

LEGAL AID *for Amazonia*

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ARONSON FELLOWSHIP

MENTOR MIKE HARRINGTON

ONGOING PROJECT IN DEVELOPMENT – CONFIDENTIAL – PLEASE DO NOT SHARE.

**ABOUT THE
PROJECT**

**GUIDING
PRINCIPLES**

**PROBLEMS TO
ADDRESS**

OBJECTIVES

HOW TO?

TIME LINE

COMPETITION?

Q&A

About

The Legal Aid for Amazonia is an interdisciplinary initiative and network dedicated to uplifting and empowering indigenous Amazonian communities and graduate students through legal support and care-based advocacy, bridging the north and south.



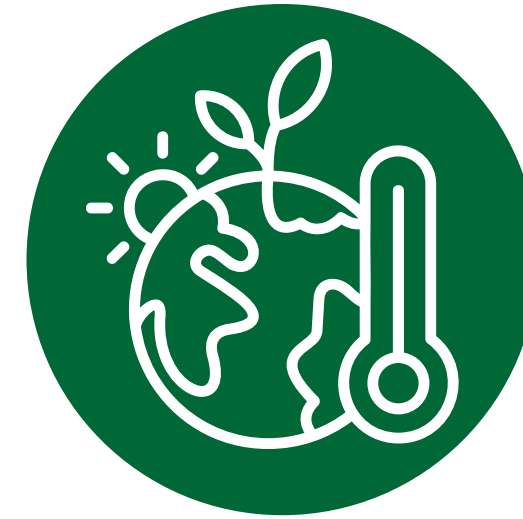
**ENVIRONMENTAL
CARE**



**ALTERNATIVE-LED
CONSERVATION**



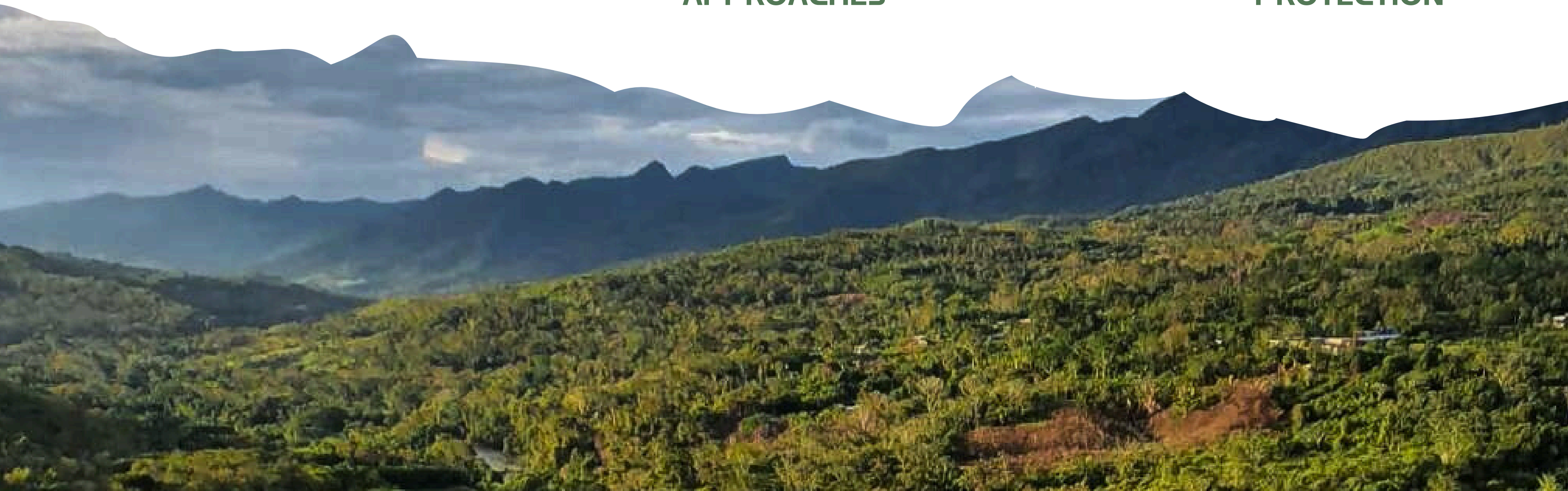
**DECOLONIAL
& COMMUNITY
APPROACHES**



**CLIMATE
JUSTICE**

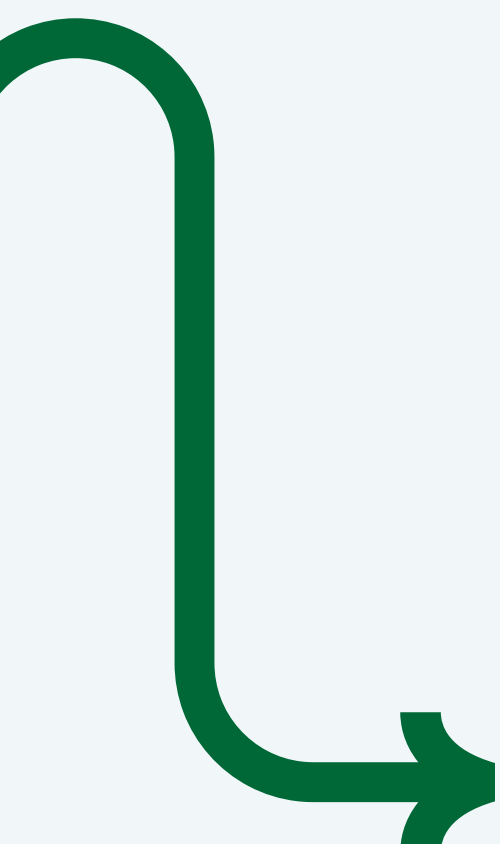


**INDIGENOUS
RIGHTS & LAND
PROTECTION**



Problems



- 
- 01 Criminalization and threats to defenders
 - 02 Ecosystem destruction
 - 03 Lack/insufficient legal & financial support
 - 04 Ethnic & gender-based challenges

**AN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST IS
MURDERED EVERY TWO DAYS IN THE
WORLD (GLOBAL WITNESS, 2023)**



**18% OF AMAZON FORESTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY
LOST AND AN ADDITIONAL 17% ARE DEGRADED.
DATA FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2022 SHOWS THAT THE
LOSS CONTINUES TO GROW (WWF, 2022)**



**SOUTH AMERICA IS BEING RAVAGED BY FIRE (...)
BREAKING A PREVIOUS RECORD FOR THE NUMBER OF
BLAZES SEEN IN A YEAR UP TO SEPT. 11. SATELLITE
DATA ANALYZED BY BRAZIL'S SPACE RESEARCH
AGENCY INPE HAS REGISTERED 346,112 FIRE
HOTSPOTS SO FAR THIS YEAR IN ALL 13 COUNTRIES
OF SOUTH AMERICA, TOPPING THE EARLIER 2007
RECORD OF 345,322 HOTSPOTS IN A DATA SERIES
THAT GOES BACK TO 1998. (REUTERS)**



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS DENOUNCED A DIFFERENTIATED USE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN LEADERS AND DEFENDERS, AND AN INCREASED USE OF TARGETED GENDERED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AS A STRATEGY TO PRESSURE THEM AWAY FROM THEIR LANDS AND TOWARDS CITIES, MAKING WAY FOR EXTRACTIVE ACTIVITIES.



Objectives

Interdisciplinary Legal and
Care-Based Support

Strengthen Indigenous
Leadership, focus on
empowering women & Re-
center academia with student
leadership/commitment

Co-create community-led
legal / interdisciplinary
strategies that integrate
Indigenous knowledge and
care practices.

Bridging Global South –
North with advocacy
and solidarity

How to?

- Direct engagement between TNS community and Amazon communities, highlighting the critical need for accessible legal aid and financial aid.
- Legal-interdisciplinary support that nurtures environmental guardianship and community empowerment.
- Knowledge, care, land and law to empower and defend.

*“Estudiar y luchar es deber estudiantil”
(Study and fight is students duty)*

Activities

Current activities

Expanding efforts

**Direct support via
NGOs & Government**

Relationship building with NGOs &
government bodies
Proposals for legal & financial aid

Recruit legal/interdisciplinary volunteers
Develop regional coordinators
Foster direct indigenous leader engagement

Workshops / training

Workshops on human rights, children
rights and gender-based violence with
emphasis in Amazon

Partner with universities for pro-bono support
Needs assessment & design
Mentorships program

**Legal reports &
Press Notes**

Data collection with federations, leaders &
lawyers. Standarized report/press
releases/aid drafting

Engage with social media for broader outreach
Collaborate with Marisol / Linda for co-authorship

Call for Inputs UN

Draft submissions aligned with UN
protocols in consultation with indigenous
leaders and lawyers

Increase submissions, with advocacy organization.
Involve students in drafts

Interdisciplinary research that combines
legal and financial aid with care.



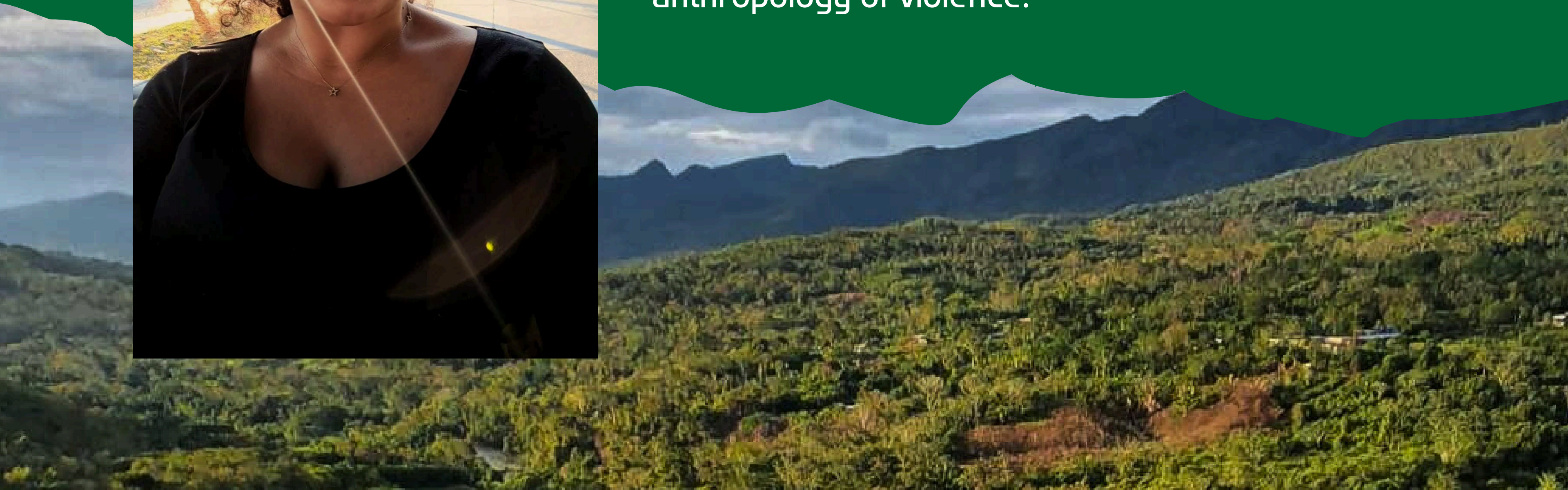
NOT COMPETITION BUT COLLABORATION





Stephanie: Lawyer, MA in Human Rights and Law,
currently pursuing an MA+PhD in Anthropology at NSSR.

Focused on indigenous rights, children's rights, gender,
anthropology of violence.





Marisol: Kichwa leader of the Tupac Amaru community in San Martin and currently president of the FEPIKECHA. Served on the board of directors of the CODEPISAM, the regional organization that is part of AIDSESEP.



Linda: Lawyer and human rights defender, worked with FECONAU, IDL, FPP, CNDDHH and the Human Rights Comission of Pucalpa. Currently head of the SCC Legal Program. in Ucayali.



Columba: Anthropologist PhD University of Toronto, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at The New School. Research on feminist ecology and ethics of care. Studied relationship between monarch butterflies and communities they interact with. Currently, professor mentoring the project.



Rosita: Political scientist with a diploma in Human Rights, MPA at Syracuse. Experience conducting research in the Peruvian Amazon (Amazonas and San Martín). Currently, PhD student in Politics at CUNY.



Carmen: K'iche' woman, anthropologist, socio-environmental psychotherapist, activist committed to healing and life-saving processes, as a network serving everyone.t with. Currently, professor mentoring the project.



Carol: Anthropologist from Universidad de los Andes, MA in Visual Arts from UNAM. Her research and practice intersect cinema and performance art with human rights advocacy. Worked on the project Howls in the Mountains with a women's union in Colombia on alternative healing practices for post war trauma.

Re-re-orienting ideas

Women are constantly denied autonomy over their bodies; girls even face greater vulnerability due to gender, age, ethnicity, and rural living situation. In the Amazon, struggles over territorial control are constant and deeply entangled with systems of oppression.

The decolonial feminist concept *Cuerpo-Territorio* highlights how Indigenous women resist imposed victimhood through care and embodied resistance. Marisol's and Carmen's teachings reinforce care and self-care as a radical act.

Re-re-orienting support

Technical legal advisory
(weekly \ byweekly meetings)

Translation
(English - Spanish)
(legal - friendly)

Logistics
(events + meetings + travel)

Enhance indigenous led
campaigns & initiatives
(design & grant writinng)

New questions

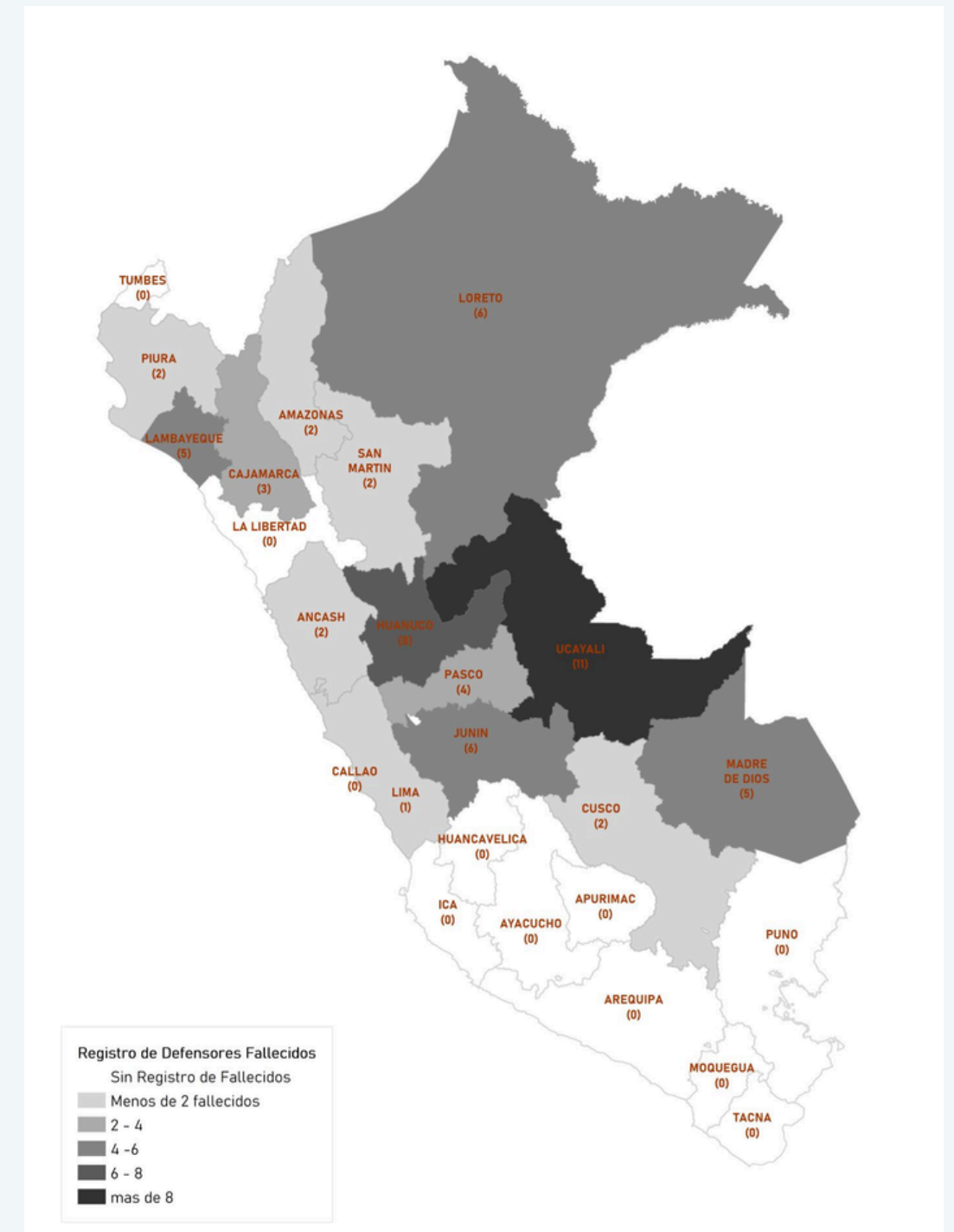
How the criminalization of Indigenous women & girls is interconnected with the land

How law can be reimagined through solidarity and alternative care systems?

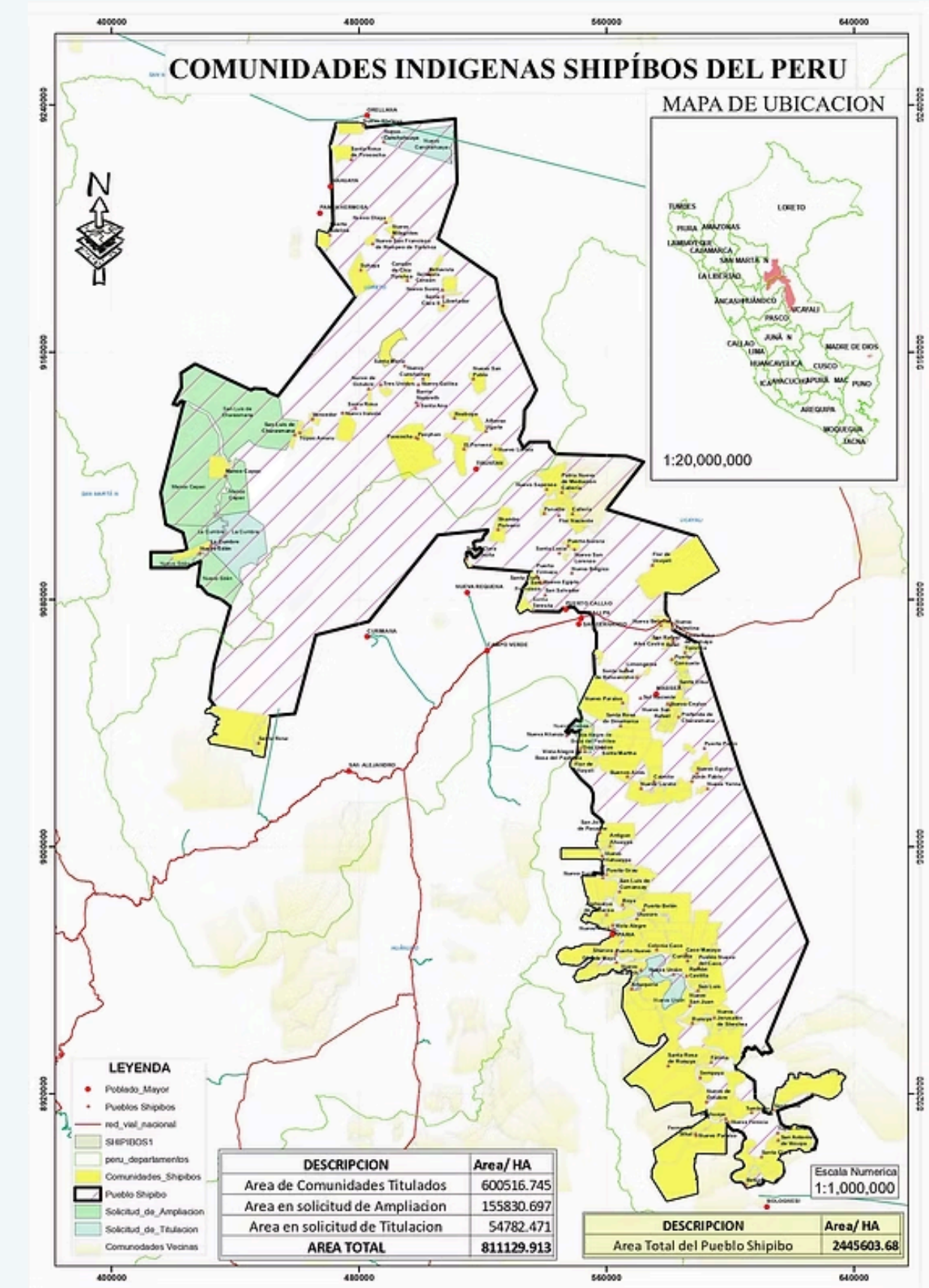
How can indigenous led-alternatives be supported (Indigenous Guards)?

Why indigenous Guards

To reclaim governance over their ancestral territories. The Indigenous Guards of the **Shipibo** and **Kakataibo** peoples are collectively organizing through their representative organizations **COSHIKOX** and **FENACOKA**. Their work centers on protecting rivers, lakes, forests, and wildlife through community-led environmental stewardship. Together, they represent 33 base communities across three regions of the Peruvian Amazon: Ucayali, Huánuco, and Loreto, encompassing approximately 8.5 million hectares of territory.



- Of the 33 bases, 25 are located between Ucayali and Loreto, within Shipibo territory.
- The Shipibo people have reported the highest number of threats, with 107 documented cases, while the Kakataibo people face the highest per capita risk, including a tragic number of assassinations—between 9 and 19 in recent years.
- Protected natural areas (Áreas Naturales Protegidas) are being used not only for environmental protection but also as a strategy to strengthen territorial defense.




FLOW RUPTURE

ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE CONFERENCE



6 EAST 16TH STREET
APRIL 12, 2025
10 AM - 5 PM
WOLFF CONFERENCE ROOM

INFORMATION & SUBMISSIONS



DEADLINE MARCH 2, 2025
PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO SUBMIT

THE NEW SCHOOL
FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH



minga!
(*ˈmĩŋa*)
del quechua mink'a

condición de vida en colectividad
práctica de reciprocidad
obra comunitaria retribuida con comida
intercambio de tiempo, experiencia, arte y labor
acción de movilización; fiesta-trabajo

Save the date

EARTH MONTH CONVERGENCE 2025

April 19th and 26th, 12-7pm | Socrates Sculpture Park



We are Seeds ✨ Weaving our Roots

**Land Defense, the University
and Collective Knowledge:
a conversation with
Ecuador's indigenous
university Amawtay Wasi**

Presented by Global Studies
and Anthropology Departments:
a conversation
between Milton X. Trujillo, Maria A. Garcia,
Ujju Aggarwal, and representatives of Ecuador's
indigenous university Amawtay Wasi.

ABRIL 24th 10am



CONSERVATION AS EXPLOITATION

Indigenous leaders and land defenders from Abya-Yala, Africa, and Asia expose how biodiversity conservation is being weaponized for the theft of Indigenous lands. Indigenous and local communities increasingly face conservation initiatives that expel them from their lands, restrict their livelihood practices and open their territories up to carbon trading, logging and other forms of exploitation.



THIS CONVERSATION UNPACKS HOW CONSERVATION IS BEING USED TO LEGITIMIZE EXPLOITATION OF INDIGENOUS TERRITORY AND EXPLORES INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP OF NATURE AS A POWERFUL ALTERNATIVE

- Lizardo Cauper Pezo, Shipibo Konibo Xetebo Council
- Bettina Cruz Velázquez, Assembly of the Tehuantepec Isthmus
- Miranda Mlilo, Survival International
- Edward Thomas Porokwa, Pastoralists Indigenous Forum Tanzania
- Columba González-Duarte, The New School for Social Research
- Abou Farman, Shipibo Conibo Center & The New School

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
24 APRIL 2025

CHURCH OF THE COVENANT
310 E 42ND ST. NEW YORK



TAKE ACTION TO DECOLONIZE CONSERVATION

International Day of Action - Feb 27 in NYC

- FILM SCREENING "NYAMA"
10:00 AM @ The New School Room D1103, 6 East 16th Street.
With comments from Columba González-Duarte (TNS),
Miranda Mlilo (Survival) and Ashley Dawson (CUNY)

- PROTEST & VIGIL:
12:30 PM @ Central Park Zoo with comments from Abou Farman (SCC/TNS)



"We're suffering here. We don't know how we're going to survive,
there is nowhere for us to live."
Suzanne, Baka woman

"Nyama" portrays an Indigenous Batwa mother and her young son, who are thrown off their land when it is made into a conservation area.

JOIN US after the film for a vigil at the Central Park Zoo, funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society. WCS supports a colonial model of conservation, including in Kahuzi-Biega National Park in the Congo, where abuses have taken place against the Indigenous Batwa people.



Survival

THE NEW SCHOOL



Forest Call

New York City, NY
Date: February 28, 2025, 12:00-2:00
Venue: Henry Luce Foundation

Avocado ecologies

workshop on trade and
the ethics of care

Join us in this gathering and dialogue where we will explore the avocado not only as food, but as a symbol of memory, territory, and resistance

La Morada, Oaxacan Indigenous kitchen, will be offering lovingly prepared avocado-based dishes

La Morada
308 Willis Ave
Bronx, NY

3:00 - 5:30 PM
23 April 2025



ANTHROPOLOGY
DEPARTMENT
THE NEW SCHOOL
FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

Mutual-Aid
Activism de
La Morada

Animals, Monsters & Cyborgs
Professor Columba González-Duarte
Eugene Lang College Lib Arts

Spring 2025
April 8 - 10:30 am
6 E 16th St. - Room 601

Mónica Palma



Cae mi voz (My voice is falling)
Performance with hand-dyed cochineal rope, pulley, objects, chair, microphone and PA system 2024. An active drawing that involves ropes and levers that constrain and outline my movement around an area.

Join us in a spectral dialogue with Mexican artist Mónica Palma as she shares her creative journey through drawing and performance.

monicapalma.com



Donaciones



Convocatoria de información para el informe sobre los Pueblos Indígenas y la solidaridad internacional

PUBLICADO POR

Experto independiente en derechos humanos y solidaridad internacional

Huánuco, 8 y 9 de mayo de 2025. Durante dos días, la comunidad nativa de Santa Martha fue escenario del Primer Encuentro de Mujeres Kakataibo, una iniciativa histórica convocada por la Guardia Indígena del Pueblo Kakataibo del Perú (GIPKAP). Este encuentro reunió a treinta mujeres pertenecientes al pueblo Kakataibo, y con dos invitadas del pueblo Kichwa de la Red de Mujeres Indígenas de San Martín de la CODEPISAM, y de la Organización Regional de la Guardia Indígena del pueblo Shipibo-Konibo (ORGI), quienes compartieron sus experiencias de organización y defensa de derechos en sus territorios.



Guardias Indígenas Amazónicas: nuestro derecho a ejercer la justicia con autonomía para proteger nuestras vidas y territorios

Consejo Shipibo Konibo Xetebo

Organización Regional de Guardia Indígena

Federación Nativa de Comunidades Kakataibo

Guardia Indígena del Pueblo Kakataibo del Perú

Instituto de Defensa Legal

Forest Peoples Programme

The Shipibo Conibo Center

Comisión Episcopal de Acción Social



Pucallpa, 27 de mayo de 2025

Asunto: Invitación a la Mesa Técnica de Trabajo sobre Ordenanzas Municipales para el Reconocimiento Normativo de las Guardias Indígenas Amazónicas

De nuestra mayor consideración:

Los apus Lizardo Cauper Pezo, Abner Ancon Rodriguez y Segundo Pino Bolívar, representantes del Consejo Shipibo Konibo Xetebo, la Organización Regional de Guardia Indígena y la Guardia Indígena del Pueblo Kakataibo del Perú, autoridades indígenas de los pueblos Shipibo Konibo y Kakataibo, tienen el agrado de invitarle a participar en la **Mesa Técnica de Trabajo sobre Ordenanzas Municipales para el Reconocimiento Normativo de las Guardias Indígenas Amazónicas**



*Buen vivir es cuidado a la vida y el
territorio con dignidad*

SUMAQ KAWSAY
KAMETSA ASAIKE
KÜME MONGEN

THANK

you

