

AMAZON WATCH



2009 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

2009 can be summed up in two words, inspiring and heartbreaking.

In January, I was one of more than 91,000 people gathered in Belem, Brazil for the World Social Forum – the largest ever anti-globalization gathering where the destruction of the Amazon and attacks on indigenous rights were some of the key moments. On opening day, our team helped the indigenous movement organize an inspiring action bringing together some 1,700 indigenous leaders, and environmentalists in forming a human banner with the message “SALVE A AMAZONIA” (“Save the Amazon” in Portuguese) around a massive silhouette of an indigenous warrior. Photographed from the air and transmitted worldwide by Amazon Watch, the banner sent a powerful message to local, regional and international media about how the world’s largest rainforest ecosystem is fast approaching the tipping point of ecological unraveling.

The year’s heartbreaking moment came when on the early morning hours of June 5, peaceful indigenous blockades in the Peruvian Amazon in protest of a

series of new anti-indigenous decrees were violently attacked by the police. The government reacted by trying to blame the protesters and victims. Weeks of around the clock vigilance and organizing work by Peruvian indigenous rights advocates and Amazon Watch resulted in unprecedented public outcry over the government’s brutal attacks. CNN, Democracy Now, New York Times, BBC and other global media outlets all reported on the story with prompting by Amazon Watch. The Peruvian Congress eventually repealed two of the problematic laws.

Throughout the year, Amazon Watch’s dedicated staff and partners took to the airwaves, oil company boardrooms, and international summits to defend indigenous rights and the rainforests. We celebrated some strategic milestones throughout the year:

The Chevron Clean Up Ecuador campaign catapulted into the media spotlight with a segment on CBS 60 Minutes and the release full-length documentary film, **Crude**, which portrays the epic 15-year legal battle between 30,000 Amazonian residents and oil giant Chevron over massive oil contamination in Ecuador’s Amazon.

Amazon Watch increased pressure on Talisman Energy and ConocoPhillips to not enter indigenous lands in Peruvian Amazon while pressing Occidental Petroleum and Pluspetrol to address their legacy of past oil contamination on Achuar territory.

We expanded our Brazil program, hiring a full-time Campaigner and participating in the *Plataforma BNDES*, a network of Brazilian (and increasingly Latin American) civil society organizations affected by projects funded by the Brazilian National Development Bank (BNDES).

We worked to document the impact of the Madeira River Complex, Manta-Manaus Corridor and Belo Monte Dam that threaten to destroy the rivers of the Amazon.

From the Indigenous Peoples Summit on Climate Change in Alaska in April to the UN Climate change talks in Copenhagen (COP-15) in December, Amazon Watch actively supported indigenous peoples' delegation by helping them bring their message on issues such as carbon credits and indigenous land rights to international decision makers and the media.

Throughout the year, Amazon Watch served as an ongoing center for solidarity and support to environmental and indigenous allies on the front lines, providing them with financial support, capacity building, strategic planning and media outreach.

When I think back to that incredibly inspiring gathering in Brazil in January, I remember noticing among our partners a fear that the Amazon is fast losing ground, mixed with deep love for the forest and sadness that it may be irreversibly lost in our lifetime. Unless more of us urbanites band with the people of the forest, we could face the collapse of this massive life giving system. [So I urge you to get involved, to be the vanguard of hope.](#)

On behalf of everyone at Amazon Watch, I think all of our supporters and partners and invite you to continue investing in Amazon Watch in this critical time for the defense of our planet and human rights.

For the Amazon,





Photo by Christian Poirier

Our Mission

AMAZON WATCH WORKS 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 systems.

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.



Photo by Kevin Koenig

Our Strategies

IN THE AMAZON REGION OF BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR AND PERU, Amazon Watch is working directly with indigenous communities to build local capacity and advance the long-term protection of their territories. In partnership with indigenous peoples, nongovernmental organizations, concernedshareholders and 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 accountability.

Strengthen capacity of indigenous organizations in the Amazon to defend their rights in local, national and international fora. Through legal, advocacy, media and 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 for threatened areas and vulnerable indigenous populations in the Amazon rainforest. In partnership with national governments and ally organizations in South America, we promote new, sustainable alternatives to resource extraction-based economic development.



Photo by Amazon Watch

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. 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.



Photo by Atossa Soltani

PERU



Confronting Extractive Industries in Peru

WITH 74 PERCENT OF THE PERUVIAN Amazon now zoned as oil and gas concessions, Amazon Watch is working with local indigenous partners and socially responsible investors to stop the industry's sprawl into culturally and ecologically sensitive areas and change industry policies and practices. In Northern Peru, an area of high biological and cultural diversity, we supported the Achuar and other indigenous peoples in protecting nearly 20 million acres of intact primary rainforest. We helped advance indigenous land claims and pressured companies currently holding oil concessions, including Talisman, Hunt Oil and ConocoPhillips, and Pluspetrol to respect the rights of indigenous peoples to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) over any activities affecting their territories and livelihood.

Amazon Watch also continued to work with the Achuar people as they sought justice from Occidental Petroleum (OXY) for past harm to their health and environment. During its 30 years operating in the Corrientes River basin, OXY dumped over 9 billion barrels of toxic production waters directly into the Achuar's rainforest territory in an oil block known as 1AB. Amazon Watch engaged OXY management while supporting the Achuar's lawsuit filed in the U.S. aimed at forcing OXY to clean up the toxic mess the company left behind. Although the court ruled in April that the U.S. is an "inconvenient forum" for the lawsuit, that decision is under appeal while the legal team is developing strategies for bring forth a lawsuit in Peru.

In OXY's former concession, Amazon Watch and the Achuar celebrated the milestone of successfully pushing current concession holder Pluspetrol to modify its operations to re-inject 100 percent of all formation waters from Blocks 1AB and Block 8x in the Corrientes, Pastaza and Tigre regions of Northern Peru. This modification will prevent millions of gallons of future toxic wastewater from entering the ecosystem and endangering the Achuar people.

FEBRUARY

Pressure by Canada's largest socially responsible investor networks, catalyzed by Amazon Watch, compels Canadian company Talisman Energy Inc. to com-

mission an independent third party to evaluate whether the company's policies and procedures conform to the internationally recognized legal standard of free, prior and informed consent. Amazon Watch sees this report as a key tool to use in urging Talisman to leave Achuar territory in the Pastaza region, per the express demands of the Achuar people.

MARCH

Amazon Watch and the Achuar celebrate the milestone of successfully pushing current concession holder Pluspetrol to modify its operations to re-inject 100 percent of all formation waters from Blocks 1AB and Block 8x in the Corri-

entes, Pastaza and Tigre regions of Northern Peru.

APRIL

Amazon Watch leads its second advocacy mission to Calgary, the heart of Canada's oil industry and headquarters of Talisman Energy. We address the CEO, Board of Directors and shareholders the company's annual meeting and present a public statement about the Achuar's opposition to Talisman's presence in oil Block 64 which overlaps their territory.

MAY

Amazon Watch leads a delegation inside OXY's annual shareholder meeting. Achuar legal advisor Lily

la Torre and Actress Q'orianka Kilcher urged CEO Ray Irani and the Board to rectify the company's legacy of harm in the Peruvian Amazon before more Achuar people fall victim to widespread oil contamination. New York City Pension Fund, with over 2 million shares, presents a resolution questioning Oxy's handling of the Peru disaster. The issue dominates the annual meeting. Oxy management is more receptive to our message in light of the company's aversion to facing the kind of public relations battle Chevron is going through with the lawsuit in Ecuador.

Attending the ConocoPhillips AGM in Houston, Amazon Watch released a report co-written with

Save America's Forests, *ConocoPhillips in the Amazon*, that cites serious environmental and human rights issues in the company's Peruvian holdings of 10.5 million acres. The report is distributed to board members, shareholders and media. Campaigners speak at the AGM to challenge CEO Jim Mulva on the company's operations in Peru, highlighting that uncontacted indigenous people live in one area where Conoco is working jointly with Spain's Repsol.

SEPTEMBER

Amazon Watch partner E-Tech International releases a new report concluding that crude oil and toxic waste pits left behind by Oxy's operations in the Cor-

rientes region of the Peruvian Amazon continue to contaminate the environment and present a serious health risk to local Achuar indigenous communities. The report also finds that the remediation operation by current operator, Pluspetrol, is insufficient despite the intention of the company and the Peruvian government to declare the remediation work complete.

NOVEMBER

We support the Native Federation of the Río Madre de Dios (FENAMAD) in demanding that Hunt Oil leave the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve in the Peruvian Amazon as a condition to continuing any further talks with the indigenous



Photo by Luis Pilares

communities living in the Reserve area by issuing a press release and conducting media outreach. A month later, we help garner

media coverage of the issue with an article in *Latin American Herald Tribune*.



Photo by Luis Pílares

National Campaign in Peru for Indigenous Rights

2009 presented many challenges as the Peruvian government continued a policy that discriminates against indigenous peoples of the Amazon while promoting large-scale extraction of natural resources in their territories. At

the beginning of the year, tensions were high as President Alan Garcia issued a series of controversial decrees adversely affecting indigenous land rights. The decrees, which were passed to facilitate the Free Trade Agree-

ment with the United States, would facilitate the transfer of Amazon land and resource rights to oil, mining, logging and agricultural companies and set back indigenous people's land rights to the dark ages. The decrees

also set the stage for the privatization of water resources.

We were shocked and deeply saddened when Peruvian Special Forces staged a violent raid on a peaceful indigenous blockade in the northern Peruvian Amazon on the 56th day of protesting the decrees. Amazon Watch launched a successful effort to help shift public opinion in Peru in support of indigenous people and against their violent treatment. Over the ensuing months, we provided strategic funding to Peruvian organizations for media work and for indigenous leaders from around the Amazon to participate in talks with the national government and to travel to key regions. We urged the government to

drop unjust charges against hundreds of indigenous leaders after the protests. As the year came to a close, Alberto Pizango, the president of the National Amazonian Indigenous Federation, AIDSESP, remained in exile as Amazon Watch continued calls for justice, dialogue and investigation.

APRIL

In early April, indigenous communities across the Peruvian Amazon take to the streets and rivers to protest a series of new laws imposed by the Garcia Administration and call for the suspension of all oil, mining, timber and other industrial concessions on indigenous territory. The resulting blockades by more than 30,000

protestors leads to disruptions of transport as well as the interruption of oil production.

MAY

Indigenous leaders entered the Peruvian Congress to declare a hunger strike until a repeal of the Presidential decrees is debated by the full legislature. Peru declares a state of emergency in several Amazonian regions and several incidents of violent crackdowns against peaceful demonstrators by government forces are reported. Amazon Watch helps mobilize a peaceful demonstration of indigenous peoples and civil society organizations outside the Peruvian Mission to the United Nations during the UN

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

JUNE

On June 5th, Peruvian Special Forces stage a violent raid on a group of indigenous people at a peaceful blockade on a road outside of Bagua in a remote area of the northern Peruvian Amazon resulting in 34 people confirmed dead and more than 200 injured. Amazon Watch is on the ground the next day gathering first hand testimonies from blockade participants, local journalists and residents.

Amazon Watch media outreach results in articles, radio and TV coverage in the New York Times,

LA Times, CNN en Español, BBC World (radio and website) Al Jazeera English, Voice of America, Guardian UK, National Public Radio, Democracy Now! and others.

We launch a letter writing campaign to Peruvian officials generating signatures by over 5,000 people. At our request, Avaaz.org carries out a petition drive generating 225,000 signatures calling on President Alan Garcia to respect indigenous peoples rights and their legitimate grievances. Leading international human rights bodies press the Garcia administration to end the repression.

On June 18th, Peru's Congress, directed by the President, repeals

two of the most divisive decrees, ending more than 70 days of protests.

OCTOBER

Amazon Watch works with the Peruvian organization *Shinai* to organize the first annual "*Amo Amazonía*" "I Love the Amazon" festival. The festival, a collaboration of dozens of Peruvian civic and environmental organizations, aims to bring the beauty of the Amazon to residents of Lima. 100 events occur ranging from exhibits of paintings by indigenous artists to a thought-provoking film festival and a free concert with some of the most popular Peruvian bands playing to a crowd of over 5,000 people.



0 MAS
VERTE

COMUNIDADES DE PARAHUARI
PRESENTE
Con la corte actual pedimos justicia
de parte del siglo

UNION ANGON
D PAZ
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ENTIN A DE

ECUADOR



Photo by Antoine Bonsorte

Protecting Ecuador's Rainforests Program

AMAZON WATCH CONTINUES TO promote an alternative vision of sustainable development in the rainforests of Ecuador, a country with the highest deforestation rate in South America, whose economy is highly dependent on oil exports. In 2009, we focused on advancing long-term conservation solutions in the face of climate change, halting damaging "development" projects, and defending indigenous rights. A major emphasis of our work was supporting the innovative proposal of the Government of Ecuador to protect the world-renowned Yasuni National Park by forgoing the extraction of Ecuador's largest undeveloped oil reserve,

the Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini (ITT) oil block in exchange for a trust fund of \$3 to \$4 billion to finance its transition to a post petroleum economy. Covering nearly 2.5 million acres of primary intact tropical rainforest, Yasuni is an area of extreme biodiversity, the ancestral territory of the Huaorani people, and home to two other isolated indigenous tribes.

Amazon Watch also monitored and countered new threats to Ecuador's remaining rainforest. In the Napo Province of the central

Ecuadorian Amazon, we helped the local Kichwa communities organize against plans by the Canadian company Ivanhoe to exploit the Punguruyacu oil field located beneath their communal territory in oil block 20. Accessing this reserve would require a huge tar sands mining operation, one of the most environmentally damaging forms of oil exploitation. In the central Ecuadorian Amazon, we worked to challenge the Ecuador portion of the Manta-Manaus Transportation Corridor that would create a new shipping route linking the Brazilian Atlantic with the Pacific Coast of Ecuador, causing profound deforestation and social disruption in the heart of the Amazon. Finally, in the pristine southern

Ecuadorian Amazon, Amazon Watch continues to monitor the situation of oil blocks 23 and 24, where we have worked with the Achuar in successfully suspending drilling plans for nearly a decade.

February

We publicize a small victory as President Correa indefinitely extends the deadline for the Yasuni-ITT proposal to obtain funding. However, the proposal is later modified to allow for the sale of carbon credits to the European Union's Emission Trading Scheme, as opposed to donations from countries and international financial institutions. Amazon Watch voices concern about the use of

carbon credits to capitalize the Yasuni-ITT Trust Fund. We become more involved in international climate talks to ensure that indigenous peoples have a voice in the policy discussions.

August

Amazon Watch helps finance and participates in an indigenous summit held in the Kichwa community of Rucullacta, site of one of the first wells to be drilled by Ivanhoe for its massive Pungarayacu tar sands project. The meeting, which includes participation of every Amazonian indigenous group in Ecuador, as well as the powerful national indigenous organization CONAIE, produces a key set of resolutions that call for

the cancellation of Ivanhoe's oil concession in Block 20. Amazon Watch also organizes briefings for major Ecuadorian news outlets to call attention to the issue.

October

Through the new civil society coalition, the *Observatorio*, Amazon Watch participates on a fact-finding mission to gather information, conduct workshops and interviews with communities along the Napo River that would be affected by the Manta-Manaus Transportation Corridor. In the following months, we support the creation of new, publicly accessible information tools (a video, map, and website), so that civil society has basic information on

the social and environmental implications of the project.

December

As part of our support for the Yasuni proposal, we accompany leaders from the national Ecuadorian indigenous federations, CONAIE and CONFENIAE, to the UN climate change talks in Copenhagen (COP-15), to bring their criticism of carbon offsets and market mechanisms being created to reduce deforestation to international decision makers and the media.



Photo by Kevin Koenig

Chevron Clean Up Ecuador Campaign

In 2009, Amazon Watch continued to pressure Chevron, California's largest company, to take responsibility for the environmental catastrophe and human rights abuses the company perpetrated in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Amazon Watch continued to support the lawsuit brought about by 30,000

people affected by Chevron's legacy of toxic pollution in Ecuador while in the U.S. we escalated our pressure campaign to force Chevron to improve its corporate social responsibility policies starting with meeting the demands of Ecuadorian affected communities for a full-scale environmental re-

mediation, clean drinking water and health care.

The campaign catapulted into the media spotlight with coverage by CBS 60 Minutes and a new full-length documentary film, *Crude*, written and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Joe Berlinger. By host-

ing events and driving attendance to film festivals and screenings across the country, Amazon Watch used the movie as a tool to expand public awareness of the campaign and the ongoing plight of affected people in Ecuador.

Despite our best efforts to move the lawsuit in Ecuador forward, progress was hindered by Chevron's repeated efforts to derail the trial. When a decision in the landmark case was close at hand in the fall of 2009, Chevron unveiled a new aggressive legal and public relations posture with the release of allegedly 'incriminating' evidence of corruption on the part of the judge then presiding over the case. Throughout the year in Ecuador, we have pro-

vided critical on-the-ground support to our partner the Amazon Defense Coalition (ADC) in monitoring the final stages of the case and helping counter Chevron's outrageous claims in the news and in the blogosphere.

January

The documentary film *Crude*, which portrays the epic 15-year legal battle between 30,000 Amazonian residents and oil giant Chevron over massive oil contamination in Ecuador's Amazon, opens at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival. The film documents the team of lawyers and activists as they take on Chevron. Amazon Watch joined Trudie Styler and Sting, Pablo Fajardo



Photo by Caroline Bennett

(winner of both the CNN Hero Award and Goldman Environmental Award), and other celebrities, at the film's premiere.

Amazon Watch also provides information to the New York City Common Retirement Fund, the New York State Pension Fund, the Pennsylvania Pension Fund and Amnesty International USA, who co-file an environmental resolution for Chevron's May 2009 an-

nual general shareholder meeting (AGM).

May

Chevron's toxic legacy is fully exposed on CBS' 60 minutes, which airs a segment featuring one of the most significant investigative reports ever aired about Chevron's in Ecuador. The exposé leaves Chevron with little room to hide.

Later that month, Amazon Watch conducts a week of action timed with Chevron's AGM, bringing together an unprecedented coalition of activists, affected communities, Ecuadorian leaders, and shareholders. Hundreds of activists join Amazon Watch outside the Chev-

ron's San Ramon headquarters to demand that the company take responsibility for cleaning up 18 billion gallons of toxic waste it left in the Amazon. Indigenous leader Emergildo Criollo, Goldman Award Winner Luis Yanza, and Amazon Watch founder Atossa Soltani directly address CEO David O'Reilly inside the meeting.

At the AGM, the True Cost of Chevron Coalition releases an alternative Chevron annual report that details the company's environmental and human rights abuses worldwide, from Burma and Nigeria to Ecuador and Richmond, California. Amazon Watch also releases an important letter to shareholders explaining the Ecuador liability. Shareholders with

\$9 billion in shares support a resolution about the Ecuador case.

August

Chevron releases videos on the web that purport to implicate the judge hearing the case in a bribery scandal with the President of Ecuador. Investigations into the two men who conducted the secret video-taping reveal they were paid by the oil giant to entrap the judge. Amazon Watch counters the story in the media, calling into question Chevron's claims and unethical tactics.

Weeks later, while Chevron's claims of a bribery scheme are widely debunked, the legal cost to the case is immense. The presid-

ing judge recuses himself, creating a long delay that has allowed Chevron to continue to engage in subterfuge. A new judge is appointed, but must still read the many thousands of pages of evidence generated during the trial.

October

David O'Reilly, the CEO of Chevron, announces his retirement by the year's end. The timing of his resignation is auspicious given the award-winning documentary *Crude* had just opened in theaters in Chevron's "home town." Timed with the Bay Area release, Trudie Styler invites 6,000 Bay Area Chevron employees to see *Crude* for free.



Photo by Jenna Lynn

December

Rainforest Action Network and Global Exchange join the campaign in late 2009, bringing extensive activist networks and additional online organizing capacity. With a new Chairman and

CEO ready to take the helm at Chevron on January 1st, Amazon Watch and our partners confront him immediately at a public event at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C. as we make plans to ramp up our multifaceted advocacy efforts in 2010.



Photo by Atossa Soltani

BRAZIL



Photo by Antoine Bonsorte

Introduction

BRAZIL, AN ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE BENT ON ACCELERATED growth and regional integration, is also home to the largest expanse of the Amazon rainforest. Brazil's National Development Bank, BNDES, is a primary driver and financier of IIRSA, the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America, a regional development plan that threatens a vast area of the Amazon rainforest and its indigenous peoples. The Bank is now the largest financier of industrial projects in Latin America with more than \$57 billion in loans in 2009. Amazon Watch's role is to support the work of the *Plataforma BNDES*, a network of Brazilian (and increasingly Latin American) civil society organizations affected by projects funded by BNDES, and to challenge of IIRSA's most egregious mega-development projects.

Early in the year, Amazon Watch and our partners identified the Madeira River Complex (MRC), as one of the most emblematic and destructive projects in Brazil. Funded by BNDES, the MRC involves several dams that would turn the principal tributary to the Amazon River into a major corridor for energy production and raw material exports. This project is extremely controversial due to its threats to the region's complex and fragile ecosystems as well as to the indigenous and traditional communities that rely on the waterway for their survival.

As it became clear that the MRC was proceeding despite intense opposition, our local partners identified the Belo Monte dam as the next clear threat and flashpoint for the debate on infrastructure and development. Also funded by BNDES, Belo Monte would be the third largest dam in the world with devastating environmental and social consequences. With approximately 25,000 indigenous peoples from 18 ethnic groups along the Xingu River who largely oppose the dam, the project is a clear violation of international law on free, prior and informed consent, the right to self-determination and Brazil's own constitution.

JANUARY

On the opening day of the World

Social Forum in Belem, Amazon Watch and Amazonian indigenous organizations organize an action calling for urgent action to protect the Amazon rainforest. Nearly 1,700 indigenous leaders, and environmentalists join forces in a human banner to spell out the message "SALVE A AMAZONIA" ("Save the Amazon" in Portuguese) which then transforms into "SOS AMAZONIA" around a massive silhouette of an indigenous warrior. Photographed from the air and transmitted worldwide, the banner sends a powerful message to local, regional and international media.

JUNE

We conduct a fact-finding mission to the Madeira River Complex – a series of four dams that will

displace riverbank communities, cause serious ecological devastation and threaten isolated indigenous populations. We travel to meet affected communities along the Madeira and Mamoré Rivers, including those in Bolivia.

JULY

Amazon Watch's Brazil Program Coordinator travels to Europe to strategize with new allies in the campaign against French/Belgian company, GDF Suez, for their majority stake in the Jirau dam, one of the megadams of the Madeira River Complex. We later help nominate the company for the Public Eye award held at a counter-event to the annual World Economic Forum meeting each year. We join the BankTrack network and work with Spanish or-

ganization SETEM to successfully demand that Banco Santander withdraw funding from Madeira's Santo Antonio Dam. Santander's withdrawal comes shortly after we succeed in getting a high-profile article on the Spanish news-wire EFE.

NOVEMBER

Amazon Watch attends the First South American summit of Peoples Affected by projects financed by BNDES. The gathering features first-hand testimonies on the injustice and suffering caused by the bank's project-financing model. Representatives of dozens of civil society groups who make up the *Plataforma BNDES* network attend the summit—including delegates from Bolivia and Ecuador. The meeting concludes with protest

at BNDES headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, where a small delegation is received by bank President Luciano Coutinho in order to hear their grievances. Amazon Watch helps provide international media support, resulting in important news articles in the *Washington Post* and *Al Jazeera*. In meetings with allies, the Belo Monte dam is identified as next clear campaign target.

DECEMBER

Throughout the year, Amazon Watch builds effective partnerships with indigenous, environmental and human rights organizations, a feat that can be challenging for non-Brazilian organizations. These new relationships include the *Plataforma BNDES*, *Movimento Xingu Vivo Para Sampa*, Kanindé, the

Movement of People Affected by Dams (MAB), *Amigos da Terra – Amazonia*, *Instituto Socioambiental*, and many more.

Beyond Belo Monte, we realize that we are preparing for a larger battle to stop some than 70 new dams planned for the Brazilian and the Peruvian Amazon over the next two decades. Many Brazilians believe that if Belo Monte is approved, it will represent a *carte blanche* for the destruction of all the magnificent rivers of the Amazon – next the Tapajos, the Teles Pires, the Araguaia-Tocantins, and so on. The Amazon's rivers will become an endless series of lifeless reservoirs, their life drained away by giant walls of concrete and steel. However, we see that another future is possible if we act.



COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA'S U'WA INDIGENOUS people, accompanied by Amazon Watch since 1997, continue to face serious threats to their survival. The country's state oil company Ecopetrol plans to install a gas plant on the Uwa's traditional cloudforest territory and explore for oil in the heart of their legal reserve. Plans for resource extraction on or near the U'wa land have led to the increased presence of armed groups in Colombia's civil war, a major threat to the safety of U'wa leaders and community members. In January of 2009, Colombia's Constitutional Court listed the U'wa amongst a handful of indigenous groups at risk of extinction.

Over the course of the year, Amazon Watch continued to galvanize international solidarity for the U'wa, through our website, grassroots networks and the media.

We facilitated contacts between U'wa leaders and international media that resulted in coverage, including a story published on BBC Online in June.

In March, we commemorated the 10th anniversary of the killings of indigenous activists Terrence Freitas (founder of the U'wa Defense Project), Ingrid Washinatok and Lahe'ane'e Gay in Colombia by creating a memorial booklet celebrating Terry's life.

In May, Amazon Watch backed a delegation of representatives from the Bogotá-based indigenous and civil society organizations to accompany the U'wa as they confronted Ecopetrol and Colombian government officials. U'wa leaders expressed opposition to the construction of military bases for the protection of the Gibraltar oil exploration platform, literally on the

border of the U'wa Reserve.

In October, we provided financial support for a nonviolent U'wa resistance action against oil and gas extraction activities in their territory as well as to other planned megaprojects. The march was held concurrently with the national indigenous mobilization ("minga") on October 12th as part of the International Day of Action for Indigenous Rights and Mother Earth.

In December, the U'wa Congress elected Goldman Environmental Prize recipient Berito Cobaría as international coordinator, setting the stage for increased campaign collaboration in 2010.

"The U'wa will continue to defend Mother Earth with our voice, our songs and our faith."

—The U'wa



Photo by Luis Pilares

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL financial institutions have a long history of financing infrastructure and extractive industry projects that cause irreversible environmental destruction in the Amazon rainforest. These institutions invest in dirty energy projects that contribute to global warming. The Inter-American

Development Bank (IDB) remains a significant financial force in Latin America with current lending of some \$10 billion a year.

At IDB's 50th anniversary / annual meeting in Medellín, Colombia, Amazon Watch worked with a coalition of civil society groups to call

attention to the bank's legacy of inequality and environmental devastation across South America. Coalition members met with bank president Alberto Moreno and other Bank directors, and organized a parallel public forum and demonstration, where some 2,000 people protested the Bank's policies as well as its lack

of accountability and transparency. We published two issues of *IDB Watch* in Spanish, a special civil society newsletter providing a critical perspective on the bank. When the IDB publicly launched its proposal for a \$100-200 billion general capital increase (GCI) at the meeting, Amazon

Watch, Bank Information Center and other civil society organizations launched a campaign that later influences the terms of the GCI and improves consultation mechanisms.

In July, when the Bank's Board of Governors met in Santiago Chile, the coalition issued a set of recommendations urging donor



Photo by Atossa Soltani

countries, in particular the U.S. Government, which controls 30 percent of the IDB, to insist on conditions for stronger environmental and social safeguards for bank-financed projects and for phasing out IDB's investments in fossil fuel and other non-renewable energy projects. The IDB launched a civil society consulta-

tion process around the GCI in September 2009 of which Amazon Watch, Bank Information Center, and other partners participated.

Throughout the year, Amazon Watch continued to monitor the progress of the Camisea natural gas project, the IDB's most controversial project to date. We supported local partners in monitoring and documenting the project's impacts on local communities and in voicing their continued opposition to the project at key international fora, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Photo by Amazon Watch

THE AMAZON RAINFOREST is one of the Earth's best defenses against climate change. Deforestation, much of it in the tropics, is estimated to cause some 15-20 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions. In solving the climate

crisis, Amazon Watch sees promise in working with indigenous peoples who are the guardians of climate stabilizing tropical rainforests.

This year, Amazon Watch developed greater expertise on climate

change and increased the profile of tropical deforestation and indigenous rights issues at the United Nations climate change negotiations. In April, we accompanied indigenous leaders from Ecuador to the Indigenous People's Global

Summit on Climate Change in Alaska. Leading up to the United Nations (UN) COP 15 conference in Copenhagen, we attended preparatory meetings in Bonn, Germany and Bangkok, Thailand. In Bangkok, we provided campaigning and media support to the International Indigenous People's Forum on Climate Change, in their demands for the explicit inclusion of indigenous rights within any climate treaty.

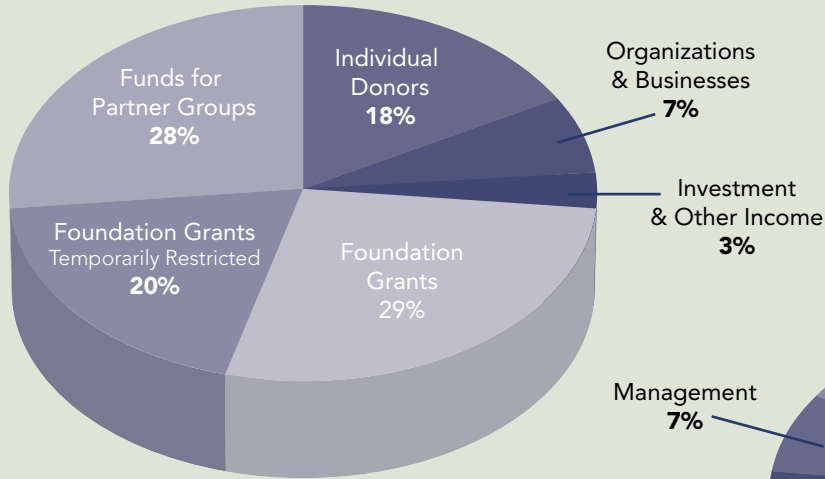
In Copenhagen at the UN COP 15 international climate policy conference, Amazon Watch accompanied indigenous leaders from the Ecuadorian Amazon who traveled to represent thousands of indigenous Amazonians whose rainforest territories are extremely

vulnerable to climate change. There we intervened in the negotiations about REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Developing Countries) to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are explicitly guaranteed. Otherwise, an official REDD scheme could be a threat to the rights and livelihoods of indigenous and forest-dependent peoples and enable unjust land grabs in the name of forest preservation. Thanks to our support, our indigenous partners gave dozens of press interviews participated in the indigenous caucus, where they voiced concern over the use of carbon offsets and market-based mitigation mechanisms to reduce emissions.

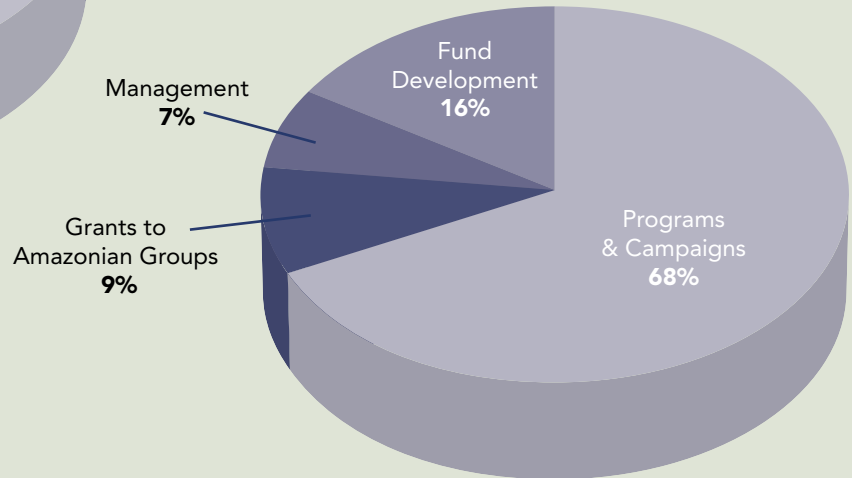
“We may not be scientists, but we know better than anyone else how the earth is changing. We have thousands of years of traditional knowledge that should be part of any climate change solution. Respecting our rights is not in conflict with climate change solutions, it’s a necessary part of them.”

—Tito Puanchir, president of the country’s Amazonian indigenous confederation (CONFENAIE).

Income 2009



Expenses 2009



Statement of Financial Activity

January 1 to December 31	2009	2008
INCOME		
Foundation Grants	304,251	460,436
Foundation Grants		
Temporarily Restricted	225,126	195,676
Funds for Partner Groups	314,290	91,614
Individual Donors	202,602	162,712
Organizations & Businesses	36,670	73,540
Investment & Other Income	21,469	709
TOTAL INCOME	1,104,408	984,687
EXPENSES		
Programs and Campaigns	788,649	661,252
Grants to Amazonian Groups	100,965	97,501
Total Program Services	889,614	758,753
Management	74,244	58,851
Fund Development	178,311	127,648
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,142,169	945,252

Net Income	(37,761)	39,435
Net Assets on January 1	458,079	418,644
Net Assets on December 31	420,318	458,079
Net Assets on Dec 31 Include		
Cash Assets	239,244	181,040
Short-term Investments	0	61,375
Prepaid Rent	–	7,452
Grants Receivable	150,676	195,676
Net Equipment Assets	12,202	6,556
Other: Stock Donations	21,421	12,192
Less: Accounts Payable	(3,225)	(6,212)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	420,318	458,079

Note: This report is based on the 2008 and 2009 audited financial statements.

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