



Land is Life

**2024**

**Annual**

**Report**





# Table of contents

---



<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>5</b>
The Vital Importance of Land is Life’s Work.....	6
Letter from our Board Chair.....	7
Letter from our Executive Director.....	9
Who We Are.....	11
• Our Mission & vision.....	12
• We are a global team.....	12
• Our Governance.....	12
Our Approach.....	13
Our Reach.....	14
Global Overview – 2024 Highlights.....	16
<b>Regional Overview.....</b>	<b>19</b>
Africa.....	20
Asia.....	24
Mesoamerica.....	28
South America.....	32
<b>Programs.....</b>	<b>38</b>
Advocacy, Campaigns, and Strategic Engagement.....	39
• Advocacy and Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples under Threat.....	46
Indigenous-Led Security Funds (ILSF).....	47
• Indigenous-Led Security Fund - Mesoamerica.....	49
• Indigenous-Led Security Fund - Africa.....	49
• Indigenous-Led Security Fund - Asia.....	50
• Indigenous-Led Security Fund - Colombia.....	52
Indigenous Women’s Program.....	56
• Support for Indigenous Women’s organizations.....	58
• Indigenous Women’s Fellowship.....	59
• Indigenous Women’s Program Trainings.....	62
Protection of Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation (PIACI).....	64
• Emergency Response to PIACI.....	66
• GTI-PIACI Secretariat.....	66
• Campaigns and Advocacy.....	67
Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).....	68
Indigenous Food Sovereignty & Security.....	72
• Sub-Saharan Africa – Indigenous-Led Agroecology Fund.....	74
• Mesoamerica Food Systems Strengthening in Nicaragua.....	75
<b>Communications.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Our Partners.....</b>	<b>79</b>
• Indigenous Peoples’ Organizations.....	80
• Funders.....	82
<b>Our Team.....</b>	<b>84</b>
• Board of Directors.....	84
<b>Gratitude.....</b>	<b>87</b>

# Introduction

---



# The Vital Importance of Land is Life's Work

Since its founding, Land is Life has been a critical force for Indigenous Peoples' rights and self-determination. Our work matters for several key reasons:

First and foremost, Land is Life operates with a fundamental principle at its core: Indigenous Peoples must be free to live in and safeguard their ancestral territories according to their own traditions and visions. In a world where Indigenous Peoples face intensifying pressures from climate change, extractive industries, and political marginalization, Land is Life provides essential support by directing 91% of our funding directly to Indigenous Peoples across 35 countries.

Our approach is uniquely effective because it's truly Indigenous led. Unlike many international organizations, Land is Life ensures Indigenous Peoples and their representative organizations play central roles in our organization's governance. This structure guarantees that our work addresses priorities identified by Indigenous Peoples themselves, maintaining transparency while remaining flexible enough to respond to emerging challenges.

Our protection of Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) is crucial, helping prevent encroachment and forced assimilation of these vulnerable populations across the Amazon Basin and Gran Chaco.

Perhaps most urgent is our work supporting Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders. Our Indigenous-Led Security Funds provide rapid, direct assistance to Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders and communities facing threats in regions where defending land rights can be a death sentence.

Our work strengthening Indigenous Peoples' self-determination through community-led Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols represent a transformative approach to development. By helping Indigenous Peoples establish their own protocols based on traditional decision-making processes, Land is Life creates a framework that ensures Indigenous Peoples can determine their own priorities while maintaining control over their territories.

Our support for Indigenous women's leadership acknowledges their vital role in preserving traditional knowledge and protecting territories. Through direct support to women-led initiatives and our fellowship program, we're nurturing the next generation of Indigenous women leaders.

Finally, by amplifying Indigenous Peoples' voices in international forums—from UN meetings to climate and biodiversity negotiations—we ensure that they have a seat at the tables where critical decisions affecting their lives and territories are made.

In essence, Land is Life's importance lies in its commitment to Indigenous-Led solutions that recognize the inextricable connection between Indigenous Peoples' rights and the ecological sustainability of our planet. Our collaborative approach empowers Indigenous Peoples to tackle daily threats to their territories and livelihoods, while simultaneously amplifying their voices in decision-making spaces. By connecting grassroots activism with national advocacy and international policy engagement, we strengthen rights recognition across all governance spheres while ensuring Indigenous Peoples remain the leaders of their own defense and development.

# Letter from our Board Chair

---





## Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2024 and embark on a new year, Land is Life remains steadfast in its mission to support Indigenous Peoples and uphold their rights worldwide. Together with our global coalition of Indigenous Peoples' leaders, activists, and allies, we have worked tirelessly throughout the year so that Indigenous Peoples can continue to live in and safeguard their ancestral territories, in the ways they choose and according to their own principles, priorities and visions.

This past year brought new challenges and opportunities. Climate change, extractive industries, and systemic inequities persist, intensifying the struggles faced by Indigenous Peoples. Yet, with resilience and determination, Land is Life has achieved remarkable milestones. We deepened our efforts across Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, South America, and Mesoamerica, defending Indigenous Peoples' rights and fostering Indigenous-Led solutions in the face of mounting human rights violations.

We are thrilled to close out 2024 welcoming new leadership for Land is Life. Following an extensive search process, Luisa Castaneda has been appointed as our next Executive Director, effective January 1, 2025. Luisa brings over a decade of experience advocating for Indigenous Peoples' rights, including her work with the Arhuaco People in Colombia, the FAO, and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Since joining our team in 2023, Luisa has demonstrated unparalleled dedication and vision, and we are confident that her leadership will guide Land is Life to even greater heights.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our founding Director, Brian Keane, who has skillfully led Land is Life during this transition. His legacy includes the creation of the Indigenous Women's Program and Fellowship and the Food Sovereignty and Security Program, as well as expanded protections for Indigenous rights defenders in the Amazon. While Brian transitions to a role on our Board of Directors and as Senior Advisor, his passion and commitment will continue to inspire our work.

As we embark on this exciting new chapter, we are reminded that none of this progress would be possible without our supporters, donors, and partners. Your solidarity fuels our efforts to uphold the self-determination and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples around the world. Thank you for standing with us. We look forward to continuing this journey together in 2025.

With gratitude,

**Mariam Wallet Med Aboubakrine**  
Board Chair  
Land is Life

# Letter from our Executive Director

---





## Dear Friends,

I am honored to step into the role of Executive Director and continue Land is Life's 33-year legacy of commitment to advancing the self-determination and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples across the world's seven socio-cultural regions.

This year marks the 33rd anniversary of Land is Life, established in Rio de Janeiro as a mandate of Indigenous Peoples during their own summit. Over the years, we have built a global coalition of Indigenous Peoples that has been instrumental in advancing the recognition and rights of Indigenous Peoples' worldwide. As we reflect on this journey, we honor the dedication and commitment of our many brothers and sisters who have played a crucial role in this process.

Being part of Land is Life last year allowed me to witness firsthand the meaningful work that our team does to strengthen partnerships, support Indigenous-Led initiatives, and advocate for policies that uphold Indigenous Peoples' rights. We take great pride in the fact that 91% of our funding directly supports Indigenous Peoples' issues.

In 2024, through our collective efforts, we advanced the right to self-determination of Indigenous Peoples by strengthening the leadership of Indigenous women, fostering greater participation of Indigenous Peoples' leaders in global and national decision-making processes, enhancing food systems to safeguard their livelihoods, and providing rapid support to Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders facing urgent threats.

As we step into 2025, we recognize the growing challenges that Indigenous Peoples face in their territories, alongside the ongoing threats that continue to impact them. Funding was already an ongoing struggle, and now the barriers have become even greater. In the face of these difficulties, our commitment remains steadfast.

I invite our partners, funders, and allies to join forces and strengthen our shared mission to protect the lives, territories, and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples. Now, more than ever, we must stand together, intensify our efforts, and reaffirm our solidarity. With hope and determination, we know that through collective action, we can create meaningful, lasting change.

**Thank you for your continued support and solidarity.**

Let's stand for Indigenous Peoples!

**Luisa Castaneda-Quintana**

Executive Director

Land is Life

# Who We Are



Land is Life **Global**  
**Security & Defenders**  
Convening

 Nairobi, Kenya

 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> January

Protecting the

Land is Life is a coalition of Indigenous Peoples working to advance the self-determination and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous Peoples and their representative organizations play a central role in the coalition's governance structure, which ensures that our work is focused on priorities identified by Indigenous Peoples themselves, is transparent, and has the flexibility necessary to respond to unexpected challenges and opportunities.



## Our Mission

The mission of Land is Life is to advance a process of dialogue and strategic action to achieve legal recognition of, and respect for – at the local, national and international levels – Indigenous Peoples’ rights to self-determination and collective ownership of their territories, lands, resources and knowledge.

## Our Vision

We live for the day when Indigenous Peoples around the world are able to practice self-determination; when our human, economic, social, cultural, political, and territorial rights are recognized and respected; when we are free to speak our languages, maintain our sacred traditions and continue the work of caring for our ancestral homelands. We work towards the day when Indigenous Peoples are recognized as valued members of the international community, and we are allowed to assume our rightful role as partners in the search for a more equitable, just, and sustainable world.

From the Arctic to the Amazon, from Siberia to South Africa, from West Papua to Rwanda, we envision genuinely democratic and autonomous Indigenous Peoples’ territories, where we can live according to our own economic, social and political institutions, maintain and develop our cultures, and pursue our own models of development. This, we believe, is necessary not only for our survival and continuity as distinct cultures, but also to maintain the ecological, hydrological and climatic stability of the entire planet.

## We are a global team

Land is Life is staffed by a passionate team of Indigenous leaders, activists and allies based around the world and bound by a common mission to support the movement for self-determination. As threats to our team and partner’s safety and security continue to grow, we have chosen against listing some of our staff on our public website.

## Our Governance

Land is Life’s Board of Directors brings together Indigenous Peoples’ leaders and activists from various fields of expertise, who are deeply committed to the cause of defending and protecting Indigenous peoples’ rights and territories throughout the world.

## Governing Council

Land is Life’s Governing Council, representing Indigenous Peoples’ organizations from the world’s seven socio-cultural regions, meets every three years and uses a consensus model to set the organization’s priorities and strategies. Throughout the year, the Governing Council works with Land is Life’s central coordinating office and regional coordinators to advance the organization’s objectives.

### Africa

Dignité Pygmée

Ogiek Peoples Development Program



### Arctic

- Saami Human Rights Organization

### Asia

- Cordillera Peoples Alliance
- CRAM Manipur
- Maleya (CHT)
- AIPP
- Chandra - youth

### Mesoamerica

- Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network
- Red Indígena de Turismo de México

### Pacific

- Yadupa

### South America

- InterTribal Committee (or Taily's organization)
- Asociacion Protectoras de la Madre Tierra
- Ashiñwaka
- Payipie Ichadie Totobiegosode (OPIT)



## Our Approach

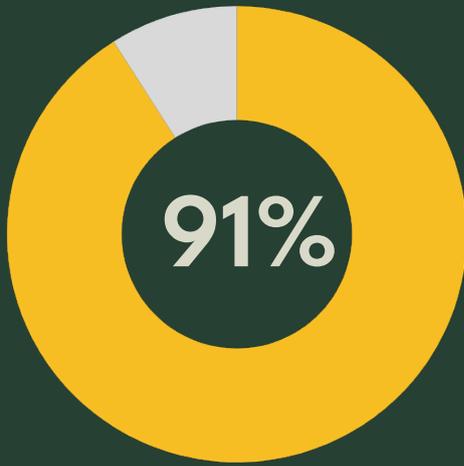
We believe that securing the land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples is the most effective way to respond to the challenge of global climate change, protect biological diversity, promote sustainable development, and contribute to global health, peace and security. Our approach is rooted in collaboration and trust, recognizing that those who live at the grassroots should take the lead in determining solutions. Our programs empower Indigenous Peoples to tackle daily threats to their lands and livelihoods, while simultaneously amplifying their voices in decision-making spaces.

- Advancing Self-Determination & Strengthening Governance
- Addressing Climate Change and Biodiversity Conservation
- Empowering Indigenous Women
- Fostering Enabling Environments for the Advancement of Indigenous Peoples' Rights
- Strengthening the Participation of Indigenous Peoples in Policy-Making Processes





## Our Reach



of our funding goes directly to Indigenous Peoples.

Land is Life provided direct support to **95 Indigenous partner organizations.**





---

## South America



**6** countries

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru

---

## North America



**2** countries

Canada, and United States

---

## Africa



**10** countries

Burundi, Cameroon, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Tanzania, Uganda, and South Africa

---

## Asia



**2** countries

India, the Philippines

---

## Pacific



**1** countries

West Papua

---

## Mesoamerica



**7** countries

Coŝta Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama





# Global Overview – 2024 Highlights

---

# Global Overview – 2024 Highlights



In 2024, **Land is Life** made significant strides in advancing the rights, safety, and leadership of Indigenous Peoples across the globe:

## Protecting Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders:



Through our **Indigenous-Led Security Funds Program**, we delivered rapid-response support to Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders and their communities facing threats in **Africa, Asia, Mesoamerica, and South America**.

## Elevated Indigenous Women's Leadership:



We launched the **second cohort** of our **Indigenous Women Fellows Program** and supported grassroots Indigenous women's organizations, fostering advocacy, autonomy, and collective strength.

## Expanded Global Advocacy and Policy Influence:



Land is Life supported Indigenous leaders' active participation in critical international platforms, including: **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)**, **UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**, **CBD COP 16**, **UNCCD COP 16**, **UNFCCC COP 29**, **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**, **Climate Week** and **Global and Regional Forums on Business and Human Rights**.

## Fostered Enabling Environments for Rights Recognition:



We convened a landmark meeting in Rome bringing together the three UN mechanisms on Indigenous

Peoples' rights to address the conflation of Indigenous Peoples with "local communities".

## Advanced Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Climate Resilience:



Through our **Indigenous Peoples' Food Sovereignty and Security Program**, we supported dozens Indigenous Peoples in Africa and Latin America to strengthen food systems, promote agroecological practices, and increase resilience to climate shocks.

## Influenced Philanthropy:



In partnership with **45 Indigenous Peoples' organizations**, we delivered recommendations to the **Forest Tenure Funders Group**, contributing to a more effective and accountable **Pledge 2.0**.





**Expanded Our Team for Strategic Growth:**



We welcomed key new team members, including a Deputy Director, Global Communications Manager, Fundraising Manager, FPIC Program Coordinator, and PIACI Program Coordinator, reinforcing our capacity for long-term impact.



**Launched Our New Website:**

We completed a full website redesign in 2024 to better showcase our global work.

**Explore the new site here**



**Secured Future Support:**



We raised over \$960,000 in new and renewed funding for 2025–2027 to scale up direct support to Indigenous Peoples, particularly women and youth in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.



# Regional Overview

---





## Indigenous Peoples in Africa

According to the United Nations, the population of Indigenous Peoples in Africa is estimated at 50 million. These Indigenous Peoples, often categorized as pastoralists, hunters and gatherers, and peasant farmers, face systematic marginalization. Most African States fail to recognize Indigenous Peoples, leading to ongoing disputes over their identity and rights in contrast to local communities. As a result, Indigenous Peoples endure significant challenges, placing them in a situation of vulnerability in the continent.

In 2024, Land is Life strengthened its commitment to Indigenous Peoples through impactful partnerships across Africa. Land is Life has been at the forefront, working tirelessly to address these struggles. Below are some of the critical challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples and the impactful initiatives and work that Land is Life has undertaken to support them.

## Strengthening Food Sovereignty

Land is Life's **Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Security Program** addresses the escalating food insecurity affecting African Indigenous Peoples, who face disproportionate challenges due to climate change-induced droughts, loss of traditional territories to extractive industries, systemic marginalization in agricultural policy, and disruption of customary food systems through forced displacement from ancestral territories.

## Addressing Human Rights Violations

Through its **Indigenous-Led Security Fund**, Land is Life continued to respond to the widespread and systematic human rights violations faced by Indigenous Peoples across Africa. These include **forced evictions, illegal arrests, destruction of property, and violent conflicts**—as seen in eviction cases involving the **Maasai** in Tanzania, the **Sengwer** and **Ogiek** in Kenya, and the **Benet** in Uganda. In 2024, we provided critical support to over 60 Indigenous Peoples' communities and 30 Indigenous Peoples' right defenders, including emergency security grants for relocation, legal and medical assistance, and psychosocial support. We also delivered targeted **capacity-building initiatives** on personal, organizational, and digital

security—empowering Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders with the tools and strategies needed to protect themselves and their communities.



## Promoting Gender Equality

Land is Life's **Indigenous Women's Program** has been instrumental in addressing systemic gender inequalities, including exclusion from decision-making, economic instability, and lack of control over family resources. This program has provided support to Indigenous women's organizations and strengthened their capacity for economic, social, and political empowerment.



In 2024, in Kenya, we supported the **Enkishon Indigenous Initiative**, which provided economic training to over 50 Maasai women, fostering resource-sharing networks and mutual support. Additionally, we collaborated with the **Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP)** to amplify their **16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence**, raising awareness and advocating for safer communities.

In Cameroon, our partnership with the **Cameroon Indigenous Women Forum (CAIWOF)** focused on advancing education for **Mbororo schoolgirls**. This initiative not only provided essential school materials to students facing vulnerability but also actively worked to dismantle discrimination against Indigenous girls, ensuring they have equal access to education and opportunities.

We also supported two Land is Life **Indigenous women fellows** in Africa, whose work exemplified grassroots leadership and transformative change.

**Eunice Chepkemoi**, an Ogiek woman from Kenya, led a project to increase advocacy for renewable energy among Ogiek women. Her work promoted sustainable and inclusive energy practices while strengthening environmental conservation efforts within the community.

**Aicha Walet Ahmed**, a Tuareg woman from Mali, focused on raising awareness of Indigenous Peoples' rights. Her initiative empowered Indigenous women to assert their voices and actively participate in shaping the social, political, and economic future of their conflict-affected region.

**Land is life has a trusted network of partners who are dedicated in enhancing the self determination of indigenous Peoples in this region.**





## Africa partners:

**1** Ogiek Peoples Development Program  
Kenya

**2** Cameroon Indigenous Women's Forum  
Cameroon

**3** Dignité Pygmée  
DRC

**4** Sustaining the Wild Coast  
South Africa

**5** Association Protection of Natural Resources for Well-Being of Population In Burundi (APRN/BEPB)  
Burundi

**6** Enkishon Indigenous Initiative  
Kenya

**7** Environmental Defenders  
Uganda

**8** VoltaYoung Farmers Association  
Ghana

**9** Akpini Women Development Group  
Ghana

**10** Takla Community Development Organization  
Ghana

**11** Osiligi Women and Conservation Group  
Tanzania

**12** Pastoralist Women's Council  
Tanzania

**13** Haki Nawiri Africa  
Kenya

**14** INADES-FORMATION  
Cameroon

**15** Droits de la Femme et Environnement Sain (DFES-ASBL)  
DRC

**16** Benet Mosop Community Association

**17** Zenith for Sustainable Agriculture (Zefsa)  
Malawi

**18** Unissons-Nous pour la Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA)  
Burundi

**19** Actions pour la Conservation de la Nature et le Développement Communautaire, ACNDC  
DRC

**20** Pingo's Forum





Asia is a region of immense biological and cultural diversity, Asia is home to 260 million Indigenous people — two-thirds of the global Indigenous population. Despite their crucial role in sustaining lands, waters, and resources essential for food security, ecological balance and climate change mitigation, Indigenous Peoples in the region face relentless threats from profit-driven investments, such as large-scale mining, mega-dams, energy projects, monocrop plantations, oil exploration, and other forms of land grabbing. Coupled with rising militarism, these activities have led to widespread human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, forced displacement, and the criminalization of Indigenous leaders.

## Addressing Human Rights Violations

In 2024, Land is Life advanced Indigenous Peoples' struggles for land and human rights in Asia through capacity-building activities, advocacy efforts, legal defense, and security support for defenders. Through our **Indigenous-Led Security Fund (ILSF)**, we supported **Indigenous Peoples' Rights Defenders** and their communities across the Philippines, India, Nepal, Cambodia, and West Papua. In the Philippines, Land is Life bolstered the Cordillera Peoples Alliance's (CPA) legal challenges to the weaponization of the Anti-Terrorism Law. We supported landmark cases contesting the unjust designation of CPA leaders as terrorists and the freezing of their bank accounts. These efforts protected ancestral lands, organized advocacy

campaigns, and facilitated government engagement.

## UN Special Rapporteur Visit to the Philippines

On July 31, 2024, Land is Life co-organized the visit of the **UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** to Kalinga Province, Philippines.

More than 50 Indigenous leaders gathered to share their experiences and ongoing struggles against corporate hydropower projects and widespread land rights violations. This high-level visit brought international attention to their stru-

ggles, amplifying Indigenous Peoples' voices on the global stage and reinforcing local and international advocacy efforts.



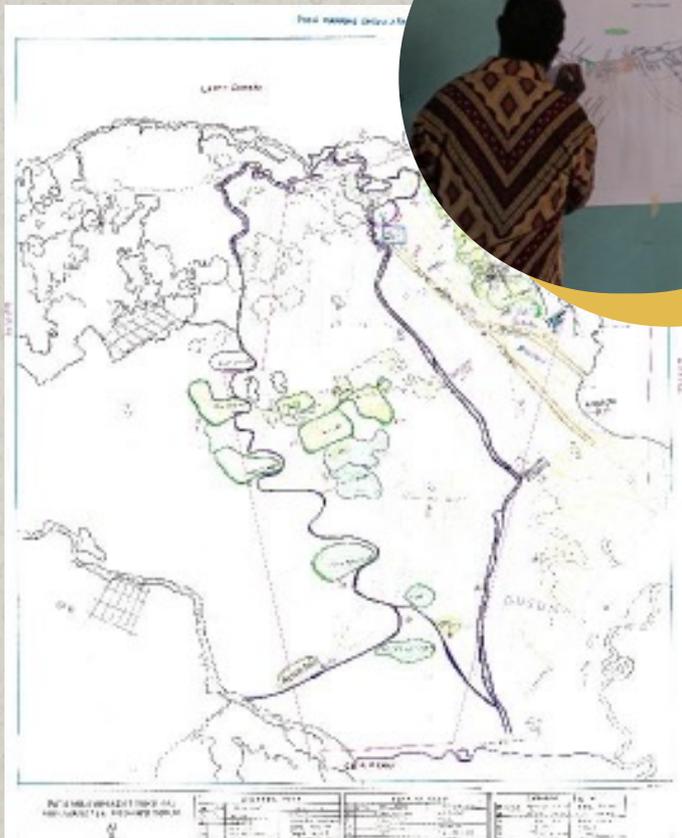
## Advocacy in Northeast India

In partnership with the **Centre for Research and Advocacy – Manipur (CRAM)**, Land is Life supported a series of consultations and awareness-raising activities on Indigenous Peoples' rights, with a focus on **forest protection** and the **climate crisis**. We documented human rights and environmental violations, and advocated for forest and land rights, and engaged with the Manipur Human Rights Commission and international platforms to elevate community concerns and push for accountability.



## Participatory Land Mapping in West Papua

In West Papua, Land is Life partnered with Yayasan Anak Dusun Papua (YADUPA) to advance land rights through participatory mapping in Waropen Regency. In 2024, maps for the Kai, Saponi, and Busami peoples were finalized—crucial tools for asserting Indigenous Peoples' land and resource rights. These community-led maps are now being used to support lobbying and advocacy efforts, and to ensure Indigenous Peoples' perspectives are included in regional development planning. As a result, the voices of these Indigenous Peoples have gained recognition in policy discussions, with their proposed draft regional regulations officially accepted for legislative consideration.



## Empowering Indigenous Women in the Philippines

As part of the Land is Life Indigenous Women's Program, **2024 Fellow Audrey Corce** led a project to strengthen the leadership of **Ayangan and Tawali Indigenous women** in Ifugao, Philippines. Through community visits, legal education, and awareness campaigns, the initiative equipped Indigenous women with knowledge of their rights, the FPIC process, and the impacts of climate change. Around 60 women participated, enhancing their ability to collectively defend their lands, resources, and food systems—particularly in opposition to the Alimit Hydropower Complex.

For the past decade, Land is Life has worked closely with partners in the region to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' rights:

### Asia partners:

- 1** **Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA)**  
Philippines
- 2** **Yayasan Anak Dusun Papua (YADUPA)**  
West Papua
- 3** **KATRIBU**  
Philippines
- 4** **Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance (CIPA)**  
Cambodia



- 5** **Community Empowerment and Social Justice Network (CEMSOJ)**  
Nepal
- 6** **Kapaeeng Foundation**  
Bangladesh
- 7** **Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS)**  
Malaysia
- 8** **AMAN Maluku**  
Indonesia
- 9** **Indigenous Media Foundation**  
Nepal
- 10** **Lawyers Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP)**  
Nepal
- 11** **Nepal Laborious Society Center (NLSC)**  
Nepal
- 12** **Indigenous Nationalities Women Youth Network**  
Nepal
- 13** **Majhi Women's Organization**  
Nepal
- 14** **Indigenous Nationalities Women Youth Network**  
Nepal
- 15** **Sunuwar Welfare Society**  
Nepal
- 16** **Save Our Schools Network (SOS)**  
Philippines
- 17** **Punganay**  
Philippines
- 18** **Balatik**  
Philippines
- 19** **International Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL)**  
Global network based in the Philippines
- 20** **Asia Young Indigenous Peoples Network (AYIPN)**  
Asia network based in the Philippines



# MESOAMERICA



The region of Mesoamerica contains a diverse range of Indigenous Peoples, many of whom hold extensive ancestral territories. These territories support livelihoods based on sustainable use of natural resources, including forests and significant marine and coastal areas. However, Indigenous Peoples have faced increasing pressure from governments and businesses promoting extractive activities that conflict with traditional resource use practices, rooted in millennia-old traditions.

Recent decades have witnessed severe impacts on Indigenous Peoples' communities in Mesoamerica due to invasions, dispossession, and displacement driven by the region's rich natural resources. In response, Indigenous Peoples' leaders, community members, and defenders have intensified efforts to protect their territories, including conducting legal surveys, resolving conflicts and territorial disputes, and collaborating with national and regional governmental bodies on territorial security.

---

# Defending Indigenous Peoples' Territories in Mesoamerica

---

In 2024, Land is Life continued its work across Mesoamerica to address urgent threats to Indigenous Peoples' territories in **Mexico** - Chol, tseltal, Nahua, Totonaco, Yokotan, Ikoots, Ca-

tino Peoples, **Guatemala** - Maya Kaqchikel, Xinca, Q'eqchi Peoples, **Honduras** - Miskito and Tawahka Peoples, **Nicaragua** - Miskito and Mayangna Peoples, **Panama** - Kuna, Emberá-Wounan Peoples, **Costa Rica** Bribri, Brunka y Ngobe, **Belize** Q'eqchi' Maya People and **El Salvador** - Nahua and Lenka Peoples.

Through its support in **seven strategic themes**—including climate change, land and biodiversity defense, food sovereignty, Indigenous women and youth, economic empowerment, and governance strengthening—Land is Life disbursed **28 grants**, directly benefiting **35 Indigenous Peoples'** rights defenders. Recognizing the logistical barriers many face, such as lack of bank access or remote locations, Land is Life works in close collaboration with trusted local organizations to ensure timely and secure fund delivery. **Mexico** received the highest number of applications, reflecting its vast Indigenous Peoples' territories and the intensity of ongoing geopolitical and resource extraction conflicts.

Land is Life also supported the development of a collective agenda for the **Consejo Indígena de Mesoamérica y Centroamérica**, providing technical guidance to the subregional working group on biodiversity. This collaboration fostered dialogue on equitable, culturally appropriate conservation strategies and strengthened Indigenous participation in conservation policy-making.

In **Honduras**, the organization deepened its support for governance structures among **Miskito people**, empowering leaders to take active roles in territorial management in the face of growing pressures from livestock expansion, militarization, and mining.



## Food Sovereignty and Security in Mesoamerica

Land is Life continues to strengthen its **Indigenous Peoples' Food Sovereignty and Security Program** in Mesoamerica, responding to deepening nutrition gaps and the erosion of Indigenous Peoples' food systems. The program integrates land rights, ancestral knowledge, and agroecological practices to improve nutrition and resilience.

Since then, Land is Life has supported the restoration of traditional food systems through the provision of planting materials, technical assistance, and field tools. These resources have enabled families to strengthen their food security and restore climate resilience in the face of increasing environmental shocks.

## Indigenous Peoples' Leadership in Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

In 2024, Land is Life expanded its work on **coastal and marine ecosystems**, positioning Indigenous Peoples as key actors in the sustainable governance of these critical ecosystems. Efforts focused on **securing territorial rights** and creating entry points into **global climate and conservation finance mechanisms**.

In **Costa Rica**, the **Bribri, Brunka, and Ngobe Peoples**—despite their long-standing marine stewardship—continue to face exclusion from national conservation frameworks. In response, Land is Life supported the documentation and systematization of their traditional marine knowledge and practices, contributing to a regional study on the **blue economy**. This research highlights their contributions and asserts the value of Indigenous-Led coastal governance.



## Restoring Traditional Food Systems in Nicaragua

In 2024, Land is Life advanced its **Food Systems Strengthening** initiative in the Nicaraguan Caribbean, working with the **Tuapi, Karata, Dakban, and Yulutingni Peoples**. These efforts build on post-disaster recovery work following the devastating impacts of **Hurricanes Eta and Iota** in 2020—category 4 and 5 storms that severely damaged 60% of the **North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCN)**. Flooding and landslides destroyed homes, crops, and fishing livelihoods, deeply affecting the **Miskito and Mayangna Peoples**.



## Cross-Border Resilience for Miskito Divers

The **Disability and Resilience Initiative for Miskito Divers** addresses the severe risks faced by Indigenous Peoples’ divers along the coasts of **Honduras and Nicaragua**. This initiative responds to unsafe and exploitative fishing conditions that have led to high rates of injury and disability.

In 2024, the program delivered a **comprehensive diagnosis of Indigenous Peoples divers’ living conditions**, promoted government dialogue, and strengthened advocacy for safer practices. We also supported collaboration between the Mayangna People and the Nicaraguan Attorney General’s Office in advancing efforts to remove illegal cattle ranchers from their territory—ensuring that Indigenous Peoples’ voices remain central in managing land and marine resources amid ongoing environmental and political pressure.

Land is Life works through a trusted network of partners across Mesoamerica who are deeply committed to advancing the self-determination and rights of Indigenous Peoples. These allies play a vital role in strengthening territorial defense, governance, and community resilience throughout the region.

## Mesoamerica partners:

- 1** **Indigenous Tourism Network of Mexico**  
RITA - Mexico
- 2** **Association Sotz’il**  
Guatemala
- 3** **National Indigenous Table in**  
MNICR - Costa Rica
- 4** **Foundation for the Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge of Panama**  
FPCI - Panama
- 5** **Moskitia Pawisa Aslika-Agency for the Development of the Moskitia**  
MOPAWI - Honduras
- 6** **Consejo Coordinador Nacional Indígena- National Indigenous Coordinating Council**  
CCNIS - Salvador





# SOUTH AMERICA



South America is home to over 20 million Indigenous people belonging to approximately 700 distinct Peoples, including approximately 200 Peoples - some 10,000 individuals - who are living in voluntary isolation. Their territories span a wide range of biomes, many of which are critical for global biodiversity. Yet these territories face mounting threats, especially in the Amazon, where deforestation, illegal mining, and land dispossession continue to surge. In 2024, violence against Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders intensified as governments and corporations advanced large-scale infrastructure and extractive projects, frequently violating Indigenous Peoples' rights and undermining territorial sovereignty.

## Protecting Indigenous Peoples' Rights Defenders in Colombia

In 2024, Land is Life's **Indigenous-Led Security Fund (ILSF)** continued its vital work in Colombia, one of the world's deadliest countries for human rights defenders. Indigenous Peoples remain disproportionately impacted by violence. In response, ILSF-Colombia provided **48 emergency grants - 34 individual and 14 collective** - in partnership with the **Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC)**. Support reached **94,490 direct beneficiaries** across 25 Indigenous Peoples, including the **Awa, Inga, Embera, Murui, Yukuna, Nukak, Tukano, and Guambiano**.

Grants addressed urgent threats such as **armed violence, forced recruitment by armed groups**. Aid included **legal support, humanitarian relief, healthcare, psychosocial care, and digital security**, with a strong emphasis on protecting **Indigenous women and children**. In 2024, the program also **expanded beyond the Amazon** to reach under-supported regions, reinforcing Indigenous autonomy and resilience in the face of systemic neglect and violence.



## Defending the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI)

In February 2024, **Land is Life**, as the **Technical Secretariat of the GTI-PIACI**, hosted the network's annual assembly in **Bogotá, Colombia**, gathering **48 participants** from **18 member organizations across 8 countries**. This event marked the formal handover of the Technical Secretariat, following four years of dedicated coordination to elevate the rights and visibility of PIACI, who face mounting threats from **mining, illegal logging, drug trafficking, and territorial incursions**.



Under Land is Life's leadership, regional protection frameworks were strengthened, and the PIACI agenda gained global traction through international advocacy, including visibility at forums such as the **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)** and the **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)**.

In partnership with the **Organización Regional AIDSEP Ucayali (ORAU)**, Land is Life supported the **Kakataibo Indigenous Guard** by providing GPS technology and logistical resources to conduct territorial patrols. We also partnered with the **Federación de Comunidades Nativas Fronterizas del Putumayo (FECONA-FROPU)** to strengthen **Indigenous Territorial Governance** in the Putumayo region. These efforts brought together Indigenous Peoples' leaders to discuss the defense of PIACI territories, resulting in key achievements such as: the creation of a **territorial Indigenous Peoples' agenda**; strategic alliances with **human rights organizations**, and proposals for **sustainable development and social justice**.

## Indigenous Women's Leadership in Action

As 2024 Fellows of Land is Life's **Indigenous Women's Program**, **Carmen del Rocío Chalán Yumbopatin** of the Chibuleo people (Ecuador) led a project to strengthen **self-determination and food sovereignty** through training workshops and community monitoring of medicinal plant and vegetable care.

In Colombia, **Nerieth Isabel Becerra Jacanamejoy**, an Inga woman, empowered women from the Yunguillo reservation by establishing a **training center for Indigenous women defenders**, fostering leadership and territorial protection rooted in Indigenous knowledge and collective strength.

## Strengthening Indigenous Peoples' Governance Through FPIC Protocols

Land is Life supported the Kichwa community of Sarayaku from Ecuador in developing a **community-led Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol** rooted in traditional governance systems. In 2024, the protocol was **presented before Ecuador's Constitutional Court** during a landmark Public Hearing "in the territory of the Cofan People of Sinangoe—an important step in shaping national jurisprudence on FPIC.

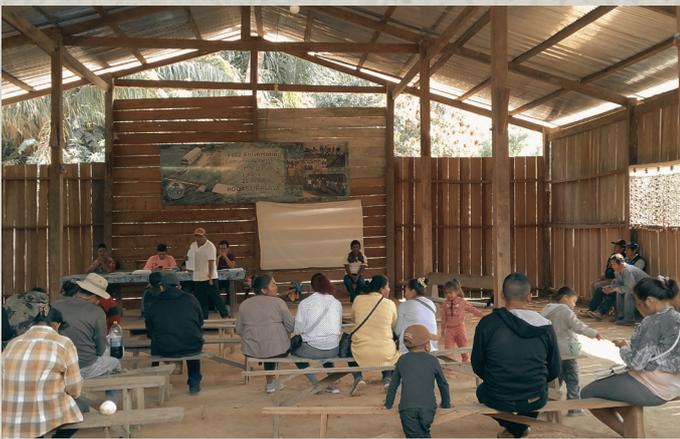


Land is Life supported the **Central de Comunidades Indígenas Tacana II del Río Madre de Dios (CITRMD)** in asserting self-determination amid threats posed by the proposed **Ixiamas-Chive highway**, planned within territory inhabited by PIACI. Through this support, CITRMD advanced the endorsement and implementation of their **Free, Prior and Informed Consent Protocol**, recognized as a key instrument in the country's first **Self-Consultation** process. The protocol has become a model tool, strengthening Indigenous Peoples' governance and increasing the visibility of Indigenous Peoples and PIACI rights among government institutions, civil society, and NGOs.



Partnering with **PAKKIRU**, which represents 153 Kichwa communities in Pastaza Province, Land is Life facilitated collective dialogue on territorial defense and the construction of their **FPIC protocol**.

In South America, Land is Life collaborates with longstanding and trusted Indigenous Peoples partners who are leading efforts to protect their territories, cultures, and autonomy. Together, we advance the collective rights and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples across diverse and threatened ecosystems.



### South America partners:

- 1** **Comunidades Indígenas Tacana II del Río Madre de Dios**  
Bolivia
- 2** **Comite IMECI Inter-Tribal Committee**  
Brazil
- 3** **Asociación de Autoridades Tradicionales UWA**  
Colombia

- 4** **Asociacion de Mujeres Indígenas Protectoras de la Madre Tierra de Amazonas Colombia (AMIPMTAC)**  
Colombia
- 5** **Resguardo Inga de Yungillo**  
Colombia
- 6** **Organización Wiwa Yugumaiun Bunkuanarrua Tayrona**  
Colombia
- 7** **Asociacion de Mujeres**  
Colombia
- 8** **Asociación de Autoridades Indígenas del Municipio de Solano Caquetá - Asimc**  
Colombia
- 9** **Asociacion de Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas**  
Colombia
- 10** **Asociacion de Cabildos Indígenas de Bajo Caqueta**  
Colombia
- 11** **Asociación Mujeres de Mi Tierra Tutuari May**  
Colombia
- 12** **Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas**  
Colombia
- 13** **Resguardo Indígena Sikuaní de Métiwa Guacamayas**  
Colombia



**14** Cabildo Indigena de Yunguillo  
Colombia

**15** Cabildo Indigena Inga San Carlos  
Colombia

**16** Resguardo Indígena Jerico Consaya  
Colombia

**17** Organización Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Colombiana (OPIAC)  
Colombia

**18** Comunidad San Rafael  
Colombia

**19** Resguardo Indigena Chololobo Matatu  
Colombia

**20** Waorani Nation of Ecuador  
Ecuador

**21** Sapara Women's Association  
Ecuador

**22** Proyecto de artesanías Chaquira el "Puglla"  
Ecuador

**23** Asociacion de Mujeres Nina Kamak  
Ecuador

**24** El Pueblo Chibuleo  
Ecuador

**25** Makipurashun  
Ecuador

**26** HIWA SC Medicinal Plant Infusions  
Ecuador

**27** Pueblo Ancestral Kichwa de Kawsak Sacha  
Ecuador

**28** Hatun Sacha  
Ecuador

**29** Hampiriyacha  
Ecuador

**30** Granmusara  
Ecuador

**31** Unión de Comunidades y Organizaciones de San Lucas  
Ecuador  
Ecuador

**32** Allyupura Hampinawasi  
Ecuador

**33** Angla Kawsay  
Ecuador

**34** Muyundi  
Ecuador

**35** Mishki Kawsay  
Ecuador

**36** Pastaza Kikin Kichwa Runakuna (PAKKIRU)  
Ecuador

**37** Pueblo Originario Kichwa De Sarayaku  
Ecuador



**38** Runa Rimay  
Ecuador

**39** Organización Payipie Ichadie  
Totobiegosode  
Paraguay

**40** Federación de Comunidades  
Nativas Fronterizas del  
Putumayo  
Peru

**41** Organización Regional Al-  
DESEP Ucayali (ORAU)  
Peru

**42** Gobierno Territorial  
Autónomo de la Nación  
Chapra (GTANCH)  
Peru

# Programs

---



# Advocacy, Campaigns, and Strategic Engagement

Land is Life works to ensure that Indigenous leaders have a seat at the table wherever decisions are being made that affect their lives, lands and cultures, and to strengthen their ability to come to the table prepared to participate effectively.

PEOPLES



## In 2024, our Advocacy Campaigns, and Strategic Engagement facilitated advance the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples:

### Engaged with Funders on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Needs

Through strategic campaigns like “The Pledge We Need” and key advocacy events, we worked directly with funders, offering resources and dialogue opportunities to ensure their investments support Indigenous-Led solutions and respect their self-determination.

### Amplified Indigenous Voices in Global Forums

Supported active participation of Indigenous leaders at key global events such as UNPFII, EMRIP, COP16, and COP29, ensuring their direct participation, organizing key events, and shaping global advocacy agendas.

### Mobilized Campaigns

Strategic support to high-risk Indigenous Peoples, raising global awareness, and pushing for systemic change in international policies and funding mechanisms.



## Rome meeting with 3 UN Mechanisms on the rights of Indigenous Peoples on the issue of conflating Indigenous Peoples with local communities

Land is Life successfully facilitated constructive dialogue between the three UN mechanisms on the rights of Indigenous Peoples - the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - with Indigenous Peoples' representatives from the seven socio-cultural regions and UN entities. The meeting addressed the growing concerns and implications of the problematic use of the term 'Indigenous Peoples' in conjunction with 'Local Communities'. As a result, a [joint outcome](#) document was issued, containing key recommendations for States, UN entities, and funders to ensure the distinct rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected and upheld.



## United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) – 23rd Session

From April 15–26, 2024, the 23rd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) convened at UN Headquarters in New York City, centered on the theme: “Enhancing Indigenous Peoples’ Right to Self-Determination in the Context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Emphasizing the Voices of Indigenous Youth.”

With dedicated support, Land is Life facilitated the participation of 10 Indigenous leaders from around the world, ensuring their voices were represented in the Permanent Forum.

We hosted a high-impact side event, “**Indigenous Peoples’ Self-Determination and Natural Resource Challenges**” featuring speakers from Tanzania, Kenya, West Papua, the Philippines, and Colombia. The panel highlighted urgent issues including: Land evictions and violence driven by conservation and tourism efforts in Kenya and Tanzania; environmental devastation and armed conflict in West Papua; human rights abuses linked to mining and energy projects in the Philippines, and pressures from carbon markets and protected areas on Indigenous Peoples’ territories in Colombia.

On April 15, in partnership with The Christensen Fund, we co-hosted the **Cultural Night**, a gathering of over 300 Indigenous leaders, partners, and allies. The evening celebrated the diversity, strength, and resilience of Indigenous Peoples through music, food, and cultural exchange.

Land is Life also co-sponsored and participated in other key events, including: “Towards a Rights-Based Approach to School Meals: The Role of Interculturalism and Food Sovereignty” and “Indigenous Knowledge: Advancing the 2030 Agenda”

Our participation in the 23rd session of UNPFII reaffirmed our commitment to advancing Indigenous Peoples’ self-determination and ensuring their perspectives are heard in global decision-making spaces.



## 17th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP)

In 2024, our Indigenous Women’s Program Fellow from Mali participated in EMRIP for the first time, bringing to the international stage the voices and concerns of Indigenous women in the Sahel. Her presence not only elevated issues such as climate impacts, displacement, and gender-based violence in the region, but also served as a valuable capacity-building opportunity, strengthening her advocacy skills and international engagement.



## Advancing Indigenous Peoples' Voices at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP16

### Webinar Series: Empowering Indigenous Women and Youth for COP16

In collaboration with the Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity (RMIB) and the International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI), Land is Life co-hosted the webinar series "Building Capacities and Knowledge of Indigenous Women and Youth Towards COP16." With over 800 participants, the series strengthened the understanding and advocacy skills of Indigenous women and youth. Topics included the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights under the CBD and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Indigenous women's roles in the Gender Action Plan, digital sequence information, and resource mobilization strategies.

**Participation in SBSTTA 26 in Nairobi, Kenya**  
Land is Life also supported the participation of three Indigenous leaders at the 26th meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 26), held May 13–18, 2024. The leaders contributed to critical conversations on monitoring the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

### Latin America & Caribbean Preparatory Meeting

On September 28–29, 2024, Land is Life supported the Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity in organizing the International Meeting of Indigenous Women in Panama City. The meeting gathered 35 Indigenous women from Panama, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina, and Brazil to align strategies and strengthen collective proposals ahead of COP16.

### Direct Participation at COP16

CBD COP16, held in Cali, Colombia, was a priority advocacy space in 2024. Land is Life supported a strong delegation of Indigenous women leaders. In addition to active engagement in negotiations, our team co-organized side events.





### Strategic Resources for Advocacy

To support engagement at COP16, we developed and distributed key resources for Indigenous Peoples in English and Spanish, including:

#### → [Key Issues to be Addressed at COP16:](#)

A summary of Indigenous Peoples' priorities based on the webinar series, outlining Indigenous Peoples' positions on major agenda items.

#### → [10 Reasons: Why Indigenous Peoples Should not be Conflated with the Term Local Communities](#)

A language and rights-based guide for States, UN entities, and negotiators to avoid the conflation of Indigenous Peoples with the term "local communities" or other categories.

### Side events at COP16

At the 16th Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP16), Land is Life hosted a series of side events that elevate the voices, leadership, and solutions of Indigenous Peoples in the fight for biodiversity protection. Our events brought together Indigenous Peoples' leaders, allies, policymakers, and advocates to highlight community-led climate action, defend Indigenous Peoples rights, and promote environmental justice rooted in ancestral knowledge.

#### → [Raising Voices, Securing Futures: Indigenous Peoples' and Indigenous Women's Participation in Biodiversity Resource Mobilization](#)

Organized by the **Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network**, **Land is Life**, the **Department of Nariño (Colombia)**, and **GIZ**, this side event at COP16 highlighted the essential role of Indigenous women in biodiversity protection and resource mobilization under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The event created a space for dialogue among Indigenous leaders, UN representatives, governments, donors, and NGOs to address the exclusion Indigenous women often face in decision-making and funding processes. Panelists shared successful case studies, discussed challenges, and explored strategies to strengthen Indigenous women's participation in resource allocation.

#### → [Guardians of Life: Indigenous Women Preserving Biodiversity](#)

This event aimed to foster a meaningful dialogue between Indigenous women leaders from Latin America and their allies, highlighting and strengthening the vital role they play in biodiversity protection. It provided a platform to recognize their valuable contributions, amplify their voices in defending nature and their territories, and shed light on the challenges they face in preserving cultural heritage and natural resources.

The event began with a symbolic harmonization ceremony, followed by a dynamic, interactive panel discussion. Panelists—composed of prominent **Indigenous women from the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network in Latin America and the Caribbean**, along with representatives from **CAF** and **Land is Life**—shared their perspectives on global biodiversity discussions, climate change, and the defense of Indigenous lands.



# Strengthening Indigenous Peoples' Presence and Voices at UNFCCC COP29

## Climate Week - Amplifying Indigenous Voices in Forest and Climate Finance: "The Pledge We Need"

In 2024, Land is Life coordinated the development and publication of "The Pledge We Need" — a joint statement endorsed by 45 Indigenous Peoples' organizations from around the world, addressed to the Forest Tenure Funders Group (FTFG). "This powerful document calls for a fundamental shift in how climate and forest finance is implemented, urging that the next iteration of the Forest Tenure Pledge (Pledge 2.0) take the necessary steps to strengthen support for Indigenous Peoples' self-determination, territorial governance, and direct access to funding.

The statement outlines six key recommendations to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are not only recipients of support but also decision-makers in climate solutions. It also emphasizes that Indigenous Peoples' rights, particularly self-determination, must be a cornerstone of global forest conservation and climate finance strategies.

### The Pledge We Need

Recommendations for Pledge 2.0 of the Forest Tenure Funders Group



meetings. These sessions enabled Indigenous Peoples' delegates from across the globe to align priorities, strategize collectively, and shape a unified advocacy agenda for the negotiations in Baku.

## Preparatory Meetings for COP29

In the lead-up to COP29, Land is Life supported the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) by providing multilingual interpretation during critical preparatory meetings. These sessions enabled Indigenous Peoples' delegates from across the globe to align priorities, strategize collectively, and shape a unified advocacy agenda for the negotiations in Baku.

## Indigenous Peoples Pavilion at COP29

At COP29, Land is Life played a key role in supporting the IIPFCC in the organization and establishment of the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion, a dynamic hub for dialogue, learning, and advocacy. The space amplified Indigenous-Led climate solutions, fostered high-level engagement with

UN entities and government representatives, and elevated Indigenous Peoples' voices at the center of global climate decision-making.

## 13th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights

Land is Life's Asia Director played a key leadership role at the 13th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, serving as the elected Co-Chair of the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus. She helped coordinate the Indigenous Peoples' session, which brought critical attention to on-

## Preparatory Meetings for COP29

In the lead-up to COP29, Land is Life supported the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) by providing multilingual interpretation during critical preparatory



going rights violations resulting from large-scale land acquisitions, especially in the context of renewable energy and extractive projects.

Her engagement fostered connections with global organizations and advanced the call for accountability from both states and corporations regarding the respect of Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, culture, and self-determination.

## Advocacy and Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples under Threat

### Maasai People of Ngorongoro and Loliondo, Tanzania

For over two years, Land is Life has provided support to the Maasai communities of Ngorongoro and Loliondo, who continue to face forced evictions and human rights violations under the guise of conservation and tourism expansion. Our contributions have included financial and legal assistance, medical support for those injured during violent evictions, and campaign coordination to amplify their voices globally. In 2024, we continued to work closely with local and international partners to raise awareness, demand accountability, and uphold the Maasai people's rights to their ancestral territories.

### UN Special Rapporteur Visit to the Philippines

We co-organized the **UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' community visit** to Kalinga Province, Philippines, from 27-30 July 2024. This event included site visits to proposed hydropower project areas and exchanges with over 50 Indigenous leaders. The visit amplified Indigenous Peoples' voices and provided a platform to advocate for their rights at a global level. The Special Rapporteur visited proposed large hydropower projects sites after which he had a learning exchange with **over 50 Indigenous leaders** from the provinces of Kalinga, Apayao and Benguet to present issues and recommendations regarding ongoing rights violations.



# Indigenous-Led Security Funds (ILSF)

Land is Life stands in solidarity with Indigenous leaders under threat, offering timely support through our Indigenous-Led Security Funds. This program provides rapid-response funding, legal assistance, and essential resources to protect Indigenous Peoples' Rights Defenders, their families, organizations, and communities.

Each region is coordinated by a group of Indigenous leaders who make funding decisions with due diligence and accountability - responding quickly, flexibly, and directly to the needs of Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders.



In 2024, our Indigenous-Led Security Funds made tangible progress on the rights of Indigenous Peoples in several key areas:

## Strengthened Community Defense and Governance

Improved the capacity of Indigenous Peoples to take collective action in defense of their territories, rights, and ways of life.

## Enhanced Advocacy

Enabled Indigenous Peoples' right defenders to participate in national and international advocacy spaces, amplifying calls for Indigenous Peoples' rights.

## Increased Protection Coordination

Fostered stronger alliances and coordination among Indigenous Peoples' organizations, while also opening dialogue with State actors to address security and rights concerns.



## Indigenous-Led Security Fund: Mesoamerica

In 2024, Land is Life provided comprehensive support to Indigenous Peoples across Mesoamerica through its Indigenous-Led Security Fund. A total of 28 rapid-response grants were deployed to support Indigenous Peoples in Nicaragua, Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico. These efforts addressed urgent needs, while also reinforcing long-term strategies for self-determination, safety, and resilience. Key actions included:

- ➔ **Legal support** for Indigenous Peoples' Rights Defenders facing persecution or displacement, such as Mayangna and Kuna leaders seeking refugee protection in Costa Rica and Guatemala.
- ➔ **Defense of territorial rights**, including support to the Chol people of Frontera Corozal and Chiapas against eviction and expropriation in Mexico.
- ➔ **Promotion of Indigenous Peoples' autonomy**, including consultations and legal accompaniment for Nahua peoples in their self-identification processes, and regional dialogues on biodiversity and climate financing within Indigenous governance frameworks.
- ➔ **Peacebuilding and political advocacy**, facilitating conflict resolution workshops with Kuna People from Panama, analyzing harmful national legislation, and developing community-based pa-

thways for implementing global biodiversity commitments in Guatemala.

- ➔ **Strengthening Mayangna Peoples' Governance**, by developing a joint action plan with Nicaragua's Attorney General's Office to advance removal of illegal invaders from Mayagna territory. The initiative fostered dialogue with government actors, secured political commitments, and activated a security fund to address urgent land conflicts. Through this initiative, we collaborated with partners to rebuild or reestablish regional Indigenous Peoples' networks to protect Mesoamerica's Five Great Forests.
- ➔ **Documenting the hazardous conditions of Miskito divers** in Nicaragua to advocate for improved safety standards and labor protections.

## Indigenous-Led Security Fund - Africa

In 2024, Land is Life continued to provide critical support through our Indigenous-Led Security Fund to Indigenous Peoples across Sub-Saharan Africa, addressing the growing threats and systemic human rights violations they face.



## Key activities included:

- ➔ **Assistance:**  
Provided legal support to Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders facing threats, false arrests, and land evictions in Malawi and Kenya.
- ➔ **Emergency Medical Support:**  
Covered medical expenses for Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders injured by security forces, including two Benet people.
- ➔ **Relocation Support:**  
Assisted Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders at risk of violence or arrest, ensuring safe relocation and continued community work.
- ➔ **Support for Indigenous Peoples' Organizations:**  
Enabled Indigenous Peoples' organizations to defend their land rights, including support for Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders activism against mining threats in South Africa and Kenya.
- ➔ **Protection for Indigenous Women and Children:**  
Funded safe houses and community awareness programs to protect Maasai girls from female genital mutilation and early marriage, providing support to over 200 Indigenous girls.

- ➔ **Cultural and Language Advocacy:**

Supported Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders advocating for the protection of linguistic and cultural heritage, including Indigenous Mbororo activists in Cameroon.

- ➔ **Support for Community-Based Conflict Resolution:**

Provided emergency assistance to Indigenous Peoples facing violent evictions and conflicts, including support for the Ogiek people in Kenya and Masai in Tanzania.

- ➔ **Strengthening Community Resilience:**

Supported hundreds of Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders to continue their land defense, human rights work, and advocacy for self-determination.

## Indigenous-Led Security Fund - Asia

In 2024, Land is Life's Indigenous-Led Security Fund continued to support Indigenous Peoples' Rights Defenders across Asia, including the Philippines, India, Nepal, Cambodia, and West Papua. It focused on capacity building, legal defense, psychological assistance, advocacy, and security support, enabling them to:

### Legal and Advocacy Support in the Philippines

Supported Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) in legal challenges against the weaponization of the Anti-Terrorism Law, defending Indigenous



Peoples' leaders from wrongful criminalization. We supported landmark legal cases contesting the designation of CPA leaders as terrorists. Also we assisted in Indigenous Peoples' struggles against mining and energy projects through advocacy campaigns and government engagement.

Emergency assistance was provided to ensure the safety and mobility of Indigenous Peoples' rights defenders of the Ifugao people facing persistent threats, harassment, and red-tagging due to her work with Indigenous Peoples. The support enabled safe mobility, legal aid, and secure communication, helping the defenders continue work with community leaders despite restrictions.

### Emergency Response in Manipur, India

Land is Life, in partnership with the **Centre for Research and Advocacy – Manipur (CRAM)**, supported Indigenous Peoples in Manipur amidst escalating armed conflict, land dispossession, and militarization. We provided urgent humanitarian assistance to thousands of displaced Indigenous individuals, including women, children, and the elderly, addressing critical needs such as food, medicine, and livelihoods. Alongside this emergency support, we worked with Indigenous Peoples to document widespread human rights violations, particularly the impacts of armed and ethnic conflict on Indigenous women and youth, who remain among the most affected.

Our collaboration with CRAM facilitated advocacy for forest and land rights, including interventions with the Manipur Human Rights Commission, the Women's Commission, and the Asian Development Bank. We supported efforts to resist development projects—such as oil exploration and wildlife sanctuaries—that threaten more than 18 villages in the Zei-

lad area. Indigenous Peoples were also mobilized to protect sacred sites and ecologically significant areas like Ipum Pat (wetland) and Nongmaiching Hills. Educational events and public discussions, including commemorations of World Wetlands Day and International Women's Day, helped to raise awareness of Indigenous Peoples' rights, the climate crisis, and the critical role of Indigenous youth in environmental protection.

### Participatory Land Mapping and Advocacy in West Papua

In 2024, Land is Life deepened its long-standing partnership with **Yayasan Anak Dusun Papua (YADUPA)** to advance the recognition and protection of Indigenous Peoples' land rights in **Waropen and Yapen Regencies**, West Papua. While Indigenous Peoples' rights are constitutionally recognized in Indonesia, they continue to face **regulatory and political obstacles** that hinder effective protection against development threats such as resource extraction and infrastructure expansion.

**To address these challenges, Land is Life supported:**

**Community-led participatory mapping initiative**, a vital process to strengthen Indigenous Peoples claims over their territories and assert their self-determination. In 2024, **detailed maps** for the **Kai, Saponi, and Busami** peoples were finalized, offering a powerful tool to define traditional territories, assert rights, and inform regional development plans.

**Economic Empowerment through Land Rights:** By reinforcing tenure security, the initiative also supported economic growth for Indigenous Peoples; particularly by developing market networks for Indigenous Peoples' products. Indigenous Women and youth played ac-



tive roles in these efforts, contributing to both community resilience and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

**Customary Institutions:** Land is Life also provided support to the Papua Customary Council, helping amplify Indigenous Peoples voices in broader dialogues on rights recognition, land defense, and sustainable development strategies rooted in traditional governance systems.

## Indigenous-Led Security Fund: Colombia

In 2024, Land is Life’s Indigenous-Led Security Fund continued to play a vital role in protecting Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights Defenders in Colombia - one of the world’s most dangerous countries for those defending land and human rights. Indigenous Peoples’ remain disproportionately affected by armed conflict, environmental destruction, and forced displacement.

In partnership with the **Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC)**, the program responded to escalating threats against Indigenous Peoples with rapid, culturally grounded support. Emergency assistance prioritized women, children, and displaced families while strengthening Indigenous Peoples’ autonomy across both Amazonian and under-supported regions of the country.

- ✓ Provided **49 emergency grants** (35 individual, 14 collective) reaching **94,495 beneficiaries.**
- ✓ Supported **25 Indigenous Peoples**, including Awa, Inga, Pastos, Murui, Embera Dobida, Embera Chami, Cuiba, Piapoco, Sikuani, Guambiano, Coca-ma, Yukuna, Nukak, Korebaju, Huitoto, Kubeo, Siriano, Bará, Carapana, Tukano, Desano, Guanano, Piratapuyo, Yurutí and Pizamira.
- ✓ Addressed critical threats such as **armed conflict, forced displacement, forced recruitment by armed groups, environmental destruction, and attacks on sacred sites.**
- ✓ Delivered **legal aid, humanitarian assistance, medical care, psychosocial support, and digital security tools** to Indigenous Peoples’ rights defenders, their families, and communities.
- ✓ Prioritized protection for **Indigenous women and children** in high-risk contexts.
- ✓ Expanded ILSF support **beyond the Amazon**, reaching neglected regions facing violence and exclusion.



“

Many of the displaced people continue to suffer health impacts. The meagre allowance for the displaced are very irregular and much insufficient. Displaced victims have dignity. Victims feel pain when ragged clothes are provided as relief. Sometimes, displaced people cry when people donate or provide help, as they are not used to this kind of life. There is much disrespect accorded by Government agencies while supporting the victims of displacement. Displaced people also face challenges from camp organizers and politicians. Support is needed for displaced to sustain their lives both psychologically, socially and economically. The minimum support provided really helped us. Beyond the support, our meeting with other women resisting militarization, despite experiencing violence, such as at Sanasabi, Sabungkhok Khunou, Thamnapokpi etc is empowering. Emergency assistance was provided to ensure

”

“

Several homes were burnt down at Sanasabi village in 2023. Sanasabi village regularly came under attack. The Meitei forest areas, which used to sustain people's livelihood are now occupied by armed groups. Now villagers can no longer cultivate their agricultural land as villagers are attacked while cultivating their land. Villagers find it difficult to even collect firewood and seasonal vegetables from forest areas. The Indian security forces occupied a brick farm at Sabungkhok Khunou. Women called for demilitarization of their land. Several women were injured after the security forces assaulted women for resisting their deployment in the brick farm at Sabungkhok Khunou. FIR filed by Yaingangpokpi police, but no justice and prosecution of those involved in the violations. Women pressed for justice and to punish the army officials involved in violence. The sharing of experience with other villages experiencing similar violence like and the resistance against militarization is empowering for us

”



## 2024 Colombia Highlight: Protecting Indigenous Youth, Reviving Culture

In response to rising Indigenous youth recruitment by armed groups, Land is Life supported the construction of the Casa de Pensamiento "IUIAI WASI"—a cultural and spiritual refuge led by the Inga people. Built through collective community work and inaugurated with traditional Yagé ceremonies, the space now serves as a hub for healing, cultural education, and protection. The initiative empowered 245 Inga youth through workshops and community programming, reinforcing Indigenous Peoples' autonomy, cultural resilience, and intergenerational strength in the face of conflict.



*Massive army movement for combing operations in wee hours around 3 PM on 12 March 2024 at Lamdeng village caused much alarm and anxiety among women folk of the village, leading to their mobilization and protest. While the women folk tried to engage the women folk, the Army unleashed brutality on the women folk. At least four women sustained injury. The law enforcing agencies failed to initiate any case or action to prosecute the Indian army personnel involved in the violations. The financial support contributes to the treatment of injuries in my leg.*



*El fondo de emergencias ha reflejado un impacto positivo y significativo para nosotros como pueblo Coreguaje ya que ha sido de mucho apoyo, pues gracias a la Organización Land Is Life, hoy en día contamos con herramientas tan importantes como son las tecnologías digitales para seguir fortaleciendo nuestras propias formas de vida. Además, este fondo ha permitido una respuesta rápida y efectiva, brindándonos recursos y asistencia al territorio en situación de emergencia, pues el estado colombiano nos ha dejado en el abandono y gracias a estos fondos nosotros podemos seguir luchando por el territorio. Estos apoyos representan un logro significativo en la preservación del derecho a la vida, así como en el fortalecimiento de la autonomía y la resiliencia de nuestro resguardo indígena de San Rafael, pueblo Coreguaje*

**Traditional Leader**





“

*Con el apoyo de carácter social y humanitario de las dos organizaciones, hicieron que mi familia se adapte con tranquilidad en otro territorio indígena donde no hay presencia de grupos al margen de la ley, de igual manera la adecuación de la vivienda, también seguir practicando y compartiendo la medicina*

**Traditional Healer**

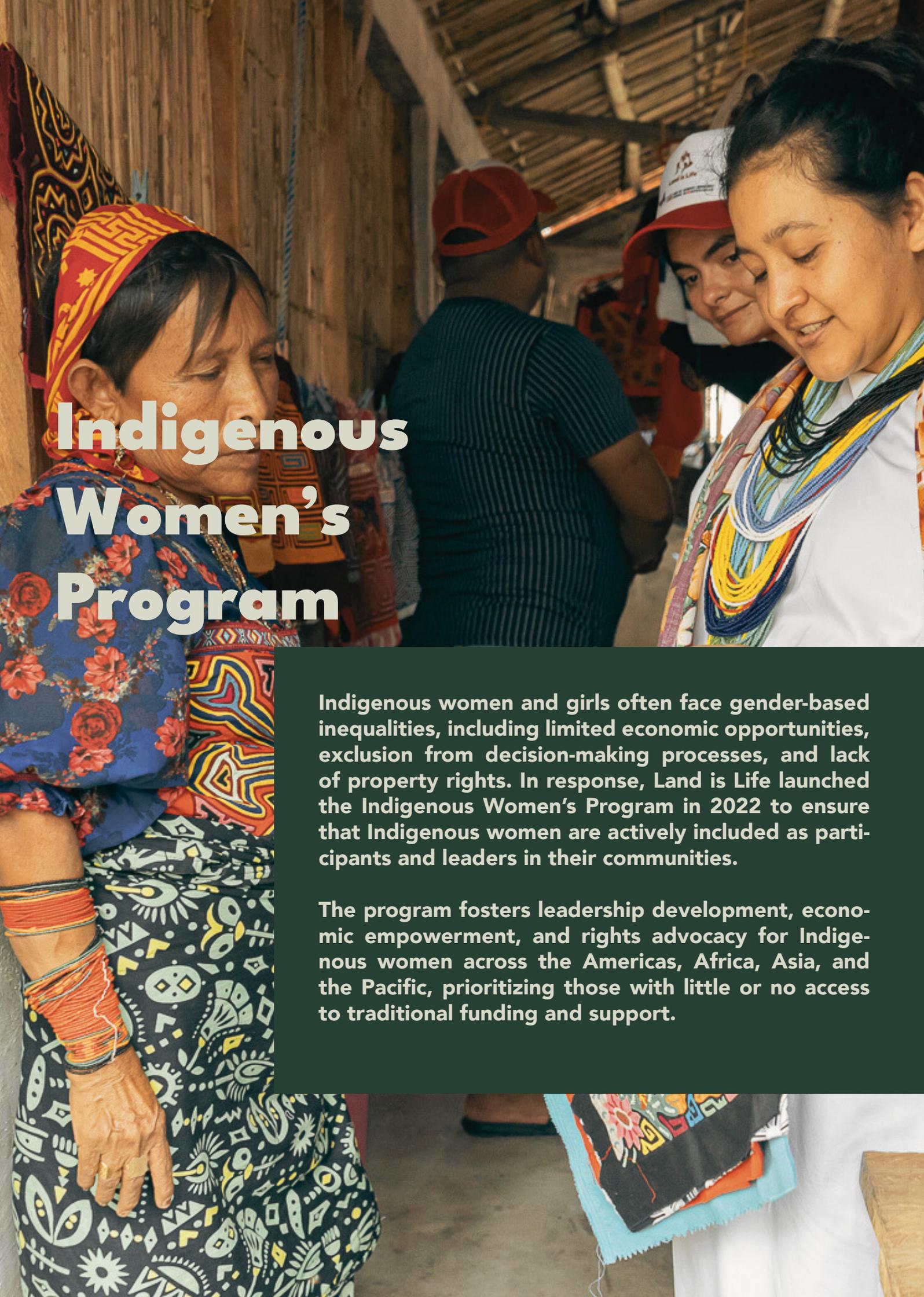
”

“

*Quiero expresar mi profundo agradecimiento a la organización Land Is Life por su invaluable apoyo humanitario. Tengo la esperanza de que, a través de su programa, puedan extender su ayuda a más familias indígenas en nuestro país, ya que realmente necesitamos este tipo de respaldo. Gracias por contribuir positivamente a nuestras comunidades y por brindar esperanza a quienes más lo necesitan*

**Community Leader**

”



# Indigenous Women's Program

Indigenous women and girls often face gender-based inequalities, including limited economic opportunities, exclusion from decision-making processes, and lack of property rights. In response, Land is Life launched the Indigenous Women's Program in 2022 to ensure that Indigenous women are actively included as participants and leaders in their communities.

The program fosters leadership development, economic empowerment, and rights advocacy for Indigenous women across the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, prioritizing those with little or no access to traditional funding and support.



In 2024, our Indigenous Women's Program advanced the rights of Indigenous women in several key areas:

## Expanded direct support to Indigenous Women's Organizations

in six countries across Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, strengthening economic empowerment, leadership, and environmental defense through community-led initiatives.

## Launched the second cohort of the Indigenous Women's Fellowship

supporting five young Indigenous women leaders from diverse regions to implement transformative projects on land rights, climate justice, and gender equality within their communities.

## Engaged over 1,500 participants through 10 global online trainings

Fostered stronger alliances and building knowledge and advocacy capacity on key issues such as food sovereignty, women's health, biodiversity, and the rights of Indigenous women under international frameworks.



## Support for Indigenous Women-Led Organizations

In 2024, Land is Life provided support to **six Indigenous women-led organizations** across diverse regions, including the Andes (Ecuador), the Amazon (Colombia and Peru), Guna Yala (Panama), Ngorongoro (Tanzania), and West Papua. These projects advanced Indigenous women’s leadership, economic resilience, environmental protection, and access to justice:

### Mola Dibanan Galu Women’s Cooperative – Kuna Yala, Panama



**Description:** Newly constructed workshop for the Mola Dibanan Galu Women’s Cooperative, enabling production of traditional molas and serving as a marketplace for their artwork.

Successfully built the “Casa de la Mola,” a center for crafting, selling molas, and hosting Indigenous women’s gatherings, enhancing economic opportunities and cultural preservation.

### Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas Protectoras de la Madre Tierra (AMIPMTAC) – Colombia

Provided cassava splitters and a cargo motorcycle to improve market access and value-added production, supporting household economies in remote areas to make value-added products from their crops and transport them to market.”



**Description:** AMIPMTAC’s Cassava splitters arriving in the communities.

### Pastoralist Women Council (PWC) – Tanzania

Delivered emergency food support and livelihood recovery aid to 400 Maasai women affected by eviction and rights violations in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, strengthening the resilience and well-being of these women and their communities.





### Indigenous Women Organization of the Namblong Tribe (ORPA) – West Papua, Indonesia

Reforested ancestral lands and protected forests within the traditional territory of the Namblong people impacted by palm oil companies, involving Indigenous women, youth, and children in environmental stewardship.

### Autonomous Territorial Government of the Chapra Nation – Peru

Provided legal counseling and emergency protection for Indigenous women facing gender-based violence in 25 Chapra communities in Datem del Marañón, Loreto, and threats due to resistance against extractive industries.

## Indigenous Women’s Fellowship

Our 12-month-long Indigenous Women’s Fellowship welcomed its second cohort in 2024, empowering young Indigenous women leaders to drive transformative change in their communities through initiatives focused on gender equity, environmental justice, and land rights. Our fellows from the second cohort were:



### Aicha Walet Ahmed Mali

Trained 40 Tuareg women on Indigenous Peoples' rights, territory, land, and natural resources, strengthening their leadership and alliances with human rights organizations. Despite challenges such as insecurity and transportation difficulties, the project succeeded in strengthening the voice and organization of Tuareg women to defend their rights.

Watch the video



**Description:** Preparatory meeting with members of the Chat Akal Indigenous Association of Tinzawaten.



### Audrey Corce the Philippines

Led community legal education and awareness sessions on Indigenous Peoples' rights, FPIC, and climate justice, empowering 60 Indigenous women from Ifugao to resist harmful infrastructure projects.

Watch the video



**Description:** Indigenous women harvesting corn at Barangay Bimpal.



### Carmen del Rocío Chalán Yumbopatin Ecuador

Advanced Chibuleo women's food sovereignty through ancestral knowledge, medicinal plants, and territorial management, benefiting 50 Chibuleo women.

Watch the video



**Description:** Workshop on Self-Determination and Food Sovereignty held at the San Miguel community on September 9th 2024.



### Eunice Chepkemai

Kenya

Promoted renewable energy through improved cooking stoves for Ogiek women, reducing firewood dependence and enhancing women's time and income security. Over 1,000 Ogiek women were directly and indirectly supported.

Watch the video



**Description:** Training on the construction of cooking stoves.



### Nerieth Isabel Becerra

Jacanamejoy

Colombia

Strengthened leadership and digital capacities for 20 Inga women and indirectly impacted over 400 Inga families from the Yunguillo Indigenous Reservation in Putumayo through workshops. As a result of the fellowship, these Inga women formalized their own Indigenous women's organization.

Watch the video



**Description:** Participants engaged in a dynamic training session focused on empowering Indigenous women as leaders and defenders of their territories.



## Indigenous Women's Program Trainings

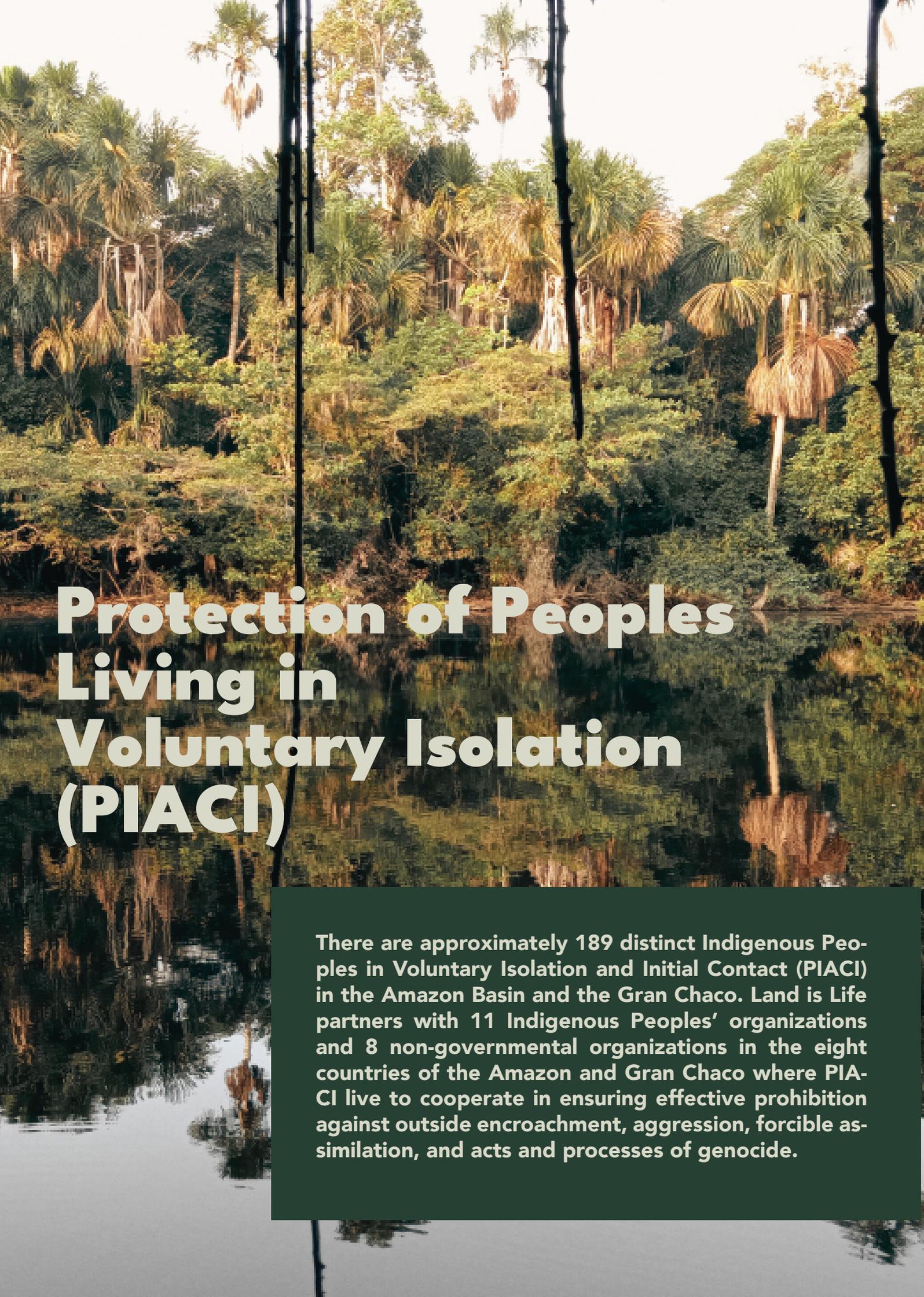
### Monthly Online Trainings

Land is Life hosted **10 public online training sessions**, held monthly, to strengthen the capacity of Indigenous women and their allies to advance gender justice and Indigenous Peoples' rights. These sessions engaged over **1,500 participants**, including Indigenous women and men, donors, allies, and academic partners, from across the globe. Topics addressed urgent and strategic issues such as **health and well-being, food sovereignty, the Convention on Biological Diversity, CEDAW General Recommendation 39, and the impacts of critical mineral extraction** on Indigenous Peoples' territories and livelihoods.

### In-person Regional Gathering in Guna Yala, Panama

From March 8th-12th 2024, Land is Life convened an in-person training in the Indigenous Comarca of Kuna Yala, in Panama, in partnership with **The Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity**. The event also marked the official launch of the fellowship's second cohort. It was attended by over twenty Indigenous women from Mexico, Ecuador, Kenya, Colombia and Panama. Participants engaged in discussions about the empowerment of women and youth in decision-making processes, including negotiations of the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions.





# Protection of Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation (PIACI)

There are approximately 189 distinct Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) in the Amazon Basin and the Gran Chaco. Land is Life partners with 11 Indigenous Peoples' organizations and 8 non-governmental organizations in the eight countries of the Amazon and Gran Chaco where PIACI live to cooperate in ensuring effective prohibition against outside encroachment, aggression, forcible assimilation, and acts and processes of genocide.



## Protection of Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI):

### Emergency Response

Provided rapid support in Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Ecuador, including monitoring tools, food, medical aid, and legal advocacy to address urgent threats.

### Regional Leadership

Coordinated efforts across eight countries, strengthened international advocacy and helped shape collective strategies to enhance PIACI protection at the regional and cross-border levels.

### Global Advocacy

Led global campaigns and active participation in high-level UN forums, raised visibility of the urgent threats facing PIACI, and advocated for stronger international policies to uphold their rights and ensure their survival.



## Emergency Response to PIACI

In 2024, Land is Life’s PIACI Emergency Fund supported urgent response efforts to protect PIACI territories and neighboring Indigenous communities. Through 20 grants issued across Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador, we enabled Indigenous Peoples to implement targeted interventions to protect PIACI. Key achievements included:

- **Equipped communities with essential tools to enhance the monitoring of PIACI territories and establish checkpoints along rivers, effectively combating the invasion by illegal loggers, miners, and other threats.**
- **Equipping communities with GPS and satellite internet tools for real-time territorial monitoring.** In Peru, support to **ORAU** strengthened the Kakataibo Indigenous Guard with GPS equipment and monitoring tools. FECONAFROPU hosted regional assemblies to develop action plans to strengthen territorial management and the defense of the rights of the PIACI.
- **Delivering food and essential supplies.**
- **Providing medical assistance and security support to Indigenous Peoples’ leaders facing threats due to their defense of PIACI rights.** In **Paraguay and Ecuador** continuous assistance was provided to Indigenous

Peoples’ leaders defending the PIACI and their territories.

- **In Bolivia, funding enabled political and legal advocacy to implement the Free, Prior and Informed Consent Protocol in the Tacana II territory, threatened by the construction of the Ixiamas-Chivé highway, which affected the living areas of the PIACI on the Madre de Dios River.**

## GTI-PIACI Secretariat

Land is Life played a key role in the establishment of the International Working Group for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (GTI-PIACI), serving as the Secretariat for four years, leading international, regional, and cross-border efforts and actions to protect Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation in the Amazon and the Gran Chaco.





### As GTI-PIACI Secretariat, Land is Life:

- ✓ Played a pivotal role in expanding GTI-PIACI membership, strengthening legal advocacy in Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru, and advancing legal recognition and territorial protection mechanisms.
- ✓ Secured the inclusion of **four key PIACI-related recommendations** in the reports of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;
- ✓ Facilitated **high-level engagement with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**,
- ✓ Organized awareness-raising panels at International meetings, such as climate change and biodiversity COPs, Amazon Summit, EMRIP, UNPFII advocating for international recognition of PIACI rights;
- ✓ Convened cross-border coordination, threat monitoring, and training sessions in **Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia**.

- ✓ **Convened annual GTI-PIACI Assemblies.** In 2024, the annual meeting took place in Bogotá, Colombia. The meeting gathered 48 representatives from 18 organizations across 8 countries, alongside key Colombian authorities and international allies. During the meeting, we handed over the Secretariat to the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT); established a new Indigenous-Led Political Council; developed a Strategic Plan (2024–2025) to address emerging PIACI threats, particularly around illegal extractive industries; held high-level dialogues with the Chair of the UNPFII and the UN Special Rapporteur, reinforcing global commitment to PIACI protection; and engaged Colombian government officials in critical discussions on national protection policy.

## Campaigns and Advocacy

On **International Indigenous Peoples Day (August 9)**, Land is Life launched a global campaign demanding recognition of PIACI rights, upholding the principle of no contact, and enforcing protective policies. The campaign featured leading Indigenous Peoples voices—including **Julio Cusurichi (Peru)**, **Alicia Cahuiya (Ecuador)**, and **Taguide Picanerai (Paraguay)**—calling for urgent, coordinated action.

At the **UN Expert Group Meeting on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including those in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact, in the context of critical mineral extraction**, Land is Life's Executive Director emphasized the disproportionate impact of extractive industries on PIACI and advocated for the **strengthening of UN Protection Guidelines** to ensure PIACI survival and sovereignty in the face of growing global threats.



# Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)



Our goal in promoting Indigenous-Led FPIC protocols, is to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are able to make decisions based on their own priorities, procedures, and governance systems. Establishing robust standards for FPIC processes contributes to improved development outcomes, conflict resolution, healthier communities, and enhanced environmental protection.



**In 2024, Land is Life supported Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador and Bolivia to develop and implement community-led FPIC protocols rooted in traditional governance and decision-making systems:**

## **Community-Led FPIC Protocols**

Land is Life supported Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador and Bolivia to develop and implement their own Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols, grounded in traditional governance and decision-making systems.

## **Legal and Political Advocacy**

We facilitated Indigenous Peoples' efforts to present FPIC protocols to national courts and international bodies, advancing Indigenous Peoples' rights and legal recognition of their self-determined processes.

## **Regional Movement Building**

Through partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, Land is Life helped strengthen territorial governance and collective strategies to resist external pressures and assert the right to self-determination.



## Sarayaku people (Ecuador)

Land is Life worked in close partnership with the Kichwa community of Sarayaku to develop an FPIC protocol rooted in ancestral decision-making systems. The process involved community elders, women, youth, and leaders, alongside legal experts and neighboring Kichwa communities. The protocol was presented before Ecuador's Constitutional Court during a public hearing in Sinangoe to establish criteria of jurisprudence regarding free, prior and informed consent in Ecuador.

Now recognized as law within Sarayaku territory, the protocol will next be presented to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to demand compliance by the Ecuadorian State with past rulings. In 2024, Sarayaku also participated in a historic forum in Pastaza that united four emblematic Indigenous Peoples' legal cases—Sarayaku, Sinangoe, Piatúa, and Waorani—spotlighting non-compliance by the state and advocating for Indigenous Peoples' participation in shaping FPIC legislation. Land is Life provided technical and logistical support throughout these efforts.

**Photo 1 (left):** Press conference on emblematic cases at the Sarmiento hotel

**Photo 2 (right, top):** Exhibition of emblematic cases at the Pastaza cultural center

**Photo 3 (right, bottom):** Speakers and authorities present at the panel discussion





## Tacana people (Bolivia)

Over the past two years, Land is Life has worked with the Central Indígena de Comunidades Tacana II del Río Madre de Dios (CITRMD) to design and formalize their FPIC protocol, approved as law by the Tacana people in April 2023. In 2024, the protocol was applied in response to the proposed Ixiamas–Chivé road, which threatens Tacana people’s territory and the rights of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation.

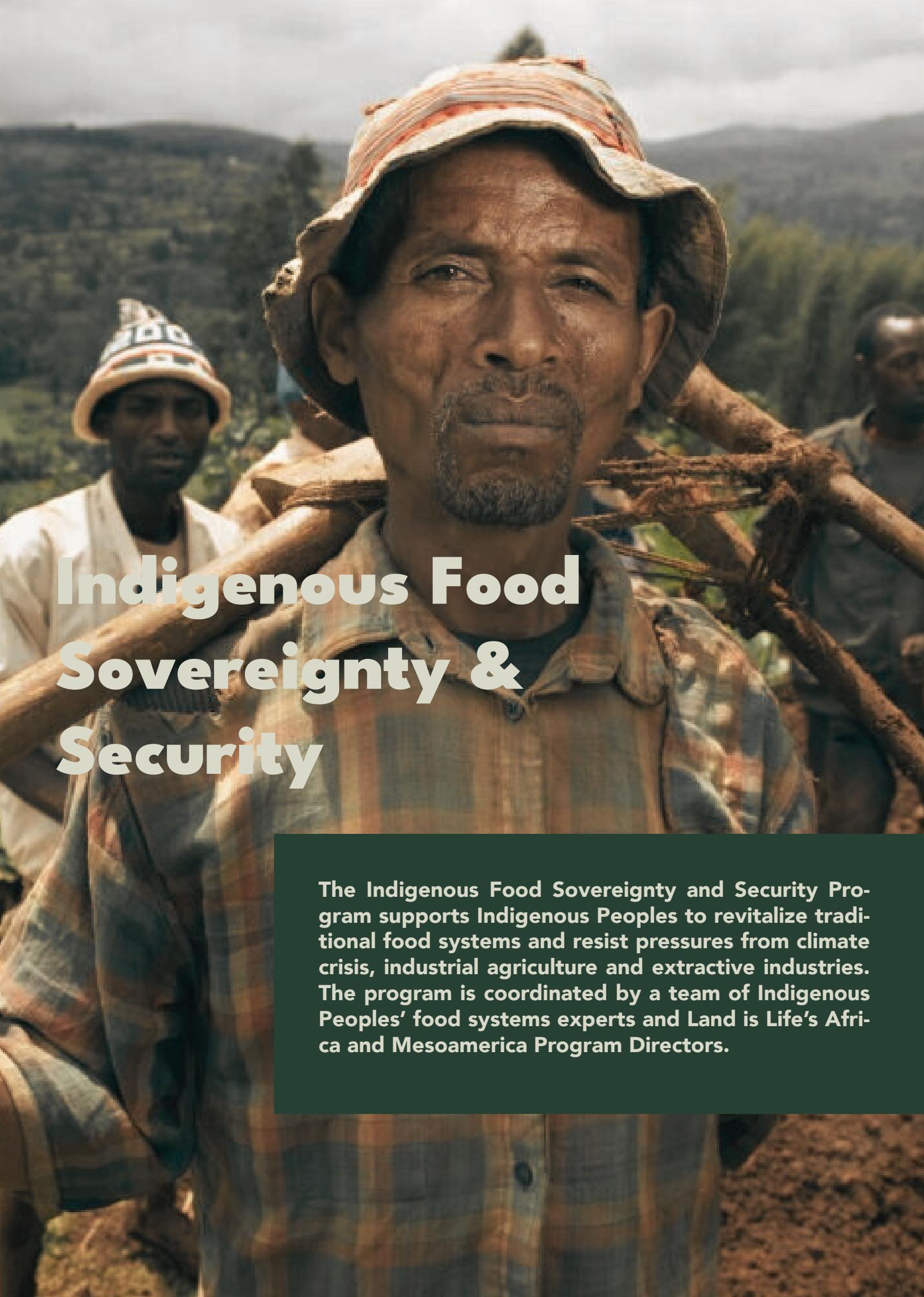
In July 2024, CITRMD and Land is Life held meetings in La Paz with parliamentarians, Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, and international actors including the Inter-American Development Bank. The Tacana II protocol was presented as a model for securing meaningful consent and as a legal safeguard against inconsistent and inadequate state-led consultations.



## Kichwa Nation of Pastaza - PAKKIRU (Ecuador):

Land is Life partnered with PAKKIRU, a federation representing 153 Kichwa communities in Pastaza Province, to initiate the development of a regional FPIC protocol. At the federation’s General Assembly in June, 379 participants—including Indigenous youth, leaders, and community guards—gathered in Boberas to reflect on shared priorities and challenges. The Assembly unanimously approved the development of the protocol, reinforcing collective self-determination across four communities Santa Clara, Mera, Arajuno, and Pastaza and 1.1 million hectares of ancestral territory.





# Indigenous Food Sovereignty & Security

The Indigenous Food Sovereignty and Security Program supports Indigenous Peoples to revitalize traditional food systems and resist pressures from climate crisis, industrial agriculture and extractive industries. The program is coordinated by a team of Indigenous Peoples' food systems experts and Land is Life's Africa and Mesoamerica Program Directors.



In 2024, Land is Life has continued its commitment to advancing food security for Indigenous Peoples through targeted initiatives that strengthen food sovereignty, enhance climate resilience, and empower local communities. Key achievements include:

## Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems

Through agroecological practices and projects that enable Indigenous Peoples to maintain and revitalize their food sovereignty in the face of threats from climate change and industrial agriculture.

## Supporting Climate Adaptation

Projects that promote climate-resilient food systems, livestock restocking, post-harvest innovations, and sustainable farming techniques, directly benefiting Indigenous Peoples.

## Capacity Building and Economic Empowerment

Through training in agro-ecology, seed saving and food processing, promoting economic empowerment and reducing dependence on external agricultural inputs.



## Sub-Saharan Africa – Indigenous-Led Agroecology Fund

The Agroecology Fund has become a powerful mechanism to support Indigenous Peoples across Sub-Saharan Africa in restoring traditional food systems and adapting to climate change, providing support to Indigenous Peoples in Ghana, Kenya, Cameroon, Tanzania, and Burundi.

Takla Community Development Organization (East Ghana, Ando Indigenous People) focused on climate resilience and livestock development. The organization provided 63 households with high-quality West African Dwarf (WAD) goats, veterinary training, medication, and necessary equipment. 70 Indigenous women and youth received training on climate change and sustainable food production. The result: zero goat mortality, increased household breeding capacity, and heightened community awareness of food security and climate adaptation.

Akpini Women Development Group (South-East Ghana, Akpini Indigenous People) implemented post-harvest innovation strategies. Around 100 Indigenous Peoples' farmers -men, women, and youth - received improved seeds, cuttings, fertilizers, and training on drying and storage techniques. Hermetic containers and tarpaulins were distributed, helping reduce crop losses, especially from weevil infestation in maize. The initiative significantly improved produce quality and strengthened farmers' post-harvest management skills using simple,

effective technologies.

Volta Young Farmers Association (Southern Ghana, Ewe Indigenous People) addressed market access and food processing. The project supported over 70 Indigenous Peoples' farmers with equipment and training in food processing, packaging, and marketing. These interventions helped improve product quality and safety while boosting the value of Indigenous Peoples' crops. They gained access to both rural and urban markets, building economic resilience and expanding their livelihoods. Across all initiatives, the program has directly benefited over 200 Indigenous Peoples' households in West, East, and Central Africa. Moving forward, the focus will remain on deepening local capacity, promoting intergenerational knowledge-sharing, and scaling up these

efforts to reach more Indigenous communities. By prioritizing agroecological practices, the program continues to foster resilience, economic empowerment, and food sovereignty, while reducing reliance on external agricultural inputs.





## Mesoamerica Food Systems Strengthening in Nicaragua

Land is Life supported agroecological restoration of the Miskito people's communities of Tuapi, Karata, Dakban, and Yulutingni. The project delivered technical assistance and training in agronomic practices such as field verification, crop monitoring, drainage management, and pest control. In Yulutingni, 5.5 hectares of land were rehabilitated with diverse traditional crops, including cassava, sugarcane, malanga, quequisque, and plantains. The communities also engaged in participatory mapping and the creation of food access calendars rooted in ancestral land-use knowledge. These efforts not only enhanced food security and resilience but also strengthened community cohesion and the role of traditional knowledge in sustainable farming practices.



Photo: Community workshop in Yulutingni



## Miskito Divers

Starting in 2023, Land is Life began an initiative to address the issue of increased Indigenous Miskito divers with disabilities, caused by the dangerous fishing industry along the Honduras and Nicaragua coastline. The initiative focuses on **improving the conditions and rights of Miskito fishermen and divers**. In 2024, we conducted a comprehensive assessment of the living conditions of Miskito divers with disabilities in Nicaragua.

## Indigenous Women Advancing Agroecology

The Organización de Mujeres CTI Lainasta in the Lainasta territory of Honduras' Moskitia region. This Indigenous women-led effort focused on strengthening agroecological food production in a flood-prone area within the Karataska Lagoon system. Through participatory workshops and field visits, community members assessed the conditions of local agricultural systems, emphasizing soil health, crop productivity, and traditional medicinal plants. Indigenous women were supported in developing family gardens located closer to their homes, reducing labor burdens and improving household food security.

# Communications





In order to position Land is Life as a coalition of Indigenous Peoples that works directly with them to advance self-determination and collective rights, and to raise awareness about the challenges they face in exercising collective rights, Land is Life implemented an external communications strategy that includes actions such as:

## → Creation of content for social media by:

- Strategizing on what type of content aligns with the organization's mission and resonates with the audience.
- Designing visual and written content that captures attention and effectively communicates our programs.
- Adapting the content to fit the specific format and requirements of different digital platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and X.
- Ensuring that the content is engaging and prompts interaction from viewers, whether that's through comments, shares, likes, or other forms of engagement.

## → Engaging with media

**Journalist Training on Covering Indigenous Peoples' Issues and Climate Change**  
In September 2024, Land is Life, in partnership with the Indigenous Journalists Association, hosted a global webinar to train journalists on effectively and respectfully reporting on Indigenous Peoples in the context of climate change. The training highlighted how Indigenous Peoples from the Arctic to the Amazon are disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, while playing key roles in global advocacy for climate and biodiversity. The session featured Indigenous experts sharing best practices for accurate and culturally sensitive journalism. The event was attended by journalists, media professionals, and allies from around the world.

## → Updating the website

**Launched Our New Website: We completed a full website redesign in 2024 to better showcase our global work. Explore the new site here**



# Our Partners

---



2024 was a year of growth, collaboration, and meaningful impact for Land is Life. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the partners, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, and funders whose support has made our work possible.

## Indigenous Peoples' Organizations

Our partnerships form the foundation of our mission. This year, we had the privilege of partnering with the following Indigenous Peoples' organizations that continue guide and inspire our work:

1. APRN/BEPB All We Can, Burundi, Africa
2. Association Green Development Advocates, Cameroon, Africa
3. Inades-Formation Cameroon, Cameroon, Africa
4. Forum Des Femmes Autochtones Du
5. Cameroon (CAIWOF), Cameroon, Africa
6. Droits de la Femme et Environnement Sain, DRC, Africa
7. Dignité Pygmée (DIPY), DRC, Africa
8. Akpini Women Development Group, Ghana, Africa
9. Takla Community Development Organization, Ghana, Africa
10. Volta Young Farmers Association, Ghana, Africa
11. Enkishon Indigenous Initiative, Kenya, Africa
12. Ogiek Peoples' Development Program, Kenya, Africa
13. Haki Nawiri Afrika Limited, Kenya, Africa
14. Naramat Ilmareita CBO, Kenya, Africa
15. NARASAA Welfare Group SHG, Kenya, Africa
16. Ogiek Peoples' Development Program (OPDP), Kenya, Africa
17. Zefsa, Malawi, Africa
18. Association Tinhinan, Mali, Africa
19. Global Environmental Trust - CWA, South Africa, Africa
20. Osiligi Women and Conservation Group OLALAA, Tanzania, Africa
21. Pastoral Women's Council, Tanzania, Africa
22. Benet Mosop Community Association, Uganda, Africa
23. Zefsa, Malawi, Africa
24. Centre for Research and Advocacy, Manipur, India, Asia
25. United Voluntary Youth Council, India, Asia
26. Indigenous Peoples Movement for Self Determination and Liberation (IPMSDL), Philippines, Asia
27. Innabuyog, Philippines, Asia
28. Sanctuary of Marifel, Philippines, Asia
29. Yayasan Anak Dusun Papua (YADUPA), West Papua, Indonesia, Asia
30. West Papua Merdeka Support Network, West Papua, Indonesia, Asia
31. Cedar Rock Alliance, Global, Global
32. Donald Rojas, Costa Rica, Mesoamerica
33. Consejo Coordinador Nacional Indígena Salvadoreño - CCNIS, El Salvador, Mesoamerica
34. Asociación Bajareque, Guatemala, Mesoamerica
35. Consorcio de Organizaciones Indígenas, Guatemala, Mesoamerica
36. Asociación Aq'ab'al, Guatemala, Mesoamerica
37. Centro de Derechos Humanos Zeferino Ladrillero A.C., Mexico, Mesoamerica
38. Preparatoria Paulo Freire de Huehuetla, Puebla, Mexico, Mesoamerica
39. Red de Guardianes de la Milpa y la Biodiversidad, Mexico, Mesoamerica
40. Escuelita del Agua Mexico, Mexico, Mesoamerica
41. Pueblo Indígena Nahua de las comunidades de San Sebastian Xolalpan y San Francisco Mazapa, Mexico, Mesoamerica
42. Comunidad de Patihuitz, Mexico, Mesoamerica
43. Milpa Colectivo, Mexico, Mesoamerica
44. Ka Kuxtal Much' Meyaj A.C.; Mexico, Mesoamerica
45. Gobierno Comunitario de Sacun Palma Chiapas, Mexico, Mesoamerica
46. Proyecto de Desarrollo Rural Integral Vicente Guerrero AC, Mexico, Mesoamerica
47. Red Indígena de Turismo de México A C (RITA), Mexico, Mesoamerica
48. Kurhikua ka irekuarikua A.C., Mexico, Mesoamerica
49. Pueblo chol de Frontera Corozal, Mexico, Mesoamerica
50. Comunidades del Territorio Tawira, Nicaragua, Mesoamerica
51. Foundation Red de Mujeres Indigenas sobre Biodiversidad, Panama, Mesoamerica
52. Fundación Para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena, Panama, Mesoamerica
53. Sheryl Lightfoot, Canada, North America
54. The Cultural Conservancy/Sacred Land Foundation, U.S., North America
55. Comunidades Indígenas Tacana II del Río Madre de Dios, Bolivia, South America
56. Instituto Memória e Ciência Indígena (IMCI), Brazil, South America
57. Asociación de Autoridades Tradicionales UWA, Colombia, South America
58. Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas Protectoras de la Madre Tierra de Amazonas Colombia (AMIPMTAC), Colombia, South America
59. Resguardo Inga de Yungillo, Colombia, South America



60. Organización Wiwa Yugumaiun Bunkuanarrua Tayrona, Colombia, South America
61. Aso de Mujeres Cumbalenas Tejedoras de Suenos y Saberes, Colombia, South America
62. Asociación de Autoridades Indígenas del Municipio de Solano Caquetá - Asimc, Colombia, South America
63. Asociación de Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas, Colombia, South America
64. Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas de Bajo Caqueta, Colombia, South America
65. Asociación Mujeres de Mi Tierra Tutuari May, Colombia, South America
66. Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas, Colombia, South America
67. Resguardo Indígena Sikuni de Métiwa Guacamayas, Colombia, South America
68. Cabildo Indígena de Yunguillo, Colombia, South America
69. Cabildo Indígena Inga San Carlos, Colombia, South America
70. Resguardo Indígena Jerico Consaya, Colombia, South America
71. Organización Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Amazonía Colombiana (OPIAC), Colombia, South America
72. Comunidad San Rafael, Colombia, South America
73. Resguardo Indígena Chololobo Matatu, Colombia, South America
74. Huarani Nation of Ecuador, Ecuador, South America
75. Sapara Women's Association, Ecuador, South America
76. Proyecto de artesanías Chaquira el "Puglla", Ecuador, South America
77. Nina Kamak, Ecuador, South America
78. El Pueblo Chibuleo, Ecuador, South America
79. Makipurashun, Ecuador, South America
80. HIWA SC Medicinal Plant Infusions, Ecuador, South America
81. Pueblo Ancestral Kichwa de Kawsak Sacha, Ecuador, South America
82. Hatun Sacha, Ecuador, South America
83. Hampiriyacha, Ecuador, South America
84. Granmusara, Ecuador, South America
85. Union de Comunidades y Organizaciones de San Lucas, Ecuador, Ecuador, South America
86. Allyupura Hampinawasi, Ecuador, South America
87. Angla Kawsay, Ecuador, South America
88. Muyundi, Ecuador, South America
89. Mishki Kawsay, Ecuador, South America
90. Pastaza Kikin Kichwa Runakuna (PAKKIRU), Ecuador, South America
91. Pueblo Originario Kichwa De Sarayaku, Ecuador, South America
92. Runa Rimay, Ecuador, South America
93. Organización Payipie Ichadie Totobiegosode, Paraguay, South America
94. Federación de Comunidades Nativas Fronterizas del Putumayo, Peru, South America.
95. Organización Regional AIDSESP Ucayali (ORAU), Peru, South America.
96. Gobierno Territorial Autónomo de la Nación Chapra (GTANCH).

---

**Together, we've tackled critical challenges, from protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples in isolation to addressing environmental and humanitarian crises worldwide.**

---

# Funders

---



**A special thanks to our funders,  
whose generosity fuels our initiatives  
and strengthens our capacity to  
create lasting change.**

**We look forward to continuing our shared journey in the  
years to come. Thank you for standing with us in support of  
Indigenous Peoples' rights and sustainable futures.**

# Our Team

---

## Board of Directors

---



# Our Team

- Aeisatu Bouba - Africa ILSF Advisor
- Ana Amaguaña - Indigenous Women Program Coordinator
- Carlos Mendoza Blanco - Mesoamerica Program Coordinator
- Fausto Daniel Santi Gualinga - FPIC Coordinator
- Jadder Lewis - Mesoamerica Program Director
- Jemimah Kerenge - Africa Program Director
- Jiten Yumnam - Strategic - Advisor for South Asia
- Julian Hernández - Fundraising Manager
- Julie Hooks - Director of Finance
- Karlo "Carlo" Lumban Raja - South-East Asia Program Assistant
- Killa Becerra Jacanamejoy - Amazon Basin Coordinator
- Leonida Odongo - Africa Food Sovereignty Advisor
- Luisa Castaneda Quintana - Executive Director
- María Camila Alzate Férez - Global Communications Manager
- Sarah "Bestang" Dekdeken - Asia Program Director
- Zaira Zambelli Taveira - Operations and Program Manager

## Board of Directors

- Anne Nuorgam
- Brian Keane
- Cecilia Baltazar
- Marcos Terena
- Mariam Wallet Mohamed Aboubakrine

# Gratitude

---



**Annual report team:** Ana Amaguaña, Brian Keane, Carlos Mendoza Blanco, Jemimah Kerenge, Jiten Yumnam, Julie Hooks, Katherine Freitag, Luisa Castaneda-Quintana, María Camila Alzate Férez, Sarah “Bestang” Dekdeken, and Zaira Zambelli Taveira.

**Design:** Daniela Alzate



**Land is Life**