



**INSTITUTO
CHAIKUNI**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



CHAIKUNI'S MISSION & VISION

Our Mission

The Chaikuni is a non-profit organization and educational hub empowering a life-affirming movement. We are a grassroots collective investigating, promoting and protecting equitable, inclusive, interrelated and abundant living systems.

Working hand in hand with indigenous people and like-minded organizations, we pursue our holistic vision of health and happiness in the Amazon along three distinct paths: Intercultural Education, Permaculture, and Human and Nature Rights. These three operational branches of the Chaikuni Institute function together, in different arenas, for interwoven solutions to the pervasive and complex challenges at hand.

Our Vision

By honoring indigenous wisdom and enacting the principles of permaculture, we support a form of life known in Spanish as buen vivir, and in Quechua as sumak kawsay. It is a mindful approach of 'good living' that emphasizes community focus, harmony, and social responsibility to the Earth and her people.

We believe that as humans it is our responsibility to reorient ourselves away from the exploitative and self-destructive ideas and behaviors that now dominate our planet. We strive to reform our relationship to the Earth and to each other in such a way that honors the sacred interrelation of all life, and which contributes to the health and happiness of all beings.

Materialistic cultures based on consumption have fostered negligence and abuse in many people's relationship to the Earth. Poverty, climate change and food insecurity are among the harmful symptoms of global capitalism that we face in the Amazon. Indigenous people and other endangered communities of the Peruvian Amazon are our most important allies in challenging the dominant development model. Together we can lead by example towards more healthy and sustainable ways of life based on the principles of fair share and care for our entire global community.

CONTENTS

After almost three years in operation, and many challenges, victories and lessons learned along the way, the Chaikuni Institute continued to grow and evolve in 2015.

In this report we are pleased to share our 2015 highlights!

Strong Women, New Winds.....	3
Action Highlights.....	4
Alliances & Movement.....	7

STRONG WOMEN, NEW WINDS



In May 2015, the Chaikuni Institute welcomed **Sarah Kerremans**, a European indigenous rights specialist and mother of four who is married to an indigenous leader, to head our organization in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon. She brought to Chaikuni five years' experience working with indigenous students and defending indigenous rights in the Loreto region. Before she joined our team, Sarah had been doing amazing work in Loreto under the umbrella of Alianza Arkana. Alianza Arkana is now concentrating its work in the Ucayali



region and the two organizations will continue to work in close partnership, sharing information and supporting each other's work.

Sarah didn't hesitate to join Chaikuni when the opportunity arose to offer more support to indigenous students in Iquitos in the form of an inspiring new intercultural education branch of our operations, set up next to our permaculture center. This branch works on the premise that youth are the key to a healthy future in the Amazon.

In May, Sarah was officially invited by the Federation of Kichwas of the Tiger river, FECONAT, to share her expertise in the emblematic prior-consent process on oil lot 192. The Kichwa of the Tiger river, together with other indigenous groups in Loreto, have endured the horrific impact of over 40 years of devastating oil contamination in their territories. Chaikuni decided to stand with them and in doing so completed its holistic vision with a third, complementary strategy and operational branch: the promotion and protection of human and nature rights. This third strategy includes actions to provide relevant media and investigation tools and take part in democratic processes and movements led by local and indigenous groups.

In 2015, Chaikuni started conversations with local forestry engineer **Silvia del Aguila Reyna**, another strong Amazon woman, to explore ways to collaborate on our evolving permaculture site on the Nanay river, which was established in 2011. Silvia accepted the challenge and is one of our leading ladies in 2016, designing and implementing permaculture projects with nearby local communities.



ACTION HIGHLIGHTS



1. Production of the documentary **Pastaza**

This film follows the story of the Quechua federation from the Pastaza river, FEDIQUEP, and their dedicated leader, Aurelio Chino Dahua, whose determination has brought his people to their feet to demand that those responsible pay for the impact of more than 45 years of oil contamination in Peru's biggest oil lot, 192 (ex-IAB), and clean up the rainforest. The film was released in 2014 but is still being used as a tool for lobby work and for raising awareness on local, national and international levels. Unfortunately, the film is still very up to date. Many dialogues and agreements later, promises are still not being kept.

2. The continued evolution of our pioneering permaculture site

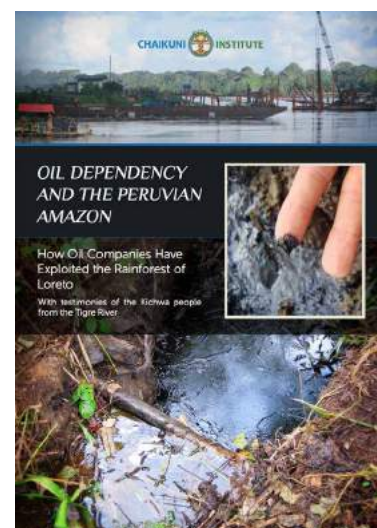
In close collaboration with nearby communities and



by integrating local knowledge, our site on the Nanay river, near the city of Iquitos, is evolving towards an integral agriculture model. It is creating solutions to day-to-day challenges by improving cultivation techniques, improving access to education and medicine, creating balanced food production, and boosting the local economy.

3. Our recent report on the activities of oil company Pluspetrol Norte S.A.

This includes powerful testimonies from the Kichwa people of the river Tigre showing the dependency of Loreto's economy on the oil industry and the extent of social and environmental damage caused to indigenous people over the past 40-plus years. The report would not have been possible without the dedication of our three-month volunteer Cara Clancy.





4. Intense legal and technical counsel to the Federation of the Kichwas of the Tiger river

We provided counsel during the emblematic prior-consultation process for a new oil concession to be granted in Peru's most productive oil lot. The granting of this concession poses a serious threat to the already gravely contaminated territories and lives of the Kichwas. At the heart of the debate is the fear of an accumulation of impacts.

The consultation process, which officially started in May 2015 and lasted till August 2015, had been preceded by a dialogue between the indigenous people and the government to seek solutions to the social and environmental impacts of past exploitation. That dialogue lasted over four years. The Federation of the Kichwas of the Tiger river, FECONAT, was highly disappointed by the results of this prior dialogue. One of the few outcomes was the installation of temporary drinking water systems. For FECONAT, the State showed a great lack of political will and even failed to force the company sit at the same table. In the months and weeks before the start of the consultation process, FECONAT did everything possible to seek solutions to important unresolved issues regarding compensation for use

the Ford Foundation. These partnerships made it possible to organize a truly participative process: in most of the meetings more 10 members of every community could let their voices be heard, including women and youngsters.

An alliance with the crew filming the *Condor and the Eagle* documentary was also key to the process.



This film provided testimony and evidence for subsequent generations of local communities. With this support, the Kichwa have notably achieved nine agreements with the State, including amnesty for persecuted leaders, land titling, grants for indigenous students, the start of an intercultural

health program and the recognition of the right to direct benefits: a percentage of the company's daily benefits will go directly into a private fund to be managed by the indigenous peoples and invested in their independent environmental monitoring program and other social projects.

Unfortunately, oil prices dropped even before the consultation process had started and that made the parallel bidding round extremely complicated. In the Loreto region, local authorities organized major strikes demanding autonomy over energy production, foreseeing a big crisis coming their way. In the end only a two-year contract was granted to the unknown Pacific Stratus Energy. However, mid 2016 the company can hardly operate and is already on his way out as the pipelines were closed by the state due to innumerable oil spills that occurred in the last few months. The national and regional political contexts do not make it any easier for FECONAT to ensure the agreements are met as well as to continue to seek justice for past abuses, with oil prices staying historically low and Peru having just emerged from presidential elections. Chaikuni will continue to accompany them in seeking adherence to the agreements. We will also document the experience and, hand in hand with the Kichwas, we will prepare for what's next: a possible new 30 year license in an era when oil exploitation in the Amazon has never looked so dark.

5. Empowerment of Kichwa environmental monitors

Chaikuni helped empower the independent environmental monitoring program of FECONAT by organizing meetings and workshops with the State's control body, OEFA, and NGO E-Tech. Chaikuni will be involved more next year. One of our main missions is to follow up remediation work on the contaminated areas.

6. Support provided to Sui Sui Program's indigenous university students

Thanks to private donors, Chaikuni had the opportunity to financially support a pilot group of indigenous students from the stricken Pastaza and Putumayo river basins who are supported by the experienced student monitoring Program Sui Sui. The Sui Sui Program was first set up by a small Belgian volunteer organization and forms part of FORMABIAP, the reputed intercultural educational program of AIDSESP, the national indigenous

organization. The monitoring not only covers basic needs but also academic tutoring, personal assistance and English lessons. Chaikuni contributed expertise to programs and events aimed at empowering students, including workshops, debates, film screenings, and awareness raising through art and local media.

Each of the students is striving to become a committed professional, dedicated to securing the future of their indigenous communities, cultivating a sense of just, moral values and social and cultural responsibility. These students will be completing their academic year in December this year and we will continue to support them on their important journey in the following years.



7. Support provided to Sui Sui Program's publications

Chaikuni contributed to the publication of a study on the poor conditions and many challenges indigenous students confront when coming to the city. We helped formulate recommendations to improve their situation. The document is not only useful to the student organization itself but also to the University of the Amazon (UNAP) and the authorities. We also provided advice and helped to realize a study on the state's scholarship program, Beca 18, which will be presented once the new government is installed (August 2016).

8. Support provided to the indigenous student organization OEPIAP

OEPIAP represents over 120 indigenous students from over 15 different ethnic groups. Chaikuni was an adviser to OEPIAP in the process of signing of an important agreement with the regional government. The regional government is now providing housing and food for over 120 indigenous students in the city of Iquitos.

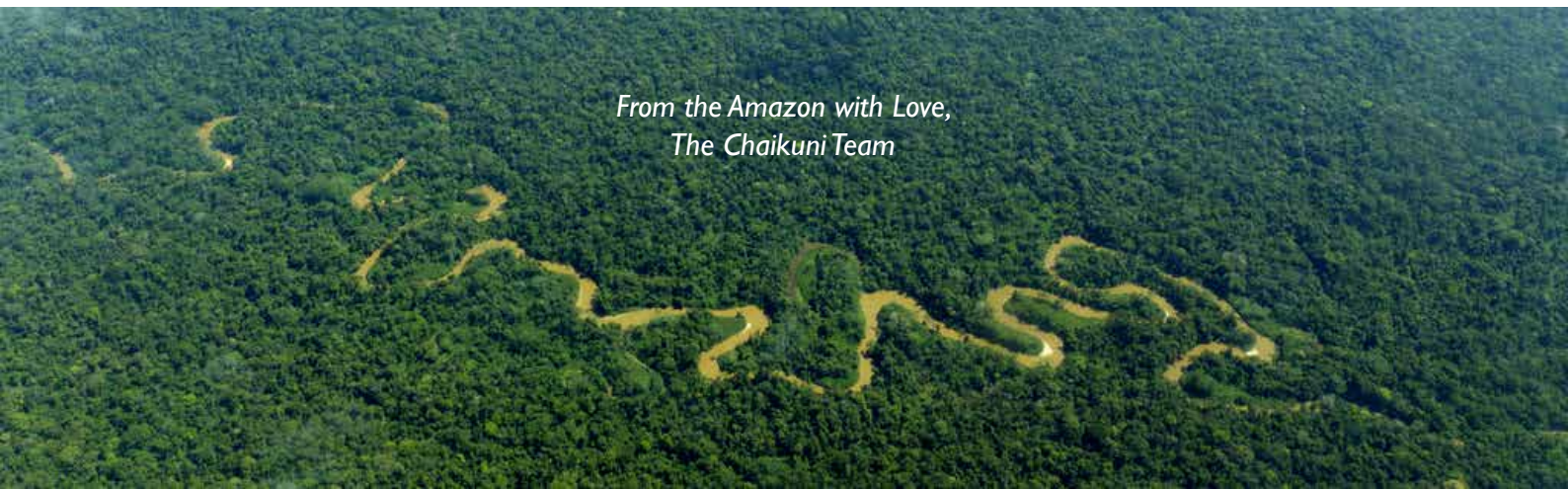
ALLIANCES & MOVEMENT



In 2015, we reinforced our alliances with important international nature defender movements.

- Chaikuni, together with FECONAT, became part of a broader North-South alliance of nature defenders taking a stand against the destruction caused by the extractive industry all over the world. Filmmakers Sofie and Clement Guerra and Houston activist Bryan Parras of *Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services* were witnesses in the prior-consultation process. Later, it was an amazing experience for them to actually travel up the Tiger river. This will soon be available to watch in *The Condor and the Eagle* documentary!
- Chaikuni was invited to Ecuador to participate in the regional event on indigenous territories and conservation of the TICCA CONSORCIO.
- At the end of 2014 we took documentary-maker Josh Fox on a hard jungle walk to record the effects of one of the many oil spills currently causing devastation in the heart of the Amazon. His documentary “*How To Let Go Of The World (And Love All The Things That Climate Change Can’t Change)*” is now being played in cities in the US and worldwide. It was scheduled to be shown on HBO in July 2016.

*From the Amazon with Love,
The Chaikuni Team*



www.chaikuni.org

