




Amazon In Focus

FALL 2013



+ 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



AMAZON WATCH

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.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of the Amazon:

In May of this year, carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere surpassed 400 parts per million – a major wakeup call for humanity. We are on the verge of surpassing many ecological thresholds at once, and our actions over the next decade will determine the state of the planet for future generations. The Amazon—the world's largest rainforest—is nearing a tipping point. The mission of Amazon Watch to protect the earth's climate stabilizing rainforests has never been more important.

I am deeply grateful for your commitment and creativity in helping to shape Amazon Watch into the powerful force it is today for tackling the root causes of tropical deforestation and supporting courageous local forest peoples on the frontlines of defending the rainforest. Considering that indigenous peoples' territories comprise nearly a quarter of the Amazon, together we play a critical role in helping indigenous peoples to defend their sacred homelands and to maintain their cultures and nature honoring ways of life.

Backed by our global network of supporters like you, Amazon Watch has been engaging in a critical battleground in the Amazon. In Brazil, we are working to shift the nation's electricity matrix toward energy efficiency and clean renewable energy. And we continue to support a growing network of indigenous communities who are resisting destructive dams including Belo Monte and dozens of others proposed throughout the Amazon over the next decade.

In Peru, where the government plans to sell 26 new oil blocks in 2013, Amazon Watch is working with a growing alliance of indigenous communities in the Marañon watershed to halt the sprawling oil frontier that threatens millions of acres of roadless rainforest and the homelands of indigenous peoples, including groups living in voluntary isolation.

In Ecuador we have been waging an international campaign to block the 11th Round oil auction that threatens 6.5 million acres of rainforest homelands. And while we celebrate the Ecuadorian appeals court decision to uphold a \$19 billion judgment against Chevron for polluting the Amazon, we continue to back 30,000 Ecuadorian forest dwellers who still await cleanup and justice in this precedent setting case for corporate accountability.

Our actions are making a big difference. As we rise to meet these defining battles of our time, I invite you to personally 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: Cristina Mittermeier

OUR STRATEGIES

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

Amazon Watch's theory of change centers on advancing indigenous rights to their ancestral territories and protecting these territories. Recent studies confirm that community-based protected areas are more effective in conserving biodiversity and forest cover than traditional conservation strategies such as creating national parks. 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.



Photos: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch

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 our small grants program, 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 permanent protection of threatened areas and vulnerable indigenous populations in the Amazon rainforest. In partnership with civil society in South America, we promote new, sustainable alternatives to resource

extraction-based economic development. At the same time we monitor and publicize new threats in pristine or vulnerable Amazon frontiers and seek 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 both as a storehouse for cultural and biological diversity and for the critical role rainforests play in regulating our climate. 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 substantially over the past two years and includes more than 265,000 email subscribers, 69,000 Facebook fans, and 23,000 Twitter followers. Nearly 700,000 people have taken action on our websites since 2010. We engage these constituents through frequent bulletins, targeted email updates and action alerts.





Photo: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch

STRATEGIC MILESTONES:

PROTECTING THE AMAZON AND ADVANCING INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

2013 follows a remarkable year for Amazon Watch and our partners in 2012: Talisman Energy and Conoco Phillips announced they would cease oil operations and leave the Peruvian Amazon; Belo Monte dam construction was significantly delayed in Brazil; and we celebrated the landmark decision of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) in favor of the Sarayaku community in Ecuador.

2013 HIGHLIGHTS

Advanced Indigenous Rights to Land and to Prior Consent

- **Ecuadorian government complied with Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruling and paid reparation to Sarayaku community.** On the one year anniversary of the historic victory for indigenous rights for the Kichwa community of Sarayaku, the Ecuadorian government met part of its obligation under IACHR ruling by paying reparation of \$1.3 million to the community and agreeing to remove explosives buried in their territory during unauthorized oil exploration. While a public apology and a commitment to “no repetition” by the government is still pending, Sarayaku is poised to continue defending the region against new threats, including the 11th Round oil auction. Amazon Watch is honored to have accompanied Sarayaku in this struggle since 2002.
- **Provided Strategic Advocacy Support to the Indigenous Movement in Peru.** Amazon Watch accompanied AIDESEP, Peru’s national indigenous organization, in their advocacy focused on the Forest Investment Program where the Peruvian government seeks \$50 million in international funding for its “Reducing Emissions thru Deforestation and Forest Degradation” (REDD) strategy. AIDESEP is urging that this forest climate mitigation program recognize and respect indigenous land rights. We supported AIDESEP in presenting an alternative proposal urging that funds instead be invested in indigenous land titling program for 20 million hectares of land claimed by indigenous peoples in the Amazon awaiting titling. The proposal has fueled debate in Peru over land rights and prior consultation. Amazon Watch also provided support for *Escuela Amazonica* to build capacity through indigenous leadership training.
- **Challenged Peruvian Government’s Criminalization of Protest.** Amazon Watch provided strategic support and fundraising support for AIDESEP’s ongoing legal defense of indigenous leaders who are facing spurious criminal charges stemming from the Bagua conflicts in June 2009. Many of the charges against AIDESEP’s leadership were dismissed in early 2013.

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

- **Thwarted Ecuador’s 11th Round oil auction.** Last fall we supported calls from our indigenous allies in defense of the southern Ecuadorian Amazon and launched a campaign to stop the 11th Oil Round, a government auction seeking to license an eight million acre swath of pristine rainforest. Amazon Watch led efforts to expose and pressure the Ecuadorian government internationally and to dissuade potential bidders at government sponsored events in Houston, Paris, Calgary, Beijing and online where we’ve gathered thousands of signatures directed at Ecuador’s President Correa. The government responded by temporarily removing from the auction five contentious oil blocks that overlap the territories of Achuar and Kichwa of Sarayaku. Furthermore, a lack of interest from potential oil company bidders twice forced the government to extend the deadline from May to July and then to November.
- **Kept oil companies out of Achuar territory in Peru.** Following Talisman Energy’s departure from Peru, Amazon Watch has continued to support the Achuar people of the Pastaza River basin who are now threatened by oil development by state oil company Petroperu. We have been providing funding to inter-ethnic gatherings to help unite the Achuar and their neighboring tribes. In addition, we have begun developing strategies with the Achuar for the



Photo: Joke Baert/Fundación Pachamama

implementation of their “life plan”—the Achuar’s holistic strategic plan for education, health, development and protection of their people and their rainforest territory.

- **Delayed the Belo Monte Dam.** While construction continues on the massive Belo Monte dam in Brazil, local and indigenous resistance—including two occupations in May 2013 that halted construction for 17 days—has delayed construction and cost the consortium and government nearly \$100 million and has raised the price tag of the project by \$1 billion. All told, more than seven actions over the past year and 14 legal challenges filed in Brazilian courts have delayed the dam project by one year.

With our support, these actions have united indigenous communities from different river basins in opposition to the Brazilian government’s plan to build dozens of large dams in the Amazon. The real hope lies in a Supreme Court ruling on the government’s failure to respect

Indigenous Peoples right to prior consultation. Other pending cases charge that dam builders have failed to meet required social and environmental conditions. Amazon Watch has helped garner significant national and international media coverage on the Belo Monte dam and generated visibility and pressure on President Dilma Rousseff.

Promoted Clean Renewable Energy

- **Increased Public Debate about Brazil’s Energy Future.** Amazon Watch helped advance clean energy alternatives to destructive dirty energy projects in the Amazon. During the Rio+20 summit, we organized the Symposium on Clean Energy Solutions for Brazil’s 21st Century where we convened Brazilian and international experts from the wind and solar industries, Brazilian government, academic researchers, and leaders from indigenous communities and environmental organizations. Together with International Rivers, we



Photo: Flickr/wavy1

launched a second edition of the report on the challenges and opportunities facing Brazil's electricity sector and facilitated a working group of Brazilian organizations to promote a clean energy vision for Brazil.

- **Exposed Dams as Climate-Unfriendly.** Throughout the past year, we have leveraged the Belo Monte dam controversy to fuel debate about Brazil's unsustainable energy path among Brazilian public, scientists, media and policy makers. We focused attention on the methane emissions of large dams in tropical forests and highlighted scientific research on the subject to help debunk the myth propagated by the dam-building industry that such dams represent clean energy.

Promoted corporate accountability

- **Put Chevron CEO on the hot seat over Ecuador pollution case.** Facing growing shareholder demand that Chevron settle the \$19 billion Ecuador pollution lawsuit, Amazon Watch put Chevron CEO John Watson on the hot seat at the company's 2013 annual meeting in late May and called for his resignation. At the meeting, Watson was confronted by a representative from affected communities in Ecuador, Amazon Watch and major institutional investors about the

company's toxic dumping in the Amazon. We helped support campaigns for two shareholder resolutions related to Ecuador. Shareholders worth \$54 billion of Chevron stock voted for the Ecuador related proposal calling for the appointment of a board member with environmental expertise. The campaign garnered significant press coverage.

Beat Chevron's underhanded legal attacks.

- Chevron paid millions in legal fees and employed more than 60 law firms to delay justice for the rainforest communities in Ecuador. Amazon Watch was among many organizations and individuals subpoenaed by Chevron earlier this year in the company's attempt to discredit the case and label its critics as part of a "global conspiracy." Chevron sought unprecedented discovery of our documents and to depose our staff. Earthrights International helped defend Amazon Watch from this blatantly political attack, and we were victorious before the Northern District Court of California. The court found that Amazon Watch was not involved in fraud or malfeasance, but rather expressing our guaranteed first amendment right to criticize Chevron's negligent operations in Ecuador.



Photo: Amazon Watch



Photo: Gregor MacLennan/Digital Democracy

OUR WORK

From the Tropical Andes to the heart of the Brazilian Amazon, Amazon Watch works in close long term partnerships with indigenous peoples to protect culturally and biologically diverse rainforests from mega-industrial development projects that destroy the environment and threaten our global climate. Our work is primarily focused on the Amazon rainforests of Peru, Ecuador, Brazil and the cloud forests in northeastern Colombia. Our overarching goals are:

- Foster widespread understanding of the intrinsic value of indigenous peoples' stewardship and the global significance of the Amazon rainforest.
- Increase the capacity of indigenous peoples to advance their rights, to legalize their territories and to challenge extractive industry's entry into indigenous lands.
- Challenge industrial expansion into ecological and culturally sensitive areas.
- Champion alternatives and solutions to unsustainable industrial development.
- Hold corporations accountable for past harms and seek cleanup and reparation for damages.

ANDES-AMAZON

Defending the Sacred Amazon Headwaters in Ecuador and Peru

The headwaters and several of the major tributaries of the Amazon River originate in the Tropical Andes region in Peru and Ecuador, an area that harbors extraordinarily high levels of biodiversity and endemism. It is also home to indigenous people, including some of the last groups of indigenous peoples in the Amazon living with little or no direct contact with the outside world.

The region—encompassing the Napo to the Marañón Rivers from north to south, and the Morona, Pastaza, and Tigre Rivers from west to east—comprises the sacred ancestral territories of numerous indigenous groups, including the Waorani, Kichwa, Sápara, Achuar, Shuar/Wampisa, Candoshi, Cocama and others.

In Ecuador the government is moving forward with the auctioning of some 6.5 million acres in 13 oil concessions throughout the southern Ecuadorian Amazon known as the “11th Round.” The 11th Round also includes the traditional and titled homelands of seven indigenous nationalities that have repeatedly rejected oil extraction on their lands.

In Peru, the government has announced that it will open up 26 new

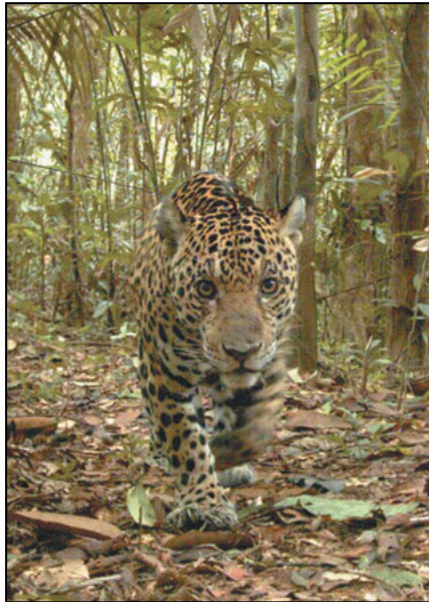


Photo: Flickr/Smithsonian National Zoo

oil blocks in the Peruvian Amazon, part of the country’s aggressive expansion of oil and gas exploration and production in the north along the Ecuador border.

Amazon Watch is committed to defending the Sacred Headwaters region of the Amazon in collaboration with indigenous and NGO allies, starting with an urgent campaign to stop new oil auctions that threaten rainforests and communities in Ecuador and Peru.

We are amplifying the voices of affected communities, particularly indigenous communities, in decision-making processes for oil and gas development and working to improve the oil and gas industry’s social and

environmental policies and practices in the region. Because many of the same oil and gas companies that are active in Ecuador and Peru are active throughout the Amazon Basin—including Pluspetrol, Gran Tierra, Repsol, Ivanhoe, Perenco—our work has impact beyond the two countries by setting region-wide precedents for community consultation and consent.

Ecuador: Challenging the 11th Oil Round

While Ecuador has been an incubator of innovative ideas that have captured the world’s imagination—the Yasuni-ITT proposal to forgo drilling oil reserves beneath the national park, constitutional rights for nature, and the adoption of the indigenous concept of *Sumak Kawsay* (living well) as a guiding principle for a development model in greater harmony with nature—ironically much of the funding for this “revolution” is coming from a renewed push for resource extraction. Such initiatives are made possible by a staggering \$12 billion in loans from China, much of which must be paid back in oil. Ecuador is now obligated to export 72,000 barrels per day to China and appears to be gearing up for a new oil boom like we’ve never seen.

The Ecuadorian government is currently promoting the “11th Round” auction of 13 new oil blocks that cover 6.5 million acres of roadless biodiverse rainforest and the

traditional lands of seven indigenous nationalities. State oil company PetroAmazonas is also seeking to develop three new oil blocks on the border with Peru, and bi-national accords have been signed for cross border sharing of oil infrastructure.

But there is hope. The 11th Round has been widely seen as a failure. Opposition from indigenous groups on the ground and international pressure have forced the government to scale down the auction from an initial 21 blocks to 13 and to postpone deadlines for bids multiple times due to lack of interest. The recent decision by President Correa to abandon the Yasuni-ITT initiative and move ahead with drilling in the Yasuni National

Park is being met with overwhelming public outcry and has sparked protests and a grassroots movement calling for a national referendum on the issue.

As the new deadline for bidding in the 11th Round approaches in November, Amazon Watch is leading an international campaign to pressure the government and dissuade potential investors and companies from bidding on the risky blocks. We're also supporting indigenous organizing and engaging shareholders and grassroots supporters with social media campaigns targeting the government and companies that are considering concessions in the southern Ecuadorian Amazon.

Peru: Defending Achuar Territory and Uncontacted Peoples' Lands

After expelling Talisman Energy from their ancestral territory last year, the Achuar people of the Pastaza River basin have reaffirmed their vow to defend their homeland from oil drilling by instead promoting a sustainable 'Life Plan.' The Achuar's Life Plan includes paths to healthcare, education, cultural revival and reforestation. As a longtime ally, Amazon Watch is committed to supporting the Achuar from the latest threat of oil drilling by state oil company PetroPeru.

We are also monitoring plans for new oil development across the Peruvian Amazon via an oil round that comprises 26 blocks, threatening over 16 million acres of pristine rainforest and the homelands of indigenous people, including people living in voluntary isolation. Consultations of communities living in these blocks have just begun. In solidarity with the Achuar and indigenous allies in the Loreto Province and throughout the Peruvian Amazon, Amazon Watch will monitor consultations and the bidding process in the new oil round and support indigenous inter-ethnic organizing and bi-national efforts to defeat drilling in the Sacred Headwaters of the Amazon.



Photo: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch

BRAZIL

Challenging mega-dams in the Amazon

The Brazilian government is building the world's third largest hydroelectric dam on the Xingu River, one of the Amazon's major tributaries. The Belo Monte dam complex would divert 80 percent of the Xingu River's flow, devastate an area of over 1,500 square kilometers of rainforest and result in the forced displacement of up to 40,000 people. The project would also be incredibly inefficient, generating very little energy during the three to five dry months of the year. Belo Monte is causing serious impacts on the lands and livelihood of thousands of riverine communities and indigenous people and will pave the way for the Brazilian government's plans to build dozens of large dams in the Amazon over the next two decades.

Together with the people of the Xingu and a network of Brazilian and international NGOs, Amazon Watch is working to document and publicize the dam's devastating impacts on local and indigenous populations. We are directly supporting our partners on the ground including *Movimento Xingu Vivo Para Sempre* and the Munduruku of the Tapajós River, who recently joined forces to resist new dams in the Amazon. Amazon Watch provides communications, advocacy, financial, and legal support to local



Photo: Ruy Sposati/Amazon Watch

groups and organizes compelling digital and social media campaigns to influence opinion leaders and to engage millions of ordinary citizens in Brazil and internationally.

We are also partnering with Brazilian specialists to catalyze debate in Brazil about alternatives to the country's current energy policies and are targeting the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES), the institution that is bankrolling Belo Monte and other destructive projects throughout the Amazon.

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 to prevent future upstream dams on the Xingu River and throughout the Amazon rainforest. There are

timely opportunities to engage the Brazilian public on the issue given the World Cup and Brazil's presidential elections in 2014.

Advancing Clean Energy Solutions

To meet projected demand for power, the Brazilian government plans to build more than 38,000 megawatts of new hydroelectric capacity in the Amazon by 2021. Brazil's plans to significantly expand hydropower production in the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest, have major implications for Latin America and the global climate.

Contrary to government claims that dams are "clean energy," large dams in the tropics emit significant amounts of methane, a GHG over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. GHG emissions from dams in the tropics



Photo: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch

can actually exceed those of fossil fuel plants, and such dams also cause significant social and environmental harm, such as destruction of riverine ecosystems, deforestation, and displacement of indigenous and traditional communities. Brazil is at an energy and environmental crossroads. It is considering policies that could set the country and the entire region on a path of clean energy leadership or on a path of rainforest destruction, increased GHG emissions, and displacement of local and indigenous peoples.

Amazon Watch aims to promote an alternative vision for Brazil to meet its energy needs without building new large dams in the Amazon. We are implementing an innovative national communications and engagement campaign to

inform public opinion, stimulate public debate about Brazil's energy future, and promote democratic participation in sustainable energy planning.

Public concern about the high socio-environmental and economic costs of large dams, recent drought-related electricity shortages, and increased scrutiny of energy planning processes have created an unprecedented window of opportunity to influence the direction of Brazil's energy development path.

As costs of wind and solar have dropped dramatically and as countries across the world are setting new renewable energy deployment records, the case for sustainability has never been stronger.

SEEKING REDRESS FOR PAST HARM

Chevron: Clean Up Ecuador Campaign

In February 2011, nearly 18 years after a group of indigenous and *campesino* communities in northeastern 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. Last year an Ecuadorian court rejected Chevron's appeal, making the verdict final. The oil company is now on the run from justice, but it's a matter of time until the law catches up.

CEO John Watson faced growing pressure at this year's Annual General Meeting to step down over his gross mismanagement of the Ecuador disaster and growing liability from the litigation. He was then forced to be deposed as part of the company's counter suit against the Ecuadorians and their lawyers. The company has also set a new bar for trampling the rights of private citizens in going after the internet

data of some 30 individuals. Adding insult to injury, Chevron recently turned its revenge tactics directly on Amazon Watch and attempted to obtain almost a decade's worth of email content and documents from campaigners.

Amazon Watch will continue to mobilize awareness and to pressure Chevron's CEO and Board of Directors to finally do the right thing: Complete a full-scale environmental remediation, fund healthcare, and provide clean drinking water for affected communities. While we campaign for justice, we continue to support the ClearWater project, working to bring clean drinking water to communities

affected by oil pollution thru the installation of 5,000 rainwater catchment systems over the next five years.



Photo: Mitch Anderson/ClearWater

AMAZON WATCH REGRANTING PROGRAM

Amazon Watch responds to the urgent needs of local partners across the Amazon basin via small regrants with the goal of strengthening the capacity and opportunities of indigenous organizations and local NGOs to defend their collective rights, rainforest territories, culture and livelihood. Funds collected for our regranting program enable us to respond to timely and strategic requests from partner organizations and communities for innovative local initiatives that facilitate meeting this goal.

Projects and activities include legal defense; travel to and from regional, national and international advocacy spaces; indigenous-led workshops and community; territorial and ecosystem mapping and land titling projects; community-led organizing and mobilizing actions; preparation of life plans; communications initiatives for reaching grassroots and international audiences; and field monitoring.

Amazon Watch regranted nearly \$300,000 in 2012 and \$1.6 million since 2008. In 2013, we expect to disburse \$150,000-\$200,000 in regrants. Funds for regrants are raised via foundation grants, individual donors, email appeals and our website.

PROFILE: MAYALÚ TXUCARRAMÃE

While Brazil's native peoples and their ancestral homelands confront serious and escalating threats to their rights, resources, and cultures from the country's aggressive industrial development policies and the current administration's attempts to roll back indigenous land rights laws, a new generation of indigenous leaders are emerging and joining the ranks of the movement's courageous forerunners. Born to proud Kayapó and Waurá families from the Amazon's Xingu River basin, the young and dynamic Mayalú Kokometi Waurá Txucarramãe is committed to defending the future of her people, her rainforest homeland and rich cultural traditions.

The daughter of Kayapó Chief Megaron Txucarramãe and grandniece of legendary Chief Raoni Metuktire, Mayalú comes from a long line of Xingu warriors whose unwavering strength and skills led to the demarcation of the largest mosaic of indigenous and protected areas on the planet. She was born a warrior—fierce and determined to defend the rights of her people. “Resistance is in my blood!” she proclaims.



Photo: Cacá Meirelles

Mayalú demonstrates an astute and sensitive ability to act as a spokesperson for her people, a rare honor for female leaders among the Kayapó and a testament to the power of her voice and presence. She is featured in several short films and has led numerous protests and activities aiming to bring global attention to the struggle of the Amazon's indigenous peoples.

Mayalú's motivation springs from her ancestral roots and from a dream that her children and grandchildren will inhabit a healthy Amazon, its rivers and forests preserved and thriving for future generations. It is also driven by her



Photo: Dundar Ugurlu

rejection of the shortsighted and unsustainable development model that is imposed on her people by the damming of rivers and felling of forests. So-called “development” projects like the Belo Monte dam that will devastate her beloved Xingu River are emblematic of a larger trend by the Brazilian government to undermine indigenous peoples’ legal rights guaranteed by the Brazilian Constitution.

The heir to the struggles of Chiefs Raoni and Megaron, Mayalú became conscious of these injustices at a young age and has prepared herself accordingly. The native language of her mother Wauja profoundly influenced her Portuguese-language education in Brazil, inspiring her to weave together both traditional and modern aspects of indigenous culture. In 2005 she began her professional career working as deputy coordinator of a program to train indigenous teachers, while supporting a program in defense of the Mebêngôkre people.

In 2009, Mayalú began working as a coordinator of indigenous schools in her region, coordinating the training of indigenous teachers, supporting the production of specialized education materials and providing curriculum support for indigenous teachers while assisting research into the recovery and revival of her people’s cultural traditions.

In 2012 she founded the Mebêngôkrê Nyre Movement to strengthen and promote indigenous culture among Mebêngôkrê Kayapó youth. Also in 2012, Mayalú brought a group of indigenous leaders from the Amazon to the United Nations Rio+20 Earth Summit, joining forces with other indigenous delegates from around the planet in defense of the environment.

In 2013, together with her father Chief Megaron, Mayalú traveled to Turkey to join a global campaign to protect the world’s last wild rivers from destructive dams. While in Turkey she joined protests against the massive Ilisu dam on the Tigris River and garnered major media attention for tying the struggle of her people to other communities fighting dams globally. “Water is not only important for us, but also important for the earth and to balance our environment. Water is life,” she said.

“I want the world to understand our struggle and to support us so we can live in dignity. Right now Brazil’s indigenous peoples are losing their rights to health, land, freedom and justice. We need global solidarity and support because we are taking care of the rainforests and natural resources that are not ours, but everyone’s. As a woman, I see that I should not only support our men in this fight, but join them in the struggle, because people are stronger when they are united.”

Amazon Watch is honored to welcome Mayalú Txucarramãe as a special guest at our 8th annual luncheon in San Francisco, CA. As Mayalú begins her first U.S. tour, she hopes that her travels will further hone her leadership skills, experience and knowledge that will allow her to be a better advocate for defending Brazil’s indigenous peoples while demonstrating the universal importance of assisting their struggle. In doing so she hopes to help forge unity among her supporters to strive together for a better world. Welcome Mayalú!

AN INDIGENOUS SPRING

Máira Irigaray

In early 2013 Brazil and the world witnessed historic moments of unity and struggle for the Amazon and its people. Throughout the country, various groups that have historically been enemies united with one goal: to protect their territories, history, culture and way of life.

Last spring, the Munduruku from Tapajos traveled 900 kilometers to fight in solidarity with the Xingu people against the Belo Monte dam and other dams planned for the Amazon. There they occupied the dam site, then traveled to Brasilia with 400 chiefs and warriors of the Mebêngôkre (Kayapó) people to discuss threats to indigenous rights currently being reviewed by the Brazilian government.

“Even in the desert there is life and even these places need to be respected,” said Saw. “ We learned from our ancestors that nature has to be respected...there is only one earth and nature provides everything. It transforms the indigenous universe and this often isn't understood by white people. But this is the indigenous reality and that is why our peoples are uniting in order to put an end to the damage caused by the federal government.”



Photo: André D' Elia

The Brazilian government has repeatedly disrespected and has even assaulted traditional populations and has conducted studies on their lands without their consent, often accompanied by troops carrying ammunition. In response, indigenous people have repeatedly stated that they are “asking for peace, respect, and the upholding of the laws under the [Brazilian] constitution.”

“Our fight has no end. The government needs to respect our rights and our constitution. They don't want to listen to indigenous people but we won't stop until they do,” declared indigenous leader Cândido Munduruku.

Not only has the Belo Monte dam continuously violated indigenous rights, human rights and environmental rights, the project is emblematic of the misuse of funds by the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES) that is bankrolling it, primarily with Brazilian taxpayer funds.

With Brazil's global growing power, protests and discontent have also

been escalating, putting the nation's image at risk internationally. However it could be also an opportunity for a real change! With its bountiful resources and its current clout in the world stage, Brazil has the opportunity to be a world leader in sustainable and equitable development by listening to the demands of its people and an international call for clean energy alternatives.

It has been a long journey for the people of the Brazilian Amazon fighting for respect and justice, but the saga does not end here. Since 1988 when the constitution was signed, there has never been a time as unfavorable to indigenous people as today. However, nowadays the struggle of the people has taken on a new light, and a new direction: Demands have been unified, calling for respect of the Brazilian Constitution, of international treaties and for Justice Now!

“Our fight has just begun!”
—Valdenir Munduruku

TALISMAN EXPELLED! ACHUAR FACE NEW THREATS

Andrew E. Miller

I was ecstatic to return to Achuar territory along Peru's remote northern border with Ecuador. Although I personally hadn't been for five years, other Amazon Watch colleagues had been visiting several times a year. On this occasion I was attending an assembly of two-dozen communities within the Federation of Peru's Achuar Nationalities (FENAP).

Our small delegation flew in by single-prop plane to the traditional community of Wisum, some twenty huts arranged around an earthen landing strip. We could see the welcoming committee – a crush of Achuar representatives awaiting our arrival – from the air. Following an enthusiastic greeting of hugs and smiles, we were shuffled into the meeting hall and offered *masato*, a pungent “beer” made from manioc.

The first order of business was a full report about Talisman Energy. We were pleased to review the history of a successful advocacy campaign. In 2004, the company took over oil Block 64 which mostly overlaps Achuar territory. Determined to express their opposition to any oil operations, the



Photo: Andrew Miller/Amazon Watch

Achuar mounted four major delegations to the Canadian oil major's Calgary headquarters. Facing an unrelenting campaign, Talisman announced their departure in September of 2012.

Unfortunately, the hard fought victory was short-lived. PetroPeru announced this past March that they would be taking over the reigns in Block 64. Achuar territory has become central to the state-run oil company's expansion strategy. We fed the assembly's lively discussions with official documents and information from the Peruvian press.

The Achuar were quick to reaffirm their resolve to defend their territories. The assembly issued a statement rejecting PetroPeru's intention to press forward where international companies had failed. Nearly a hundred people took to the landing strip in protest, complete with posters and banners, at the gathering's culmination. Our sprightly Amazon Watch

team documented the action and subsequently distributed photos to the press, generating national-level coverage and an article in *The Guardian*.

Complementing their vociferous “no” to oil, the Achuar discussed their Life Plan, a constructive community-driven development strategy. They hashed out ideas for bilingual education. They reported advances in reforestation projects. They discussed culturally appropriate health care. They coordinated maintenance of inter-community footpaths.

Over the assembly, we reviewed our past collaboration, exchanged information about the present, and jointly planned for the future. The Achuar of the Pastaza are an inspiring example of a well-managed and well-defended rainforest territory, and Amazon Watch has been proud to partner with them over the years. Whereas threats to their biodiverse lands remain, so will our support.

THE AMAZON IS NOT FOR SALE

Adam Zuckerman

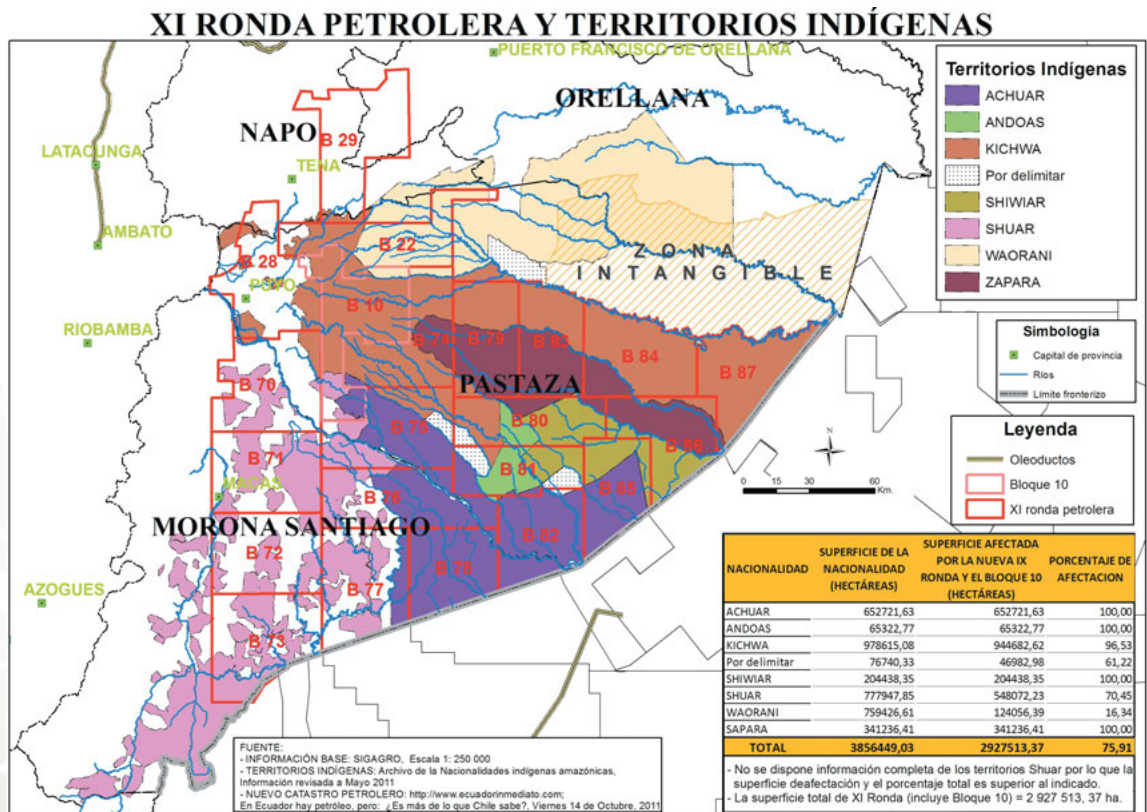
Amazon Watch is working with our indigenous partners in Ecuador to defend a 6.5 million acre swath of the Amazon rainforest. Our campaign tackles the Ecuadorian government's 11th Round oil auction that directly threatens a massive expanse of the Amazon and the seven indigenous nationalities that call it home: the Shuar, Achuar, Kichwa, Sapara, Shiwiar, Andoa and Waorani. Studies show that 85 percent of the area included within the 11th Round is intact primary forest with high levels of biodiversity and endemism on par with Yasuni National Park, which National Geographic has called "one of the most biodiverse places on the planet."

We are supporting our partners as they mobilize against the

licensing round, organizing protests, convening press conferences, and issuing declarations of opposition. The Ecuadorian government has traveled around the world to try to convince oil companies to drill in the Amazon, and Amazon Watch has worked with indigenous leaders and activist allies to organize protests and confront government officials wherever they go. Our protests in Houston, Paris, and Calgary garnered media attention from *The Wall Street Journal*, *Le Monde* and dozens of other publications (including the largest papers in Ecuador), and *The Guardian*

covered our timely press release about the government's meeting in Beijing. NBC's Ann Curry traveled to Ecuador to profile the oil round, and Amazon Watch worked with Avaaz.org to gather over a million signatures against the new attempt to drill in the Amazon.

It appears that the on-the-ground protests and international pressure are working. Last fall, the government of Ecuador was forced to remove five of the most controversial oil blocks from the original tender. In March, it reduced expectations even further by stating



Credit: Fundación Pachamama

that it was expecting bids on only six to ten oil blocks (down from the original 21). In late April, presumably because it had not received enough interest from potential bidders, the government announced that it was extending the deadline for companies to offer bids from May 31st to July 16th. Five days later, Wilson Pastor, the minister in charge of the oil round, announced his resignation. Amazon Watch supporters welcomed new minister Pedro Merizalde with over 25,000 emails to defend the Amazon, not drill in it.

On July 16th, the “final” deadline for companies to submit bids, our partners organized a protest in the provincial Amazonian capital of Puyo, and Amazon Watch supporters targeted potential bidding companies on social media. Just minutes before a press conference where government officials were due to announce all oil companies that had submitted bids, they extended the deadline for bids until November 28th—exactly one year after the auction began. It seems that not enough companies were interested in Ecuador’s last remaining tract of virgin rainforest.

The Wall Street Journal and newspapers all over Ecuador reported the good news. *El Comercio*—one of Ecuador’s largest national newspapers—attributed the delay to “high levels of risk in the investments...and absence of agreements with the indigenous communities” – echoing the

very same risks that Amazon Watch and our partners have been voicing with the government and interested companies.

The Fight’s Not Over. While we should celebrate this victory, we still have a long struggle ahead. The government is still aggressively promoting

the new oil round and has met with companies including BP, Perenco, ENI, Total, PetroPeru, and a handful of Chinese companies. We must continue to support our indigenous partners in their struggle to defend their lands and determine their own destiny. We’ve forced Ecuador to delay the round, now let’s force them to cancel it!

THE ROLE OF CHINA

Ecuador’s 2008 debt default alienated it from foreign markets, making it virtually impossible for the nation to receive international loans. China, a nation whose state-run banks have a history of offering loans unburdened by restrictions or regulations to conflict or debt-ridden countries and corrupt governments, seized upon the opportunity by offering loans to Ecuador. China has loaned Ecuador over \$7 billion dollars and the terms of the loans require that Ecuador repay China in oil. Chinese companies may be the only ones that will dare to bet on the controversial blocks in the 11th round. In July, China agreed to help finance a \$12 billion refinery on Ecuador’s coast and Ecuador requested another \$1.4 billion loan. Over 80 percent of Ecuador’s oil already goes to China – more than went to the United States prior to the Correa administration.

Reports have surfaced about a secret deal between PetroChina and Ecuadorian state oil company PetroEcuador. According to Analytica Investments, a letter which both companies signed in 2009 but only came to light in 2012, has a “waiver of sovereign immunity...which allows China to seize almost any assets short of military equipment in the event that Ecuador falls into arrears with payments.” This appears to include assets from oil companies operating there, a fact that will hopefully dissuade other companies from bidding on the auction.

While Chinese law would outlaw its participation in the round, it may break those laws in an attempt to get its loans back. Amazon Watch has joined with Friends of the Earth, International Rivers, and Chinese academics to share strategies and discourage investments that would be harmful for Ecuador’s indigenous communities.

YASUNÍ-ITT UNPLUGGED

Kevin Koenig

In what may be the story of a death foretold, Ecuador's President Rafael Correa officially terminated the historic Yasuni-ITT proposal in August and announced that PetroAmazonas, the state run oil company, would initiate plans to exploit the Ishpingo, Tambococha, and Tiputini oil fields that lie beneath the eastern part of Yasuni National Park. The proposal was revolutionary, and the best attempt yet at creating a win-win scenario to conserve biodiversity, protect indigenous rights and address climate change while helping Ecuador, an OPEC member dependent on oil exports for 60 percent of its revenues, meet its budget.

Launched in 2007, the proposal sought to keep some 920 million barrels of oil permanently in the ground in exchange for financial contributions from the international community to offset a portion of Ecuador's forgone revenue. The plan would also have kept an estimated 410 million tons of CO₂ – the major greenhouse gas driving climate change – from reaching the atmosphere. But Correa, citing the proposal's lack of contributions, signed a decree to liquidate the United Nations Development Program



Photo: Kevin Koenig/
Amazon Watch

trust fund and declared drilling in the national interest.

Yasuni is an area of extreme biodiversity located in the Amazon region of Ecuador. The park was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1989 and contains what are thought to be the greatest number of tree and insect species anywhere on the planet. In just 2.5 acres of the park, there are as many tree species as in all of the U.S. and Canada combined. The park is also home to the Waorani indigenous people and two nomadic Waorani clans, the Tagaeri and Taromenane, who live in voluntary isolation.

There was little interest from Annex I countries who, despite professed interest in addressing climate change and recognition of shared responsibility, were unwilling to contribute to an initiative that did not provide carbon credits and essentially fell outside existing market based schemes for emissions reductions. While categories exist for emissions limits or carbon credits from smokestacks or tailpipes, there is no category yet for avoided emissions from hydrocarbons left in the ground.

Correa's own contradictory policies and mismanagement of the initiative

may have been its ultimate undoing. Seeking \$3.6 billion, Correa initially gave a deadline of one year to obtain funds. Eleven such deadlines led by five different negotiating teams followed over the life of the proposal. The government already holds five oil concessions in the park, and Correa frequently spoke of a 'Plan B' drilling option that was being developed in case the initiative failed, possibly leaving potential investors skeptical of his commitment to keep so much crude in the ground. Political and financial guarantees were too little and came too late. A 2008 default by Correa on global Brady Bonds set a poor precedent for keeping international commitments. Little interest in new oil blocks south of Yasuni, and a ballooning debt to China—much of which must be paid in oil—were no doubt other factors behind Correa's decision to pull the plug.

But Ecuadorians were dismayed by the decision. A poll before Correa's announcement put support for keeping the oil in the ground at over 90 percent. Outcry ensued across the nation, sparking protests and spurring a push for a national referendum on the issue. Correa's political party has dominated every election and plebiscite since he took office in 2007, but the Yasuni-ITT could be his political albatross. Six years of an unprecedented worldwide campaign touting Yasuni and the perils of drilling certainly won't go unremembered.



OIL? NOT IN OUR DREAMS

Words & Pictures by
Caroline Bennett

The Zápara were once one of the largest indigenous groups in the Ecuadorian Amazon. But by the 1980s anthropologists deemed them extinct, an entire culture erased in less than a century by disease, violence, persecution and assimilation. What most didn't know was that some 200 Zápara remained hidden in the dense jungle along the Peruvian border, among them five people who still spoke the native language.

Everything about the Zápara—including their language, rituals and worldview—has been influenced by the rainforest. To the Zápara, dreams are opportunities to rendezvous with guiding spirits. Cosmology is based in large part on dreams, which form an integral part of decision-making. This cosmology is expressed through language.





In 2001, the United Nations declared the Zápara a “masterpiece of the intangible heritage of humanity,” stating that their cultural heritage “expresses itself through myths, rituals, artistic practices and their language. This, which is the depository of their knowledge and their oral tradition, is also the memory of the entire region.”

The surviving Zápara owe their existence in no small part to the fact that theirs was, until recently, one of the last sectors of the Ecuadorian Amazon free from oil

concessions. The government is currently taking bids on oil blocks that cover 100 percent of Zápara territory in the 11th Round oil auction. The survival of the Zápara hinges on their ability to maintain control of and manage their own traditional territory.

It seems unfeasible, but there’s something magical about the Zápara people—a feeling one can’t quite place, the possession of some ethereal power to defeat probability and accomplish the seemingly impossible, as if from a dream...



AMAZON ADVOCACY JOURNEYS

We launched a new program this year to bring you to the magical Amazon. The opportunity to travel with Amazon Watch staff gives participants unique access to places, people and experiences in the rainforest. We visit pristine forests and remote indigenous communities standing for their traditions and way of life. We witness firsthand the effects of oil and industrial threats and learn about



"Before this [trip] I signed a petition from AW and didn't think much about it, this really changed me." —Gary



"Phenomenal trip, only way I'd ever travel in a group is in this way—with a group like Amazon Watch and in the context of communities, government and your work. We don't like tours but this was authentic and genuine."—Justin

the state of play in the battle to protect the Amazon. We attend community gatherings with our partners, swim in rivers, hike through the rainforest, discover the flora and fauna, and sleep under thatched roofs.

Join us! It promises to among your most memorable and inspiring journeys.

There's a trip lined up to Ecuador in November and we're making plans for 2014. Contact us at amazon@amazonwatch.org or call 510-281-9020 to find out more.

AMAZON WATCH FEARLESS FOUNDER NAMED HILLARY LEADERSHIP LAUREATE



Photo: James Towillis

“The Hillary Governors are especially delighted with this year’s choice of Hillary Laureate. Ms. Soltani’s leadership work in the Amazon exemplifies the Institute’s current focus on climate equity. We hope that our unique, global award will further assist Ms. Soltani in her ongoing efforts.”

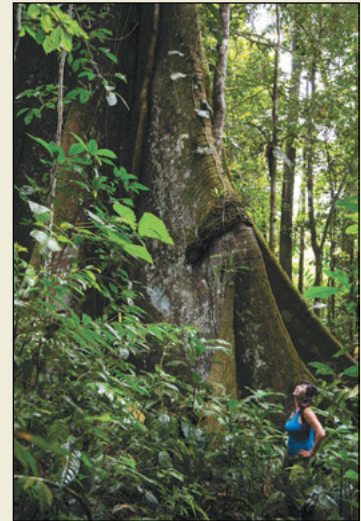
–David Caygill, Hillary Institute Chairman

Amazon Watch couldn’t be more proud to celebrate our fearless founder and leader Atossa Soltani, named the 2013 Global Hillary Leadership Laureate. From a global watch list on exceptional and inspirational mid-career leaders, the Hillary Summit selected Atossa as its 5th Annual Hillary Laureate awardee for Leadership in Climate Equity.

Climate change is arguably the most urgent global challenge facing the world today. The planet has just reached 400+ parts per billion CO₂ and we’ve had already this century 11 of the warmest years on global record. Earth and its species have never experienced this. The Amazon is one sphere where dramatic shifts in climate are clear.

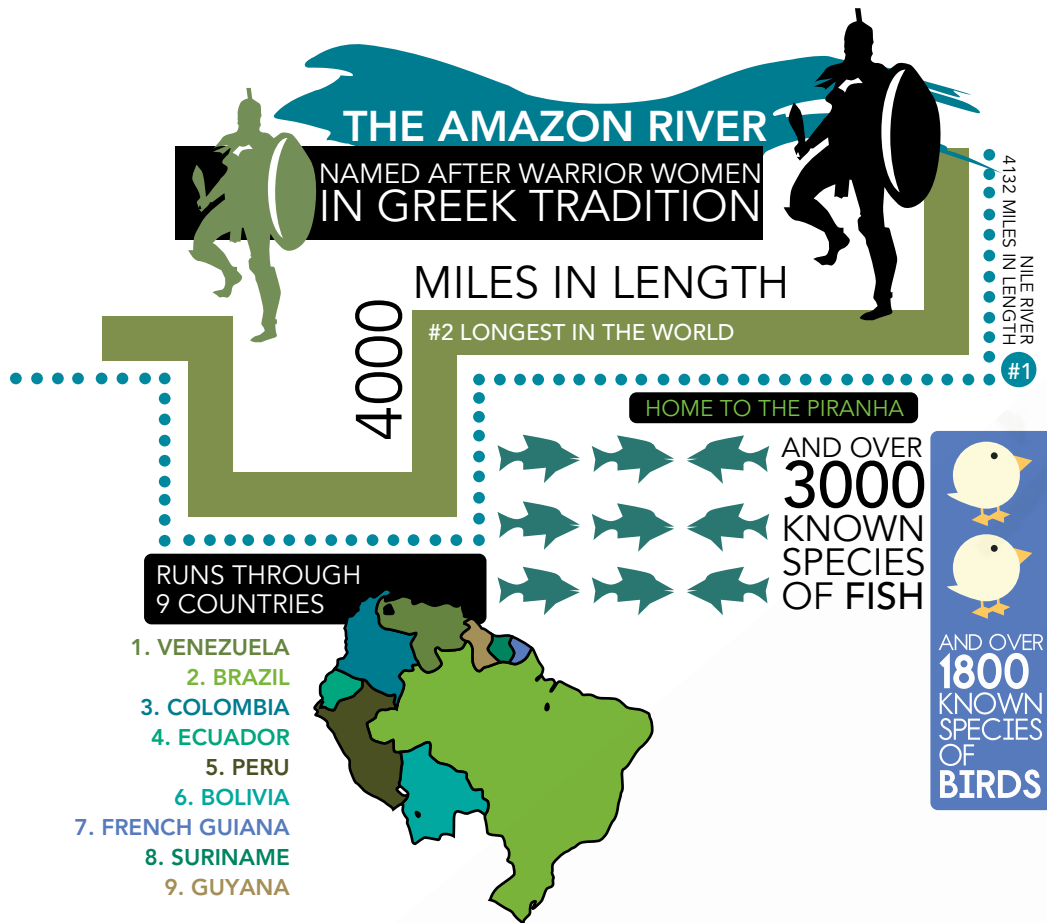
Home to 20 percent of the earth’s flowing freshwater and acting as the “lungs” of our planet, the Amazon is the planet’s second largest weather conveyer after oceans. The rainforest functions like a massive pump, circulating columns of heat and vapor into the atmosphere and driving global weather systems. The Amazon River delivers more fresh water to the ocean every hour than is utilized in the LA metropolitan area annually! It is an oasis of biodiversity and carbon capture, pouring some 300,000 cubic meters of freshwater into the Atlantic every second.

But the Amazon is under attack. Beyond the encroachment of dirty oil and mineral exploitation, annual deforestation from existing industrial activities in the tropics accounts for 20 percent of global carbon emissions. In turn, rising global temperatures bring unprecedented droughts; scientists predict that loss of one-third of Amazon forest cover would have catastrophic impact on its weather generating and climate regulating functions, further derailing our global climate.



According to the Hillary Institute, Atossa’s leadership over the past two decades supporting indigenous peoples rights to self-determination, natural resources, culture and way of life “brought her squarely onto the Institute international board’s ‘Climate Equity’ radar.”

Congratulations Atossa!



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Summary Financial Report 2012

January 1 to December 31

2012

INCOME

Foundation Grants	706,050
Funds for Amazonian Groups	258,463
Individual Donors	407,673
Organizations & Businesses	87,840
Delegations & Other Income	25,141
TOTAL INCOME	1,485,169

EXPENSES

Programs and Campaigns	1,182,022
Grants to Amazonian Groups	296,258
Total Program Services	1,478,280
Management	112,120
Fund Development	251,464
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,841,864

Net Income	(356,695)
Net Assets on January 1	610,579
Net Assets on December 31	253,884

Net Assets on Dec 31 Include

Cash Assets	79,271
Prepaid Expenses	1,089
Grants Receivable	171,296
Net Equipment Assets	5,663
Other: Stock Donations	19,519
Accounts Payable	(22,954)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	253,884

Note: This report is based on the 2012 audited financial statements.

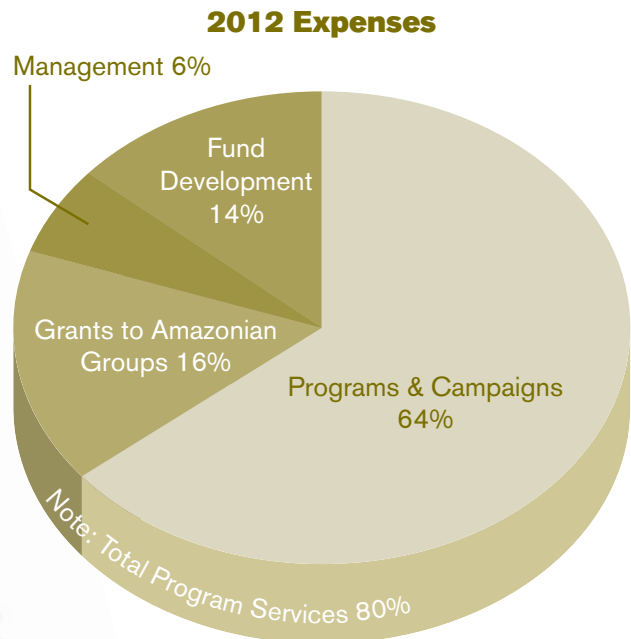
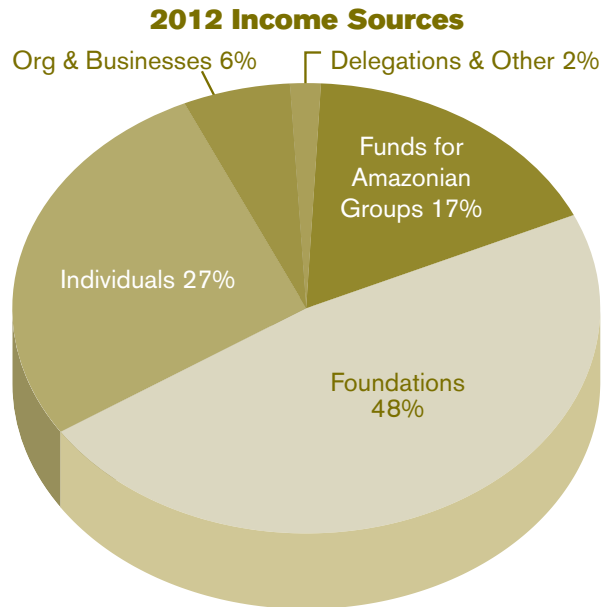




Photo: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch

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CDES
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Clearwater
COIAB
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CSF
Derechos Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)
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Kichwa Community of Rucullakta
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Racimos de Ungurahui
Rede-Brasil
Rede-FAOR
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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CREATIVE COMMUNITY!

Sacha Baron Cohen, Benjamin Bratt, Peter Coyote, Leonardo DiCaprio, Isla Fisher, Daryl Hannah, Bianca Jagger, Ken Jordan, Q'orianka Kilcher, Jared Leto, Mia Maestro, Sergio Marone, Debi Nova

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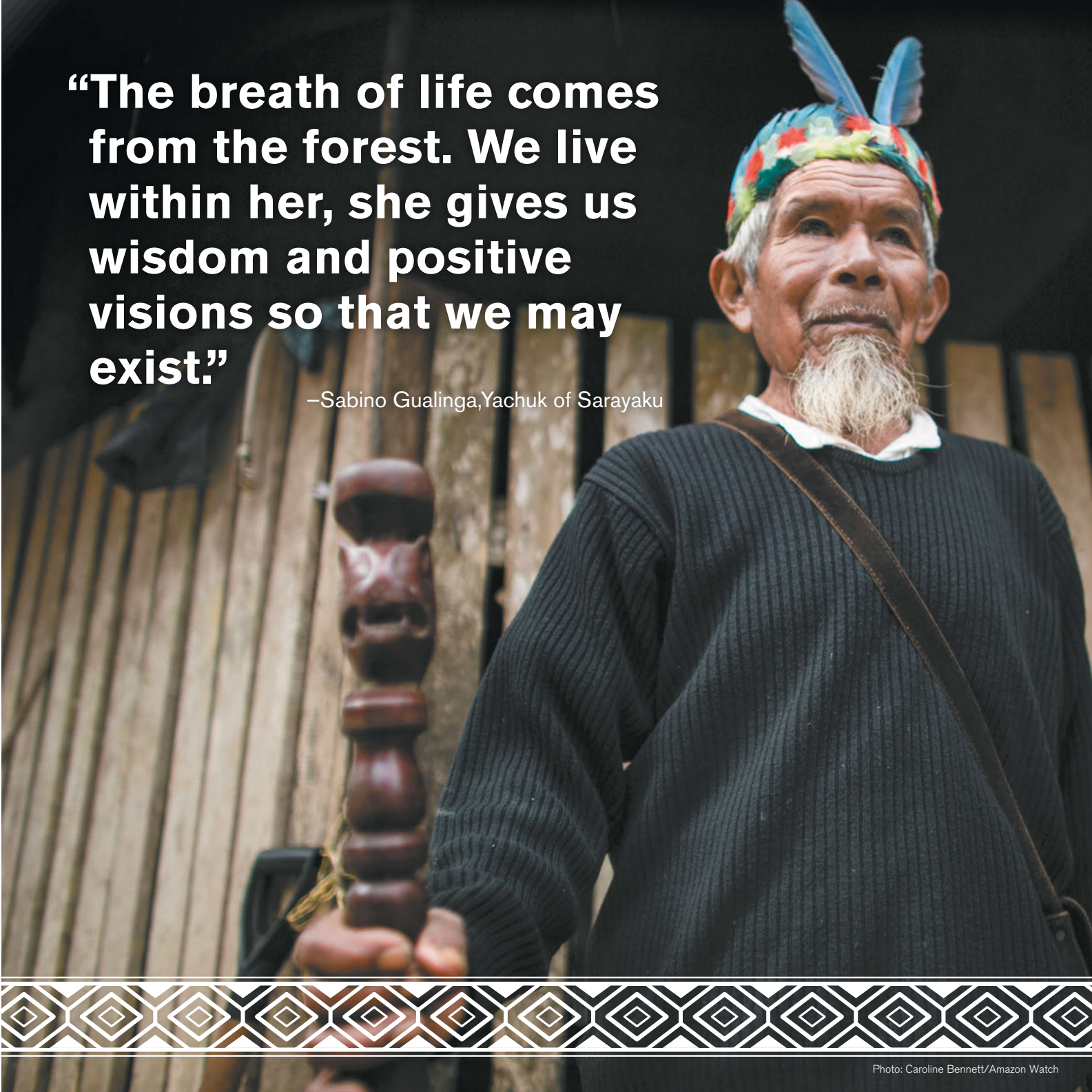
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“The breath of life comes from the forest. We live within her, she gives us wisdom and positive visions so that we may exist.”

—Sabino Gualinga, Yachuk of Sarayaku





Thank you Amazon Watch for your tireless efforts to defend the rainforest and advance the rights of indigenous people of the Amazon Basin.

Congratulations to Atossa Soltani, for being named the 2013 Hillary Institute Laureate, for your leadership on climate equity and the work of Amazon Watch!

Please join us for our 14th annual Brower Youth Awards on October 22nd at the Nourse Theatre in San Francisco.

www.earthisland.org

www.broweryouthawards.org



Journey with Amazon Watch to the Heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon

Join Amazon Watch to experience the magic of the Amazon rainforest and indigenous cultures. Stay as the special guest of the Children of the Jaguar in their Sarayaku community at the “apex of the world.” See what the oil economy is capable of doing to the Amazon and her people at the epicenter of Texaco-Chevron’s legacy. Experience the splendor of the jungle on the border of threatened Yasuni National Park at the Kichwa-run Sani Isla EcoLodge. Join us on a journey of a lifetime!

“Phenomenal trip, only way I’d ever travel in a group is in this way - with a group like Amazon Watch and in the context of communities, government and your work. We don’t like tours as a rule but this was authentic and genuine.” Justin

Dates: Nov 3-14, 2013 Costs: \$3500 p/p

Cost does not include international airfare and associated travel costs. Dates/costs approximate.

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Here's to more than 15 years of working
together to preserve the rainforest and
the rights of
indigenous peoples!

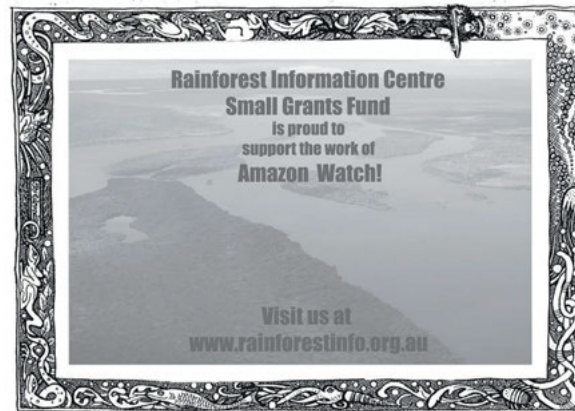
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on 16 years of
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The **Hillary Summit** Governors (across five continents) have selected Atossa from a global watch-list of outstanding leaders currently in play, who continue to make a substantial, positive difference to our most intractable global challenges. We are delighted to work with Atossa and her colleagues and supporters at Amazon Watch as she joins the (Sir Edmund) Hillary Institute community of Leadership worldwide.

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Congratulations to Amazon Watch on another year of victories
for the rainforest and indigenous communities!

We are grateful for the commitment and support given to
Amazon Watch for their important work for the future of the
Amazon, and the planet.

We're especially proud of Founder and Executive Director
Atossa Soltani for her recognition as the
Hillary Institute's 2013 Laureate.

Keep up the great work!
- Amazon Watch Board of Directors



PHOTOS:

Cover: Caroline Bennett/Amazon Watch
Inside cover: Cristina Mittermeier



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