse of the Xikrín people posed by the looming construction of the Belo Monte Dam.

Just the day before I had stood on the bank of the newly constructed cofferdam, a precondition to permanent damming. Its menacing red clay wall barricaded the life flow of the mighty Volta Grande, the “Big Bend” of the Xingu River. Already communities to the east faced flooding and were forced to flee their homes as water crept up through their floorboards. Southern tributaries like the Bacajá would soon suffer opposite effects as the dam sucks them dry.

If the dam is built, healthy, clear rivers will be replaced by impassable creeks and stagnant puddles full of dead fish that will become the breeding grounds for malaria-carrying mosquitos. Rural riverine communities who rely on fish for nourishment and livelihood would be forced to the shanty outskirts of nearby Altamira, an industry boomtown that is already alarmingly overcrowded and taxed by a rapid influx of migrant workers. It is likely that the Xikrín will no longer be able to navigate the Bacajá river to the city, cutting off access to a world they’ve become dependent on and making medical help unreachable. Having pushed indigenous peoples closer to dependency on the outside world, the Brazilian government now plans to sever the connection, assuaging the region with meager gifts and misleading promises.

“Caroh-lee-não,” she whispered. Her rendition of my name sliced through the quiet with a melodic Kayapó accent that surprised us both. My mind, buried deep in the sounds and smells of the rainforest, was lulled by the methodical



stroke of a wet reed on my skin as she painted. Visions of the Star Woman. With projects like Belo Monte looming, I wondered if the Xikrín ever wished they weren’t trapped in these human bodies and faced with a physical world deteriorating around them. Take me back to the sky! Back in the smoky hut, I opened my eyes to find intricate networks of celestial constellations dancing down painted arms.

## CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR THE AMAZON, ITS PEOPLES, AND THE GLOBAL CLIMATE

Dirty energy projects drive deforestation, pollution and rights violations in the Amazon basin. Over the decades, national governments and corporations have erected dozens of oil and gas projects and hydroelectric dams across the region with no meaningful safeguards for the fragile rainforest ecosystem or the wellbeing of the local peoples. As governments and corporations gear up for a new round of dirty energy projects across the continent, Amazon Watch is advancing clean energy alternatives to dirty energy projects in the Amazon. Of particular concern are Brazil's plans to build up to 70 new large dams on tributaries of the Amazon River over the next 20 years, a scenario that will have devastating impacts on indigenous populations, ecosystems, and the global climate.

Our priorities are: (1) Promote clean renewable energy (such as solar and wind), energy efficiency initiatives, and distributed energy solutions; (2) Work to reform the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES), the world's second largest development bank and a key financier of dirty energy infra-



Wind energy offers an affordable clean renewable alternative to electricity from mega-dams and fossil-fuel power plants.

structure projects; (3) Challenge the Brazilian government's plans to build carbon-intensive infrastructure, such as large dams, in the Amazon; (4) Increase public debate about Brazil's energy future and promote democratic participation and more sustainable energy planning; and (5) Support Brazilian indigenous organizations and their allies in their efforts to defend communities and ecosystems from ill-advised energy infrastructure projects while helping to secure recognition of their territories and human rights.

Our work focuses initially on Brazil, the largest economy and electricity market in South America and a financier of dirty energy projects throughout the Amazon region. In June 2012 at the UN Rio+20

Earth Summit, Amazon Watch and partner groups organized a Symposium on Clean Energy Solutions for Brazil's 21st Century. The Symposium convened Brazilian and international experts from the wind and solar industries, Brazilian government representatives, academic researchers, and leaders from indigenous communities and civil society organizations, who also released a publication *The Brazilian Electricity Sector and Sustainability in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges*. We are working in partnership with a coalition of Brazilian organizations to translate the vision and strategies articulated at the Symposium into lasting positive impacts in the Brazilian Amazon and throughout Latin America.



## OCCUPYING THE XINGU!

**Q&A with Amazon Watch  
Founder and Executive Director,  
Atossa Soltani**

On June 21, 2012 as the world's eyes were focused on the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, a group of some 300 indigenous leaders from the Xingu River basin gathered thousands of kilometers north in the Brazilian Amazon to peacefully shut down construction of the Belo Monte dam and call attention to the grave impacts the dam would have on their lives. A few days into the three-week long occupation, indigenous leaders sent out a call for help. Amazon Watch Executive Director Atossa Soltani responded and spent the following 14 days sharing news of the occupation with the outside world. Upon returning to the US she talked about what the protest was like on the ground and why stopping Belo Monte is one of the most important environmental battles of our time.

### **Q. Atossa, why did this protest take place?**

The Belo Monte dam would be the world's third largest dam and would destroy about 100 kilometers of the Xingu River. The project has been a proposal for over 30 years, and



Photo: Mitch Anderson/Amazon Watch

protests and resistance to stop it date back to the late 1980s. Imagine if you are a Xikrin or Arara or Juruna indigenous person living downstream from the dam. The dam would cut people off from the outside world. When there are medical emergencies, these communities will have no way of getting to the nearby hospital. Without any access to the river, the kids will be cut off from access to higher education, to say nothing about the impact on the fisheries. You have a situation where you will have people without access to education, health care, markets, neighbors and the river, their lifeline. So you can see why they are so passionate about demanding that their rights be respected.

### **Q. A few days into the occupation indigenous leaders put out a call for help. What did they need help with?**

A lot of help was needed in getting the story out to a global audience. The protestors risked arrest for stopping the project and the world needed to know. Media was a critical part of telling the story and putting pressure on the Brazilian government to treat them with respect. I helped send out daily dispatches, video, and interviews with the leaders to let the world know why they were there, what was at stake, and what they were demanding.

### **Q. What was the protest like on the ground?**

It was quite intense. The cofferdam was a huge construction site with loud generators, a lot of hot sun and no shade. It was also beautiful because starting at about four in the afternoon, when the sun wasn't so scorching, the indigenous communities would hold meetings to articulate their concerns and try to reach a common position. In the evenings each tribe got to share their songs, dances, and stories. This wasn't your typical mobilization; all members of the community were participating. There were elders and many women and children. It was amazing.

### **Q. What did this occupation mean for indigenous rights and resistance?**

The occupation allowed indigenous people from this region to assert the rights that are guaranteed to them under the Brazilian Constitution and under international law. For any project that affects indigenous territories, the Brazilian Constitution requires that indigenous peoples be consulted prior to the

project being green lighted. This was not the case. The indigenous peoples were not consulted and their concerns were not taken into account before the government approved this project. Belo Monte in its very fundamental basis is illegal and unconstitutional.

### **Q. What should Amazon Watch supporters know about the occupation?**

Supporters of Amazon Watch should know that there are incredibly committed, courageous people on the front lines who are taking action. What we can do is link them to the world, to make sure that decision makers hear their cries, to bear witness to their struggles, to encourage them, and to provide technical and media support

so they can defend their rights and their futures.

### **Q. In one of your blog posts you wrote that you saw the occupation of the construction site as a key battleground for the future of the Amazon rainforest. Why is that?**

Belo Monte is a critical place where the larger issue, the future of the Amazon, is playing out. Brazil has plans to build up to 70 large dams throughout the Amazon Basin on almost every major tributary. These dams would flood huge areas of the forest, destroy river ecosystems, displace indigenous peoples, impact biodiversity, and generate significant quantities of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. If the Brazilian government has its way, the

Amazon will suffer huge consequences. As many people who support Amazon Watch know, the Amazon is reaching a tipping point of ecological collapse. Win or lose, this is a battle we must fight because of what's at stake: the future of the Amazon and the people who live there. As we all know, that is a battle that all of our futures depend on.



Photo: Rafael Salazar/Amazon Watch

## INDIGENOUS VOICES AT RIO+20

While world leaders gathered for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and negotiated in conference rooms this past summer, thousands of indigenous and international activists launched 'The People's Summit' and dozens of colorful side events in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Even before Rio+20 com-

menced, hundreds of non-governmental groups focused on indigenous rights, climate change, ecology, development and other issues gathered for a counter-conference alternative to the UN mechanisms that have yet to produce the needed results called for at the 1992 Earth Summit, which also took place in Rio.

Nearly 1500 people used Rio's Flamengo Beach as a canvas on June 19, 2012. Their bodies formed the

lines of an enormous image promoting the importance of free-running rivers, truly clean energy sources such as solar power, and indigenous knowledge as part of the solution to climate issues. The activity was led by Brazil's many indigenous peoples organized under the umbrella of the Articulation of Brazilian Indigenous Peoples. Amazon Watch played a key role in organizing this event and getting the story to international media and a global audience.



Sonia Bone Guajajara, Vice President of the Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COAIB), addressed indigenous representatives on Rio's Flamengo Beach after a march as the Rio+20 Earth Summit took place on June 19, 2012. Photo: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch



Photo: Amazon Watch

Colombia's indigenous peoples continue to face grave threats in the era of the country's new President Juan Manuel Santos. The struggle to control Colombia's lucrative natural resources—including oil and gas—has helped spur the country's decades-long civil war and is a central consideration of US foreign policy for the region. Although Colombia's indigenous peoples reject the war, the fight has nonetheless placed them in the deadly crossfire. Furthermore, the militarization that accompanies oil exploitation has resulted in ongoing violations of the rights of indigenous communities and, in

many cases, forced displacement from their ancestral homelands. The U'wa indigenous people have been resisting the entry of oil companies into their lands since the arrival of Occidental Petroleum (Oxy) in 1988. Although an international solidarity campaign was successful in expelling Oxy in 2002, threats to U'wa self-determination and control of their territory continue.

The U'wa people live in a cloud forest in northeastern Colombia and consider their territory the "heart of the earth." Since its inception in 1996, Amazon Watch has been working

with this peaceful indigenous community to wage a campaign in defense of their geographical heart and traditional way of life. Our program's main objective in 2012-2013 is to advance protection of the territorial rights of the U'wa through support for a renewed international campaign organized around the sacred snow-capped mountain peaks, the "Lungs of Our Water" according to the U'wa. As the U'wa prepare to launch a local, national, and international campaign to defend their territory, Amazon Watch continues to stand in solidarity with them as we have since the beginning.



# ECUADOR

Photo: Michael Mullady/Amazon Watch

In February 2011, nearly 18 years after a group of indigenous and *campesino* communities in north-eastern Ecuador filed a class-action lawsuit against Chevron, an Ecuadorian court ruled in favor of communities and ordered the oil giant to pay \$19 billion for the environmental and public health catastrophe it left in the Amazon. Though Chevron has vowed to fight the verdict “until hell freezes over,” the landmark ruling represents the first time indigenous people have sued a multinational corporation in the country where the crime was committed, and won. Earlier this year, an Ecuadorian court rejected Chevron’s appeal, making the verdict final. The

oil company is now doing everything in its power to fight the judgment, including bringing the case to an international arbitration panel. The process is expected to take three to four years.

Meanwhile, Amazon Watch continues to support the 30,000 indigenous and rural people of the Ecuadorian Amazon who are demanding justice in this case. We will continue to mobilize awareness and to pressure Chevron’s CEO and Board of Directors to finally do the right thing: fund healthcare facilities, provide clean and healthy drinking water to affected communities, and fund full-scale environmental

remediation.. Refusing to honor the verdict, Chevron is now a fugitive from justice. Through the launch of the Chevron Global Fugitive campaign, Amazon Watch is taking this message to other nations where Chevron operates and educating local communities about their toxic operations.

Miles away in the southern Ecuadorian Amazon live the Kichwa people of Sarayaku. In 1996 the Ecuadorian government imposed oil concession blocks in Sarayaku territory without the permission of the 1,200 people who live there. Sarayaku only learned that their land had been opened for oil exploration when the helicopters

arrived, followed by armed men. Instead of becoming another story of pollution and devastation, the story of Sarayaku has been one of successful resistance. The community beat back oil drilling plans on their lands and recently won the historic case they brought against the Ecuadorian government in the Inter-American Human Rights Court, a case which holds sweeping implications for indigenous rights across the Americas. (See Feature Story: Resistance and Revelry.)

Unfortunately, Sarayaku's battle is far from over as the Ecuadorian government has set the stage for a new conflict in the region. A government oil auction of 18 oil concessions – known as the 11th Round – is set to open in the fall of 2012, and would affect close to ten million acres of primary forest and indigenous land, including all of Sarayaku territory.

For the last decade, Amazon Watch and our allies have stood with Sa-

rayaku in their efforts to assert their rights and prevent oil development on ancestral lands. Our strategic support has included working with Sarayaku to convince the US-based oil company ConocoPhillips to withdraw from Sarayaku lands, facilitating meetings with policymakers in Washington, DC, and helping to catalyze international media coverage of their case. We will continue to offer such support as plans for the 11th Round unfold.



Photo: Michael Mullady/Amazon Watch

## CHEVRON'S LEGAL NIGHTMARE GOES GLOBAL

For the past 19 years, as Ecuadorian rainforest communities have doggedly pursued their fight against Chevron, the pursuit of justice has largely taken place in Ecuador and the United States.

That fight is now going global.

Amazon Watch has joined with the Ecuadorians in an unprecedented campaign to create a worldwide coalition to support the communities seeking enforcement of the \$19 billion Ecuadorian court judgment.

Chevron is hiding in plain sight. The company has been convicted of environmental crimes with a final \$19 billion verdict that is legally enforceable around the world. Yet like an emperor with no clothes, Chevron executives are blithely refusing to pay. Nothing is the matter, they say, nothing has changed.

Unfortunately for Chevron, its strength as a global powerhouse, the world's tenth largest corporation by revenues, has become a weakness. Although Chevron no longer has assets in Ecuador, the company's global network of oil production and refining operations offers the potential for enforcement in multiple countries.



Photo: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch

The pressure started building May 30, when the Ecuadorians' lawyers filed suit in Canada to obtain the seizure of Chevron's assets in that country to pay the judgment. On June 27, a similar lawsuit was filed in Brazilian federal court. The Ecuadorians are expected to file similar motions in other nations over the coming months, and Amazon Watch will join with its allies in those nations to demand justice.

In each of these countries and many others, Amazon Watch is working with the affected Ecuadorian communities to engage local organizations in an innovative, multimedia outreach campaign that seeks to educate both the general public and top decision makers. The overall message connects

sectors that until now have not typically been part of pro-environment coalitions. It gives nations large and small the opportunity, and the clout, to set the precedent that national judicial sovereignty and international human-rights norms must be respected.

Overall, this global campaign has the potential to be as precedent setting as the legal case itself. Never before have peoples of many countries had the opportunity to participate in the enforcement of a ruling against a major multinational corporation. Never before has justice been so democratized and so globalized. Never before has sheer corporate power been humbled.

All that is about to change.



# PERU

Photos: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch

The Amazon headwaters, located along the border of Peru and Ecuador, is one of the most biodiverse places on earth. In this remote region of tropical rainforest and rivers live some 16,000 indigenous people known as the Achuar. The Achuar hunt, fish, raise crops, and live in harmony with their surroundings in the Corrientes, Pastaza, and Morona river basins as their ancestors have done since ancient times. But today the Achuar's traditional way of life and their very survival is threatened by international oil companies who are exploring and drilling for oil in their resource-rich territory. Since the Peruvian state opened up the

Amazon for oil exploration, the people who live there have been systematically excluded from development decisions that have had disastrous consequences for their lives.

In the 1970s, US-based Occidental Petroleum (Oxy) began drilling the oil fields under Achuar territory on the Corrientes River. Today, Argentina's Pluspetrol operates in the area. Over the years, more than nine million barrels of highly toxic wastewater were dumped into rivers, and hundreds of oil spills polluted waterways and left the Achuar with cancer, dangerously high blood lead levels, and other serious health problems. Drilling-related pollu-

tion has also destroyed Achuar hunting and fishing areas in Corrientes region.

By contrast, the Pastaza and Morona river basins remained free of drilling until recently, when Canadian oil company Talisman Energy began explor-





atory drilling in the heart of the Achuar homeland. After a long and daring campaign of peaceful resistance, this September Talisman became the fifth oil company to announce plans to withdraw from Achuar territory.

For many years, Amazon Watch has supported the Achuar people in

their class action human rights and environmental contamination lawsuit against Occidental Petroleum, and we are proud to have aided in their recent victory to get Talisman Energy to cease operations and withdraw from their lands. We continue to campaign for Oxy to face up to its responsibilities, clean up the mess

they left in Peru, and ensure that the communities who live there have access to health care and clean water. And we will continue to support the Achuar in their determined efforts to protect the Pastaza and Morona river basins from pollution and unsustainable industrial development.

## VICTORY! TALISMAN WITHDRAWS FROM PERU

*“I thank you and our allies for standing with us in solidarity to confront this problem. It brings me great happiness to have achieved what we set out to do.”*



—Achuar President  
Peas Peas Ayui

Amazon Watch is immensely pleased to report that after a long and daring campaign, Canadian oil company Talisman Energy announced that it would cease oil drilling in Achuar territory.

Thanks to you—our supporters and allies—Amazon Watch has been able to stand in solidarity with the Achuar through the years, sticking it out until we reached this victorious moment. More than 10,000 of you signed a



petition demanding that Talisman withdraw from Peru.

Hundreds helped Achuar leaders travel to Canada straight to the company's doorstep. From around the world you protested, donated and united with the Achuar.

The case against Talisman, the fifth oil company that the Achuar have forced out of their ancestral territory, demonstrates that together we can stop destruction of the rainforest.

But it does not end here. Peru and Ecuador are poised to auction new oil concessions in and around Achuar territory. Amazon Watch is committed to continuing support of the Achuar's 'Life Plan', building international solidarity and assuring that no company is able to jeopardize indigenous ancestral territory.

Your help makes all the difference as we move into this next phase. Please continue to support the Achuar in building a future without oil drilling.

## OIL, NOT IN OUR DREAMS

Words & Pictures  
by Caroline Bennett

The Achuar live in a unique dream culture that believes in a co-created reality and embraces an eternal vision created and shared by the entire Achuar community, whose lives are devoted to reclaiming their rights. The name 'Achuar' means 'people of the aguaje palm' rooting back to the intricate linking of their identity with their rainforest environment, in which every living thing is connected to its spirit and must thrive in harmonious balance. The Achuar realize that the outside world is desperate for the oil that lies under their territory and that oil operations have brought environmental and cultural devastation to their indigenous neighbors. Faced with these threats, they have followed the ancient tradition of looking to their dreams for guidance. They have agreed that oil operations shall never be a part of the Achuar Life Plan and have vowed to stand up for this vision against all odds.



*Senta, an elder of the Chuintar community. The Achuar awake early each morning to share dreams with family and make decisions according to what has come in sleep. Elders then tell myths to the children, their oral tradition keeping their collective wisdom alive for thousands of years and helping to define their decisions and future.*



*A woman fishes in a local stream after cleverly intoxicating her catch with the 'huaca' plant, then spearing the fish as they drunkenly swim downriver. The Achuar depend on the rainforest for everything they need to survive as they have for hundreds of years.*



*The Achuar believe that dreams can predict an outcome or relate to future “waking life” situations in some way. Waking reality is not a distinct happening from the dream state: Somewhere between the private, first-person experience and the shared experience of dreaming, an underlying level of meaning can be discovered. This relationship between dream and waking life is primarily revealed during the early morning wayusa, and to a deeper extent during natem ceremonies.*



*Decisions are made in communal asamblea meetings. The Achuar have a solid Plan de Vida (Life Plan) and have agreed that oil operations shall never be a part of this vision. They have vowed to defend this vision and are seeking allies from the same external world that threatens to destroy them.*

## AMAZON WATCH BY THE NUMBERS

**20 percent:** Amount of all fresh water on Earth that flows through the Amazon

**20 percent:** Proportion of global warming gas emissions created by global deforestation

**50 percent:** Proportion of the Amazon expected to be deforested or seriously degraded by 2020 given current trends

**17:** New species found just this year in Yasuni National Park in Ecuador

**74 percent:** Proportion of the Peruvian Amazon currently zoned into oil and gas concessions

**5:** Oil companies kicked out of Achuar territory in Peru thanks to Achuar community action

**16:** Years oil drilling plans have been thwarted by Sarayaku in Ecuador

**\$19 billion:** Amount of judgment against Chevron upheld after appeal in 2012 by an Ecuadorian Court

**\$580 billion:** Assets under management by Chevron investors who have called on the company to settle its legal battle with communities in Ecuador

**40,000:** Number of people who would potentially be displaced if the Belo Monte Dam is built

**200:** Indigenous warriors who occupied the sites of Belo Monte Dam stopping construction for 21 days

**\$600,000:** Funds regranted by Amazon Watch to community partners on the ground in 2011

## AMAZON WATCH ONLINE



## Summary Financial Report 2011

January 1 to December 31                      2011                      2010

### INCOME

|  |           |         |
|--|-----------|---------|
| Foundation Grants                        | 1,072,836 | 966,097 |
| Foundation Grants Temporarily Restricted | 167,660   | 65,101  |
| Funds for Partner Groups                 | 487,617   | 431,175 |
| Individual Donors                        | 274,462   | 248,924 |
| Organizations & Businesses               | 46,618    | 48,734  |
| Delegations & Other Income               | 60,405    | 66,047  |

---

**TOTAL INCOME**                      **2,109,598**                      **1,826,078**

### EXPENSES

|                            |           |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Programs and Campaigns     | 1,151,872 | 956,009   |
| Grants to Amazonian Groups | 511,621   | 531,305   |
| Total Program Services     | 1,663,493 | 1,487,314 |

|                  |         |         |
|------------------|---------|---------|
| Management       | 94,377  | 107,390 |
| Fund Development | 199,727 | 195,419 |

---

**TOTAL EXPENSES**                      **1,957,597**                      **1,790,123**

|                           |         |         |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| Net Income                | 152,001 | 35,955  |
| Net Assets on January 1   | 456,273 | 420,318 |
| Net Assets on December 31 | 608,274 | 456,273 |

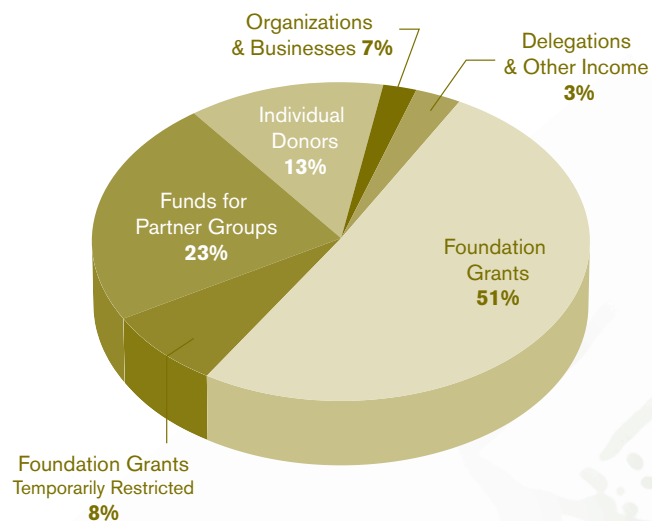
### Net Assets on Dec 31 Include

|                        |          |         |
|------------------------|----------|---------|
| Cash Assets            | 115,112  | 164,048 |
| Short-term Investments | 0        | 0       |
| Prepaid Rent           | 1,089    | 12,564  |
| Grants Receivable      | 531,931  | 255,000 |
| Net Equipment Assets   | 10,825   | 9,048   |
| Other: Stock Donations | 18,932   | 19,801  |
| Less: Accounts Payable | (69,615) | (4,188) |

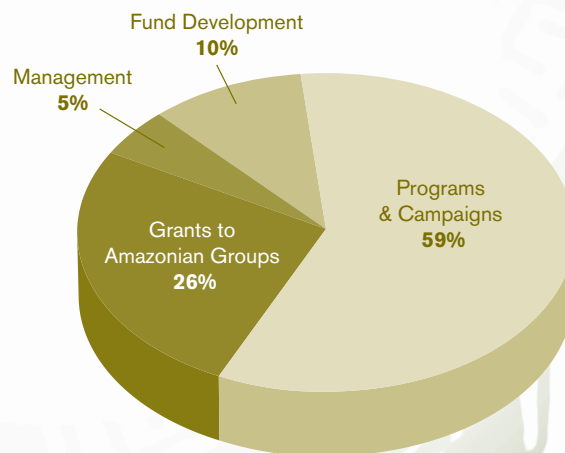
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**TOTAL NET ASSETS**                      **608,274**                      **456,273**

## 2011 Income



## 2011 Expense



## Summary Financial Report 2010

January 1 to December 31                      2010                      2009

### INCOME

|  |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| Foundation Grants                        | 966,097 | 304,251 |
| Foundation Grants Temporarily Restricted | 65,101  | 225,126 |
| Funds for Partner Groups                 | 431,175 | 314,290 |
| Individual Donors                        | 248,924 | 202,602 |
| Organizations & Businesses               | 48,734  | 36,670  |
| Delegations & Other Income               | 66,047  | 21,469  |

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**TOTAL INCOME**                      **1,826,078**    **1,104,408**

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### EXPENSES

|                            |           |         |
|----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Programs and Campaigns     | 956,009   | 788,649 |
| Grants to Amazonian Groups | 531,305   | 100,965 |
| Total Program Services     | 1,487,314 | 889,614 |
| Management                 | 107,390   | 74,244  |
| Fund Development           | 195,419   | 178,311 |

---

**TOTAL EXPENSES**                      **1,790,123**    **1,142,169**

---

|                           |         |          |
|---------------------------|---------|----------|
| Net Income                | 35,955  | (37,761) |
| Net Assets on January 1   | 420,318 | 458,079  |
| Net Assets on December 31 | 456,273 | 420,318  |

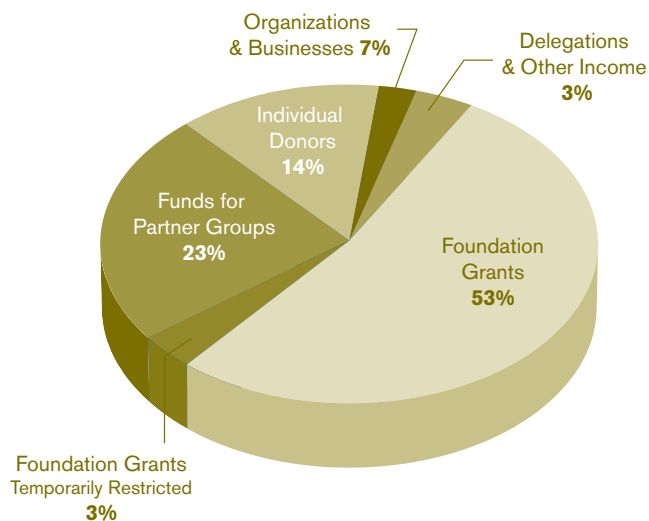
|                              |         |         |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Net Assets on Dec 31 Include |         |         |
| Cash Assets                  | 164,048 | 239,244 |
| Short-term Investments       | 0       | 0       |
| Prepaid Rent                 | 12,564  | -       |
| Grants Receivable            | 255,000 | 150,676 |
| Net Equipment Assets         | 9,048   | 12,202  |
| Other: Stock Donations       | 19,801  | 21,421  |
| Less: Accounts Payable       | (4,188) | (3,225) |

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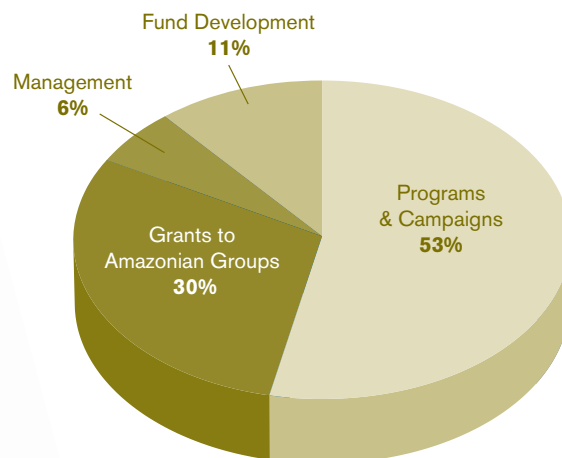
**TOTAL NET ASSETS**                      **456,273**    **420,318**

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## 2010 Income



## 2010 Expense



Note: This report is based on the 2009 and 2010 audited financial statements.

## THANK YOU!

### Board of Directors

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Andrew Beath (Treasurer)  
Michelle Chan (Secretary)  
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Zoe Tryon

### Executive Director's Leadership Council

Megan Wiese (Chair)  
Janet MacGillivray Wallace  
Suzanne West

### Our Partners in the Amazon (2010/2011)

Acción Ecológica  
AIDA  
AIDSESP  
Alianza Arkana  
Asociación Indígena de  
Morona  
AsoU'wa  
ATI  
BioSelva  
CENSAT Agua viva  
CIMI  
COIAB  
CONFENIAE  
COMARU  
CONAIE  
Comunidad de Sarayaku  
Derechos Ambiente y  
Recursos Naturales -  
DAR  
Escuela Amazonica  
FECONACO  
FEDIQUEP  
FENAP  
FICSHe  
Frente de Defensa de la  
Amazonia  
Fundacion Ambaya  
Fundación Hemera  
Fundación Pachamama  
Instituto de Defensa Legal  
(IDL)  
Instituto Raoni  
Instituto Socioambiental  
International Rivers  
Justiça Global

Kichwa Community of  
Rucullakta  
Land is Life  
Movimento Xingu Vivo para  
Sempre  
Nacionalidad Achuar del  
Ecuador (NAE)  
NASHE (Nacionalidad  
Shuar de Ecuador)  
Obras Sociais Prelazia do  
Xingu  
OilWatch  
ONIC  
ORACH  
ORAU  
Racimos de Ungurahui  
Red Ambiental Loretana  
Selva Viva  
Shinai  
Sociedade Paraense de  
Defesa dos Direitos  
Humanos (SDDH)  
Solistico  
VIS (Volontariado  
Internazionale per lo  
Sviluppo)

### 2011 Volunteers

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Elimara Brunetto  
Lopo de Castro Neto  
Caitlin Doughty  
Hank Edson  
Diana Garzón  
Alex Goff  
Sam Kemp  
Kevin Kun He  
Janeth Merchan  
Katie Mickel  
Adrian Schwartz  
Angela Tapia

Tracy Tiernan  
Amy Zajac  
Meredith

### 2010 Volunteers

Lisa Abregu  
Courtney Averill  
Janet Anderson  
Aliyah Field  
Emily Howland  
Maira Irigaray  
Upasana Khatri  
Emily Kirkland  
Celine Lim  
Katherine Needles  
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### 2011 Staff & Consultants

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Mitch Anderson  
Branden Barber  
Caroline Bennett  
Cyndie Berg  
Simon Billenness  
Antoine Bonsorte  
Michael Byerley  
Paul Burow  
Thomas Cavanagh  
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Michael Zap

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Casey Box  
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Ruxandra Guidi  
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Kevin Koenig  
Ariel Lopez  
Gregor MacLennan  
Nick Magel  
Andrew Miller  
Robert Movradinov  
Katherine Needles  
Jenny O'Connor  
Paul Paz y Miño  
Christian Poirier  
Leila Salazar  
Britton Schwartz  
Han Shan  
Atossa Soltani  
Shannon Wright  
Michael Zap

# AMAZON WATCH SUPPORTERS IN 2010 & 2011

(\* Indicates gifts in 2010 & 2011) Includes in-kind donations

## \$100,000 & higher

Anonymous Donor  
Blue Moon Fund\*  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation\*  
James Cameron Trust\*  
Wallace Global Fund\*

## \$50,000 to \$99,999

American Jewish World Service\*  
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Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation\*  
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JMG Fund\*  
Marra Foundation\*  
Overbrook Foundation\*  
Saving an Angel Foundation\*  
Tikva Fund/Tides Foundation\*  
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Bertha Foundation  
Isla Fisher & Sacha Baron Cohen\*  
Rainforest Action Network\*  
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Rudolph Steiner Foundation\*

## \$10,000 to \$24,999

Avaaz\*  
Flora Family Foundation\*  
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Global Greengrants Fund\*  
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Stephen Silberstein\*  
Village by Village-Combined  
Federal Campaign\*  
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Ingrid Broad  
Benjamin Bratt  
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Cultures of Resistance Network  
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Inavale Foundation  
Mental Insight Foundation  
Jonas Minton & Julie  
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New Resource Bank\*  
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Dharma Merchant Services\*  
EarthWays Foundation/John Seed\*  
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Theodosia Ferguson  
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Scott Fitzmorris\*  
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Goldman Environmental  
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Julie Glavin\*  
Beth Goldberg & J. Cogen\*  
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Sue Chiang & Paul Paz y Miño\*  
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**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY!**

Amazon Watch wishes to thank the following artists who have contributed their time, their voices, and/or their financial support to help us advance our mission.

*Benjamin Bratt, James Cameron, Sacha Baron Cohen, Peter Coyote, Leonardo DiCaprio, Carey Elwes, Isla Fisher, Peter Gabriel, Daryl Hannah, Bianca Jagger, Q'orianka Kilcher, Sergio Marone, Joel David Moore, Esai Morales, Willie Nelson, Dira Paes, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Susan Sarandon, Martin Sheen, Sting, Trudi Styler, Sigourney Weaver, Floyd Red Crow Westerman*





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Thank you Amazon Watch for your vitally important work protecting the rainforest and advancing the rights of indigenous peoples in the Amazon Basin.

We support you in our shared mission to support the biological and cultural diversity that sustain the environment.

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The Pachamama Alliance  
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Congratulations Amazon Watch  
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Global Green USA congratulates Amazon Watch on 15 years of successful efforts to protect the rainforest and advance the rights of indigenous peoples!



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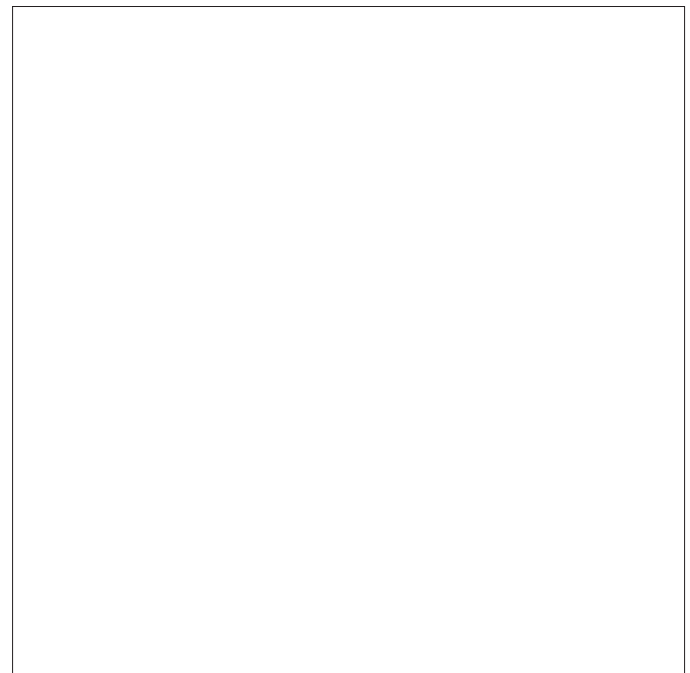
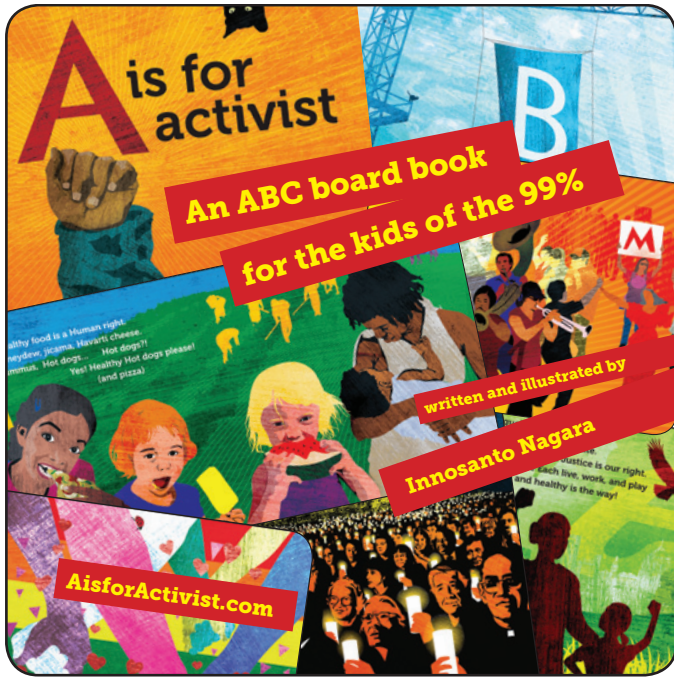


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## AMAZON WATCH STAFF

**Atossa Soltani**, *Executive Director*

**Paul Paz y Miño**, *Managing Director*

**Leila Salazar-Lopez**, *Program Director*

**Caroline Bennett**, *Communications Director*

**Thomas Cavanagh**, *Technical & Financial Manager*

**Maira Irigaray**, *International Financial Institutions Specialist*

**Kevin Koenig**, *Ecuador Program Coordinator*

**Gregor MacLennan**, *Peru Program Coordinator*

**Andrew Miller**, *DC Advocacy Coordinator*

**Onyi Chukwuanu**, *Grants Manager*

**Monica Salazar**, *Development and  
Administrative Associate*

## MAIN OFFICE

221 Pine Street, 4th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Tel: 415-487-9600

Fax: 415-487-9601

## LOS ANGELES, CA

P.O. Box 2421  
Malibu, CA 90265

Tel: 310-456-9158

Fax: 415-373-9435

## WASHINGTON, DC

1350 Connecticut Ave., NW  
Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20010

Tel: 202-785-3962

Fax: 202-355-7570


## QUITO, ECUADOR

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# 15 AMAZON WATCH 1997-2012

Across the Amazon Basin, local forest peoples are engaged in David and Goliath struggles against governments and transnational corporations to protect their lands and cultures. In doing so, these communities are providing a service for all humanity—defending forests, rivers, biodiversity and traditional indigenous knowledge acquired over millennia.

Empowering these communities, supporting them to make their voices heard, and fighting for their rights is richly rewarding work. As the dominant forces of globalization advance a variety of “development” projects, Amazon Watch’s mission has never been more urgent.

As we celebrate our 15th Anniversary, we feel a renewed commitment to and passion for this work. The milestones highlighted on these pages illustrate that Amazon Watch plays an essential role by working directly with local forest peoples to protect their rainforest homelands. We thank our generous supporters—foundations, individual donors, volunteers, and our partners on the ground—for allowing us to carry out our mission. With your help, we look forward to continuing to defend the cultural and biological diversity of the Amazon for future generations.



## San Ramon, USA

**2001-** Amazon Watch works closely with Ecuadorian communities and concerned investors to support shareholder resolutions and attend meetings with Chevron management and Board.

## Los Angeles, USA

**1997** Amazon Watch releases *Arteries for Global Trade, Consequences for Amazonia*.

**1997 - 2012** Amazon Watch and concerned investors attend Occidental Petroleum’s annual general meetings in support of Amazonian indigenous communities.

**2010** James Cameron produces “A Message from Pandora” as part of the Avatar Special Edition DVD about the epic battle to stop the Belo Monte dam.

**2010** Indigenous plaintiffs from the Peruvian Amazon win appeal lawsuit against Oxy as the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rules that the case should be heard in Los Angeles, Oxy’s hometown.

## Calgary, Canada

**2010** After years of pressure from Amazon Watch and allies, Talisman Energy adopts Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) policy in 2010.

**2012** Canadians rally in support around Achuar indigenous leaders speaking out against Talisman at the company’s 2012 Annual General Meeting of shareholders. Talisman subsequently announces it would pull out of the Peruvian Amazon.

## New York, USA

**2007** UN General Assembly adopts the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## Boston, USA

**1999** U’wa leader Roberto Perez confronts Fidelity Investments at its headquarters to seek support for the cancellation of Oxy’s oil project on sacred ancestral lands. Shareholder Fidelity subsequently divests \$400 million of its Oxy stock.

## D.C., USA

**2004** Our coalition forces the International Development Bank to adopt a new environmental safeguard policy.

**2010** 100 civil society organizations from 18 countries step up pressure on the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to improve transparency, sustainability, and accountability.

## Houston, USA

**2003** Indigenous leaders deliver “Eviction Notice” to Burlington Resources calling on the company to cease oil activities in Ecuador and Peru. Burlington sold holdings to Conoco, who eventually abandoned contested oil blocks.

## Venezuela

**1999** In a historic moment for Venezuela’s indigenous peoples, new constitutional chapter sets forth legal rights for indigenous communities. Amazon Watch provided technical, media, and financial support to indigenous peoples throughout the process.

## Colombia

**2002** Occidental Petroleum abandons plans to drill for oil on the U’wa people’s sacred lands in Colombia.

## Brazil

**2002** The Coari-Manaus pipeline proposed for the Brazilian Amazon is suspended indefinitely.

**2012** Amazon Watch stands with communities of the Xingu as they lead protests against the Belo Monte dam. Escalating international opposition, targeted protests, and legal actions delay dam construction and the release of loans.

## Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**2012** Amazon Watch and partners organize Symposium on Clean Energy Solutions for Brazil’s 21st Century at the Rio+20 Earth Summit.

## Ecuador

**2005** Amazon Watch’s Amazon Communications Team designs communications system, implements training program, and expands Sarayaku’s communication infrastructure, enabling the community to monitor movements of oil companies and the military and to organize responses in the event of emergencies.

**2008** Ecuador’s Constitutional Assembly votes to grant inalienable rights to nature in the country’s new constitution.

**2008** Petrobras abandons plans for the controversial oil block 31 in Ecuador’s Yasuni National Park.

**2008** Nominated by Amazon Watch, Pablo Fajardo and Luis Yanza win the 2008 Goldman Environmental Prize for leading the legal battle against Chevron.

**2012** The Kichwa people of Sarayaku win a major victory over the Ecuadorian government before the Inter-American Human Rights Court, setting new standards for the consultation of indigenous peoples.

**2012** An Ecuadorian appeals court upholds the precedent-setting lower court verdict against Chevron for the environmental and social harms caused by its irresponsible oil extraction practices in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

## Peru

**2003** Following a two-year campaign led by Amazon Watch, the US Export Import Bank denies Hunt Oil \$214 million in public subsidies for the Camisea fossil fuel project in the Peruvian Amazon.

**2003** US-based Burlington Resources pulls out of an immense rainforest in the Northern Peruvian Amazon area known as block 64 citing as its reason indigenous opposition from the Achuar people to whom Amazon Watch provided significant support.

**2006** Amazon Watch supports a team of experts in the northern Peruvian Amazon to assess the environmental and health impacts of Occidental Petroleum’s operations. The information is later used as documentation for the Achuar’s filing a legal case against Oxy in May 2007.

**2007** The Achuar force major oil companies to retreat from three contested areas: ConocoPhillips and Occidental Petroleum pulled out of Achuar territory, while Pluspetrol abandons plans to build 39 new wells.

**2007** Amazon Watch helps the national indigenous organizations of Peru to launch an indigenous rights training program—the Amazon School—for communities affected by extractive industries.

**2011** ConocoPhillips commits to adhere to the principles of the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and agrees to withdraw from oil Block 39 in Peru.

**2012** Talisman Energy announces it will cease oil exploration activities in the Peruvian Amazon.

## Peru-Brazil Border

**2003** US-based Hunt Oil withdraws from the pristine Alto Purus rainforest on the Peru-Brazil border, citing concerns for the isolated and uncontacted indigenous populations.

## Bolivia

**2002** OPIC, a US government agency cancels a \$200 million loan to Enron for the Bolivia-Cuiaba pipeline.

