

- JUN 2016



Dear friend of the Amazon:

In March 2016, Amazon Watch celebrated twenty years of advocacy for the Amazon rainforest ecosystem and solidarity with its indigenous stewards. Throughout this journey, we have built incredible partnerships with indigenous communities deep in the rainforest, global networks of indigenous and NGO allies, heavy-hitters of Hollywood, and an ever-growing network of volunteers, online supporters and generous philanthropists. Together, we have faced an army

of profit-driven extractive corporations, corrupt and ineffective governments, and a global populace in need of education on the role of the Amazon rainforest and indigenous peoples in ensuring our climate future. Despite these hurdles, the progress and accomplishments we have forged are truly impressive. I'm honored to stand in solidarity with those who have so courageously faced repression, racism, and indifference when defending their forest and river homes in order to forge meaningful progress toward a sustainable and just world.

With this in mind, I'm also honored to share a short report on Amazon Watch's recent core activities and accomplishments. You can learn more about the high points of our work in our Fall 2016 Amazon In Focus.

Advancing indigenous rights in the Amazon isn't just a moral imperative; it is also proven to be the most effective thing society can do to protect the rainforest. In recognition of this, Amazon Watch continues to serve as a bridge for the Amazon's indigenous voices and movements, amplifying their impact by providing communications, advocacy, logistical, and financial support. Amazon Watch's expertise in the field and twentyyear history as a principled indigenous ally uniquely position the organization to compellingly shape the global narrative on why, and how, we must defend the Amazon.

Recent political power shifts bode poorly for environmental protection and human rights in the coming years, but I hope that you, like I, take inspiration from the accomplishments detailed within this annual report and from the growing unity amongst indigenous peoples and allies in the movement. As we enter this definitive struggle to shift our global paradigm from domination and exploitation to stewardship and cooperation, we must fortify ourselves with the knowledge that our work is important, just, and effective. Thank you for traveling this path to justice with us.

For the Amazon,

feile S. July Leila Salazar-López, Executive Director

AMAZON WATCH VICTORIES, PROGRESS AND KEY SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES: JAN 2015 - JUN 2016

Amazon Watch continued to work in close partnership with indigenous Amazonian communities to defeat threats to Amazonian ecosystems and advance their rights to legally manage their ancestral territories in keeping with traditional practices. The analysis we conducted in 2015 as part of our strategic planning process affirmed that this is not only the most effective means of protecting the Amazon and our climate future, it is also what these frontline indigenous communities want us to do. Thus, Amazon Watch's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan prioritized the continuance of our media, advocacy, and capacity-building work in support of indigenousdriven conservation.

Last year, we made the decision to shift accounting cycles to better fit our planning and budgeting needs, so this annual report is a little different from recent years in that it includes programmatic and financial reports from not only 2015 but also the first half of 2016. Highlights during this reporting period include:



Advancing Protection of the Sacred Headwaters of the Amazon

Amazon Watch continues to advance protection of more than 20 million acres of biologically and culturally diverse tropical rainforests in the Ecuadorian Sacred Headwaters region by exposing and challenging a new round of leases, and supporting indigenous-led initiatives to secure land title and advance sustainable "life plans." Highlights include:

- In a major victory for indigenous rights and international corporate accountability, Peru's Achuar indigenous people of the Corrientes River basin announced in March 2015 that U.S. oil giant Occidental Petroleum had <u>agreed</u> to compensate them for oil pollution on their territory. The announcement follows a decade of legal proceedings and campaigning by the Achuar, Amazon Watch, and allies including EarthRights International.
- After years of grassroots mobilization supported by Amazon Watch to successfully keep international oil companies out of their territory, the Achuar of Peru's Pastaza River basin filed a groundbreaking case for the titling of more than 750,000 hectares (1.9 million acres) of their collective territory and for the cancellation of the oil blocks that overlap their lands. This legal process, which could take years, is a key step in protecting a vast region of biologically and culturally diverse rainforest and will open the door for dozens of other collective indigenous territorial claims.
- With Amazon Watch's support, Ecuadorian indigenous groups came together to keep Ecuador's southern Amazon free from oil. In Spring 2015, the Shuar, Achuar, Shiwiar, Sápara and Kichwa of Sarayaku the groups that have successfully fought for the last 30 years to keep Ecuador's southern Amazon free from oil came together to reject the government's attempts to enter their communities to "consult" them about oil operations. As the in-depth report entitled Consulta Previa En La Décimo Primera Ronda Petrolera (Prior Consultation In The Eleventh Oil Round) and the short documentary La Consulta Inconsulta (The Non-Consultation Consultation) show, the government's consultations have not



respected free prior and informed consultation, much less <u>free, prior and informed consent</u> (FPIC).

- For the third year in a row, Amazon Watch and our indigenous allies successfully deterred international investment in new oil production in the Ecuadorian Amazon, despite the government's attempt to auction 10 million acres for oil development. Amazon Watch and Ecuadorian indigenous leaders continue to hold the line after a key victory against Ecuador's XI Round of oil leases in the Amazon. The XI Round initially consisted of 21 blocks covering more than 10 million acres in a region that is home to Ecuador's last remaining tract of virgin rainforest and to seven indigenous nationalities: the Achuar, Shuar, Kichwa, Sápara, Waorani, Shiwiar and Andoa.
- Chevron faced escalating international pressure to comply with its legal obligations to fund the cleanup of devastating oil pollution in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Despite Chevron's audacious and tone-deaf assertion that it will fight the verdict against it until 'hell freezes over,' that day is drawing nearer. Whistleblower videos sent anonymously to Amazon Watch, exposing Chevron's corrupt attempt to conceal its legacy of oil pollution in Ecuador, received millions of views. And in May 2015 and April 2016, Ecuador was in the spotlight at the Chevron shareholder meetings as Amazon Watch coordinated inside and outside the boardroom strategies to pressure the company to stop avoiding justice and address its toxic legacy in the Amazon. In September 2015, the Canadian Supreme Court unanimously ruled against Chevron and in favor of Ecuadorians, clearing the way for Ecuador to pursue asset collection to enforce the \$9.5 billion verdict against Chevron for its legacy of pollution. And in October, it was revealed that Chevron's key witness in its ongoing RICO litigation against Ecuadorians and their lawyers recanted his testimony about receiving a bribe to ghostwrite the verdict against the company.

He also revealed he has been paid handsomely by the company to lie about illegal activities that never occurred.

 Amazon Watch supported delegations of indigenous leaders - particularly women - to advocate for their rights before international decision-makers and courts. In Fall 2015, Amazon Watch accompanied several delegations of Ecuadorian indigenous leaders to connect with allies and decision-makers before the U.N., the Organization of American States' Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, the US State Department, and high-level Vatican officials.



Keeping Fossil Fuels in the Ground in the Amazon

Scientists and policy experts agree that in order to avoid catastrophic climate change impacts we need to keep eighty percent of all remaining fossil fuels in the ground. Stopping the expansion of the fossil fuel frontier, particularly in high-carbon sequestering forests and indigenous territories, is an obvious and critical starting place.

 In an <u>historic victory</u>, the Magallanes gas platform, which had been constructed by Ecopetrol on the ancestral territory of the U'wa indigenous people of Colombia without their consent, was dismantled. Amazon Watch provided key international support to the U'wa as they challenged the gas project. The U'wa Association of Traditional Authorities and



Councils (Asou'wa) issued a statement calling Ecopetrol's withdrawal an "act of respect" for U'wa rights and an "important achievement" in the defence of their territories, and acknowledged the importance of support from organizations and individuals working on human rights and environmental issues, particularly Amazon Watch.

- Indigenous peoples' challenge to China's plans to drill for oil in the Amazon receives international support. After Chinese Prime Minister Li Kegiang failed to respond to indigenous leaders' call to cancel plans for Chinese state oil company Andes Petroleum to drill for oil in their territory and in Yasuní National Park, we engaged our global network of supporters. Our China - Don't Drill the Amazon action, which we released on World Environment Day (June 5, 2015), inspired more than 13,000 emails and petition signatures, reached 39,000 on Facebook, and generated more than 170,000 Twitter impressions within two weeks. Unfortunately, despite massive opposition, Ecuador began drilling for oil underneath Yasuní National Park in 2016.
- Climate equity strategy session expands movement to keep fossil fuels in the ground: In response to the need to keep at least 3/4 of proven fossil fuel reserves in the ground to avoid catastrophic climate change in April 2015 Amazon Watch and the Sierra Club cohosted an Americas-wide climate equity strategy session on <u>Keeping Fossil Fuels in the Ground</u>, which involved more than 50 indigenous representatives and NGOs. Strategy session participants drafted a joint NGO-indigenous declaration and policy recommendations which were presented at COP21.
- Launched joint climate alliance mapping initiative with university researchers. Amazon Watch collaborated with Professor Tracey Osborne PhD at the University of Arizona on a multi-media <u>mapping project</u> that shows the interconnection (and resulting threats) of Amazonian oil reserves, indigenous communities and biodiversity hotspots.



Supporting Indigenous Voices on Climate Change and Rights-based Solutions

Building on our work at 2014 climate summits in New York, Brazil, and Lima, Amazon Watch continued to advocate for indigenous rights-based solutions to deforestation and climate change at international fora, including the March 2015 <u>Climat</u> <u>21 Coalition</u> planning meetings and workshops at the World Social Forum in Tunis, the April 2015 Climate Equity Strategy Session on Keeping Fossil Fuels in the Ground in San Francisco, and the UN climate summit in Paris (COP21). We have provided and will continue to provide direct support for Amazonian indigenous leaders' participation in such international fora, including travel, accreditation, workshops, and interpretation / translation.

- Showcased Indigenous Solutions at the UN Climate summit - Amazon Watch facilitated the travel and participation of ten indigenous leaders from the Kichwa community of Sarayaku to the COP21 climate summit in December. The high-profile group articulated key messaging in dozens of fora and media articles about the central nature of indigenous rights in addressing the climate crisis. A central cultural symbol they contributed was the <u>Canoe of Life</u>, which was constructed in their community, launched in the waters of Paris, and ultimately displayed at the indigenous pavilion within Le Bourget.
- Expanded our global call with indigenous peoples to keep fossil fuels in the ground in the Amazon and in the Americas. Our <u>Keep the Oil</u> <u>in the Ground</u> video featuring indigenous leader Nina Gualinga continues to gain momentum



and has inspired more than 2 million views and more than 35,000 petition signatures, which will be delivered to global leaders this year. A key outcome of the Americas-wide strategy session on <u>Keeping Fossil Fuels in the Ground</u>, which we co-hosted with the Sierra Club, was the formation of indigenous-NGO Working Groups to coordinate policy and communications initiatives.

 Engaged the faith community in calling for protecting the Amazon and indigenous rights. In his first papal visit to South America, Pope Francis issued a resounding call for Amazon rainforest protection and indigenous rights. Through behind-the-scenes channels, Amazon Watch played an influential role in encouraging this groundbreaking shift in such a globally influential moral voice.



Stopping Mega-dams in the Brazilian Amazon and Promoting Clean Energy

Amazon Watch continues to play an important role in the Brazilian Amazon, where widespread government corruption, a myopic focus on mega-dams, and the advance of other extractive industries threaten biodiversity and indigenous peoples. We partnered with local communities in the Tapajós river basin to mobilize in defense of their rivers, rainforests and rights supporting multiple indigenous mobilizations, strategy meetings, workshops and media outreach.

 Stopping Future Dams in the Amazon: We publicized <u>the devastation caused by the</u> <u>construction of the Belo Monte dam</u> and Brazil's associated <u>corruption scandals</u>; successfully nominated the Munduruku Ipereg Ayu Movement for the <u>prestigious UN Equator Prize</u> in recognition of their efforts to stop the Tapajos dams and accompanied them to COP21; organized a <u>hearing on dams and indigenous</u> <u>rights at the 29th UN Human Rights Council</u> in Geneva, resulting in prominent <u>coverage in The</u> <u>Guardian</u>; coordinated with Greenpeace and the Munduruku on an intervention at General Electric's annual shareholders meeting in Florida, asking them to refrain from involvement in the Tapajos via their turbine subsidiary Alstrom; and channeled financial support to partners.

- Clean Energy for the Amazon Campaign: We engaged with international corporate, financial, and policy decision- makers to <u>dispel myths</u> <u>that large Amazon dams are "clean energy"</u> and partnered with International Rivers and the Inter-American Environmental Defense Association (AIDA) to produce the "<u>Dams Are Not Clean</u> <u>Energy</u>" video, launched at COP21.
- Renewable Energy and Communications Infrastructure for Indigenous Allies: In 2016, we entered a partnership with Empowered By Light (EBL) to design and install solar power systems with indigenous communities on the frontlines of Amazonian resources and rights struggles. EBL installed a pilot project system in Munduruku territory in July 2016. Additional projects were approved for the U'wa (Colombia) and Sápara (Ecuador) and implementation is underway.

Partner Re-grants and Capacity Building

Amazon Watch continued to award small grants and support capacity building projects with our indigenous partners.

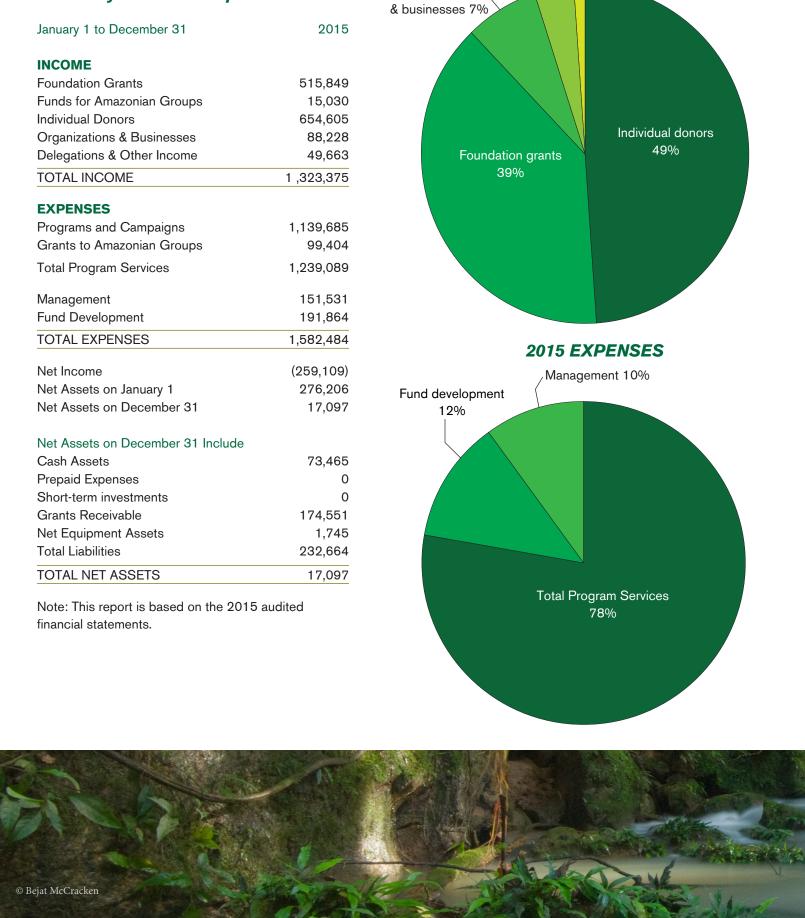
- Provided \$99,404 in partner regrants in 2015 and \$27,817 in the first half of 2016.
- Worked with indigenous communities to seek and secure direct funding, including grants from Cultures of Resistance, Lush NA, Living Forest Project, Global Greengrants, Rainforest Action Network, 350.org, and individual donors.



2015 INCOME SOURCES

Delegations and Other Income 4% Funds for Amazonian groups 1%

Organizations



AMAZON WATCH Summary Financial Report 2015

FYE 2016 INCOME SOURCES

AMAZON WATCH Summary Financial Repor		Delegations and Other Income 3% Organizations
Fiscal Year Ended June 30		& businesses 4%
January 1 to June 30	2016	
INCOME		
Foundation Grants	148,570	
Funds for Amazonian Groups	5,000	Foundation grants
Individual Donors	729,654	16%
Organizations & Businesses	37,409	Individual donors
Delegations & Other Income	35,643	76%
TOTAL INCOME	956,277	
EXPENSES		
Programs and Campaigns	490,566	
Grants to Amazonian Groups	27,817	
Total Program Services	518,383	
Management	78,038	
Fund Development	94,213	
TOTAL EXPENSES	690,634	
	050.040	FYE 2016 EXPENSES
Net Income	256,643	Fund development
Net Assets on January 1	17,097	14%
Net Assets on June 30	282,740	14%
Net Assets on June 30 Include		
Cash Assets	274,043	
Prepaid Expenses	274,043	
Short-term investments	20,701	
Grants Receivable	351,588	
Net Equipment Assets	1,405	
Total Liabilities	370,055	
TOTAL NET ASSETS	282,742	
		Programs & campaigns
Note: This report is based on the FYE	2016 audited	75%
financial statements.		





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THANK YOU!

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Pairiri **Rainforest Action** Network Rede-Brazil Rede-FAOR Sociedade Paraense de Defesa dos **Direitos Humanos** Tapajós Vivo Terra Mater Uma Gota No Oceano Union de Afectados por Texaco (UDAPT) Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo Yasunidos

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"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." - Native American Proverb

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Amazon Watch works to protect the rainforest and advance the rights of indigenous peoples in the Amazon Basin.

2201 Broadway, Suite 508 Oakland, California 94612 510.281.9020

amazon@amazonwatch.org www.amazonwatch.org 1350 Connecticut Avenue NW #1100 Washington DC, 20036 202.785.3962