



**CHAIKUNI  
INSTITUTE**



**2017 ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCES**





CHAIKUNI  
INSTITUTE

We are a grassroots collective  
which investigates, promotes and protects  
equitable, inclusive, interrelated and abundant living systems.





# Letter From The Director

When I was a teenager, I had a poster of a Native American Cree prophecy hanging above my bed right next to a poster with Leonardo DiCaprio starring in the blockbuster film "Titanic" - the prophecy read:

*"When the last tree has been cut down, the last fish caught, the last river poisoned, only then will we realize that one cannot eat money."*

I remember my friends making fun of me, calling me a peace-keeper, a lost boy scout, a hippie. And yet here I find myself concluding a perfect nine-year circle in the Peruvian Amazon, standing with indigenous people to defend their rights. After all, Leonardo hanging next to the Cree Prophecy was maybe not a coincidence: the famous actor has taken on an important role as an activist for indigenous and nature rights and we were happy to kick off 2017 with his retweet and regram of a Chaikuni photo of indigenous women on the frontline. I feel honored as these nine years have been like a living dream: being at the service of vulnerable groups and *Pachamama (Mother Earth)*.

In the last couple of years, a deep connection with the master plants has been key to Chaikuni's work and vision. Special thanks goes to our ally *The Temple Of The Way of The Light*, an important traditional medicine plant center in the region, which gives the constant opportunity to grow and empower.

Over the past year, Peru's political crisis has read like a telenovela: corruption scandals, family drama, and unseen games of thrones, in light of which advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups became even more complicated. A group that called special attention in 2017 were the women in Peru marching through the streets as "*Ni Una Menos*" (not one less - referring to cases of femicide): statistics regarding violence against women, and in particular indigenous women and girls, are outrageous. Chaikuni was called to work with our indigenous female students and to organize "women's circles" in order to address their own reality of violence, abuse, and discrimination while they live in the city to pursue their dream of becoming professionals at the service of their communities. More than ever, I am convinced that our mission continues: to empower indigenous and local people in their processes to lead social change.

As Chaikunis, we stand strong in solidarity. Thank you for standing with us.

*With love from the heart of the Peruvian Amazon,*

**Sarah Kerremans**  
Executive Director









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# Messages From Our Special Alliance



## The Temple of The Way of Light, Chaikuni's Sister Organization

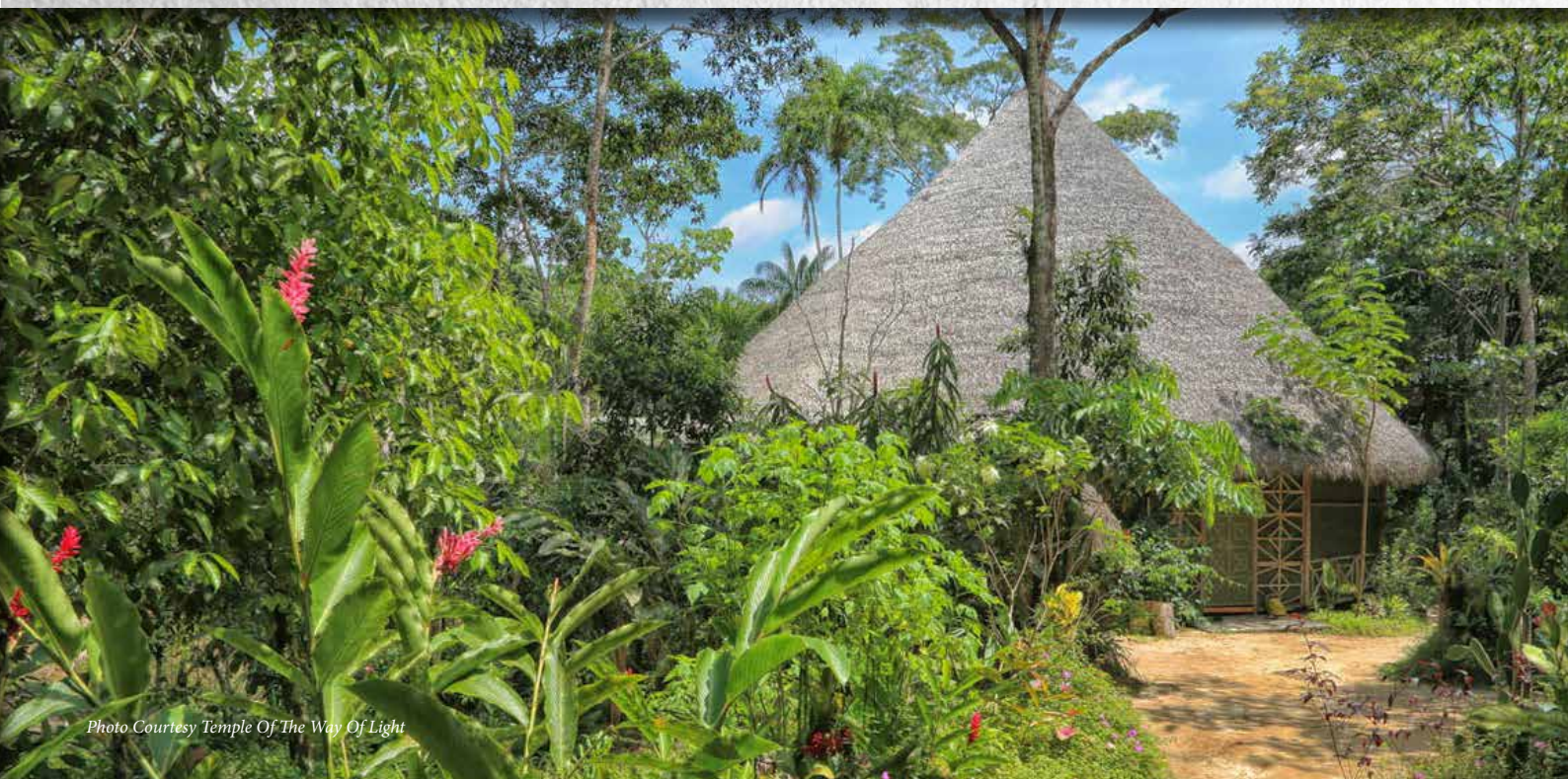


Photo.Courtesy Temple Of The Way Of Light

### FROM THE FOUNDER OF CHAIKUNI INSTITUTE & TEMPLE OF THE WAY OF LIGHT

"It is with deep respect for the Shipibo people that we have named our organisation *The Chaikuni Institute*. The Chaikuni, ancestors of the indigenous Shipibo people and spiritual guardians of the Peruvian Amazon, actively serve the well-being of this great rainforest on energetic and spiritual levels that are not recognized by the modern world. In community with the spirits of the plants, trees, and, animals, they provide a priceless repository of spiritual, medicinal, and ecological services not only for local tribes but for the rest of the world.

We are honored to be aligned with and guided by the Chaikuni in our service to the source of creation."



- Matthew Watherston

"Being Chaikuni means being a part of the invisible hands, mind, heart and spirits protecting the forest: seldom recognized, rarely seen, and absolutely essential in the magical and practical ways in which they support, empower and guide the future of those to whom the forest belongs. And the forest belongs to all of us, she supports the life for all of us. Being Chaikuni affirms my life."



- Debbie Rivett,  
Manager at The Temple of The Way of Light &  
Senior Communication Advisor to Chaikuni Institute

"Chaikuni works to advance and increase the well-being of future generations through a sustainable ethos that respect the environment."



- Jose Castañeda,  
Administration Manager for The Temple of The  
Way of Light & Treasurer for the Chaikuni Institute



# Messages From Chaikuni Supporters



"After a two-week vacation exploring wildlife and learning about aboriginal cultures in Amazon, I returned to my apartment in the heart of Toronto's business and entertainment district. It struck me how people in urban centers are disconnected from nature, spending 90% of their time inside boxes made from concrete, steel, and glass. It struck me how self-centered and one dimensional we are due to our busy and neurotic lifestyle.

I am grateful that organizations like Chaikuni are dedicated to protecting both the wildlife and indigenous cultures, while allowing Westerners to learn, appreciate and reconnect with nature."



Yana Kultysheva

"I continue to support the Chaikuni because respect and care for the people of the Amazon is the best way to keep the jungle safe and thriving.

Empowering and educating indigenous people gives the confidence and awareness they need to stand up for what is theirs and what is right for the Earth. Home-grown guardians are the most powerful. Chaikuni fulfils that mission. Keep going. "




Rafael Suvaii

## A RARE FIND IN THE AMAZON

A flowering ayahuasca vine is a very rare sight. Here pictured are the beautiful flowers of a young ayahuasca (*Banisteriopsis caapi*) which we encountered near our Permaculture project along the Nanay river on land shared with our sister organization, Temple of The Way of Light. This beauty was planted 3 years ago by Agustin Valles, a member of the local Amazonian community, Tres Unidos.

Photo: Todd Michael Roberts / Temple





# *LORETO, HEART OF PERU'S AMAZON*

## **UNDER THREAT**

From lush rivers to dense jungles, Chaikuni is proud to work to protect the Loreto region, a hotspot for biodiversity on our planet, which plays a fundamental role in addressing global climate change. Although Peru's efforts to curb climate change include a commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emission by 30% by 2030, as well as reinforce its climate-change adaptation policies in line with the Paris Agreement, socio-environmental conflicts and ecological degradation deepened throughout the country in 2017. Loreto was struck by new protests connected in particular to indigenous peoples' lack of access to clean water.

### CONTAMINATED RIVERS AND FORESTS

In addition to rampant deforestation caused by ongoing large-scale investments in agribusiness such as palm oil and extractive activity such as mining, logging, oil and gas, Loreto's forests and rivers continued to be afflicted by repeated oil spills from the North Peruvian Pipeline in 2017 and toxic levels of heavy metals can be found in water sources used by indigenous peoples, as a result of the contamination caused by oil activity. Scientists still do not know the long-term impacts of such spills in the Peruvian Amazon.

### GROWING THREATS: ROADS & AMAZONIAN WATERWAYS

In 2017, the Peruvian state pushed further for a road project to connect Iquitos to Saramiriza, and accelerated the development of another major infrastructural megaproject known as the Proyecto Hidrovía Amazónica ('Amazonian Waterways Project'). These projects not only threaten the physical integrity of Loreto's rivers and forests, but also the cultural and spiritual territories of Amazonian indigenous peoples.




Photo: Sophie Pinchetti





Peru is home to the fourth largest expanse of tropical forest on earth. The Peruvian Amazon covers more than 60% of the country, most of which is indigenous territory.



The Peruvian Amazon is home to an estimated 52 ethnic groups. The region of Loreto has the largest and most diverse population of indigenous peoples.



In 2017, **7 oil spills** from the North Peruvian pipeline were documented by OEFA, Peru's Agency for Environmental Assessment and Enforcement - a slight decrease from 2016, which was the most dramatic year on record with over a dozen oil spills. In 2017, the state declared 2 health emergencies in Loreto due to contaminated water resources for local communities.



# 2017: *SNAPSHOTS OF THE YEAR*



**JANUARY /** 2017 kicks off with our first workshop in collaboration with the prestigious Institute of Investigations of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP). As part of our community outreach work and promotion of sustainable initiatives, we led a workshop on fish farming for community members of Tres Unidos.



## **SARAMURILLO** JUSTICE FOR PERU'S AMAZONIAN PEOPLES?

**FEBRUARY /** Launch of our short documentary film "Saramurillo: Justice for Peru's Amazonian Peoples" in Spanish and English, advocating for the fulfilment of the Saramurillo agreements signed in December 2016 between the state and indigenous organizations from five river basins affected by oil activity.



**MAY /** Indigenous youth of indigenous student organization OEPIAP inaugurate urban food gardens on their temporary grounds in Iquitos, with the support of Chaikuni's Intercultural Education and Permaculture programs.



**JUNE /** We march through Iquitos for World Environment Day alongside allies such as OEPIAP and the Water Committee, calling attention to the suffering caused in Loreto from the repeated leaks from Peru's oldest pipeline.



**SEPTEMBER /** We begin accompanying and guiding Discovery Channel's film crews to plan the Amazon episode of their new series, "Jeremy Wade's Mighty Rivers" in coordination with our indigenous allies and communities affected by oil contamination.



**OCTOBER /** Launch of the pilot project "Conduce Tus Sueños" (Drive Your Dreams) which seeks to promote the use of bicycles as alternative and ecological transportation for the indigenous youth of OEPIAP.



# Chaikuni In The Peruvian Amazon

Photos, This Page & Opposite: Sophie Pinchetti



**MARCH** / Chaikuni becomes a GlobalGiving partner and we launch our campaign “Build An Indigenous Student Centre” in partnership with Iquitos-based indigenous student organization OEPIAP.

**APRIL** / We continue our accompaniment to indigenous organizations of five river basins. The coalition successfully pressured the state to declare an environmental and health emergency in the five river basins.



**JULY** / Seven months on from the signing of the Saramurillo agreements: Chaikuni accompanies indigenous organizations from five river basins for the full integration of their demands in their post-oil life plan being developed with the state.

**AUGUST** / Indigenous students protest and occupy the entrance of the regional government to demand the handing over the promised land to build an indigenous student centre. Oil Block 192 is also hit by a new wave of indigenous protests amidst uncertainties over a new bidding process.



Photo: Silviu Dimiutrache



**NOVEMBER** / We continue to accompany Discovery Channel to communities affected by oil spills from the North Peruvian pipeline. A parliamentary commission of the Peruvian Congress publishes an extensive report on oil spills, highlighting mistreatment of communities.

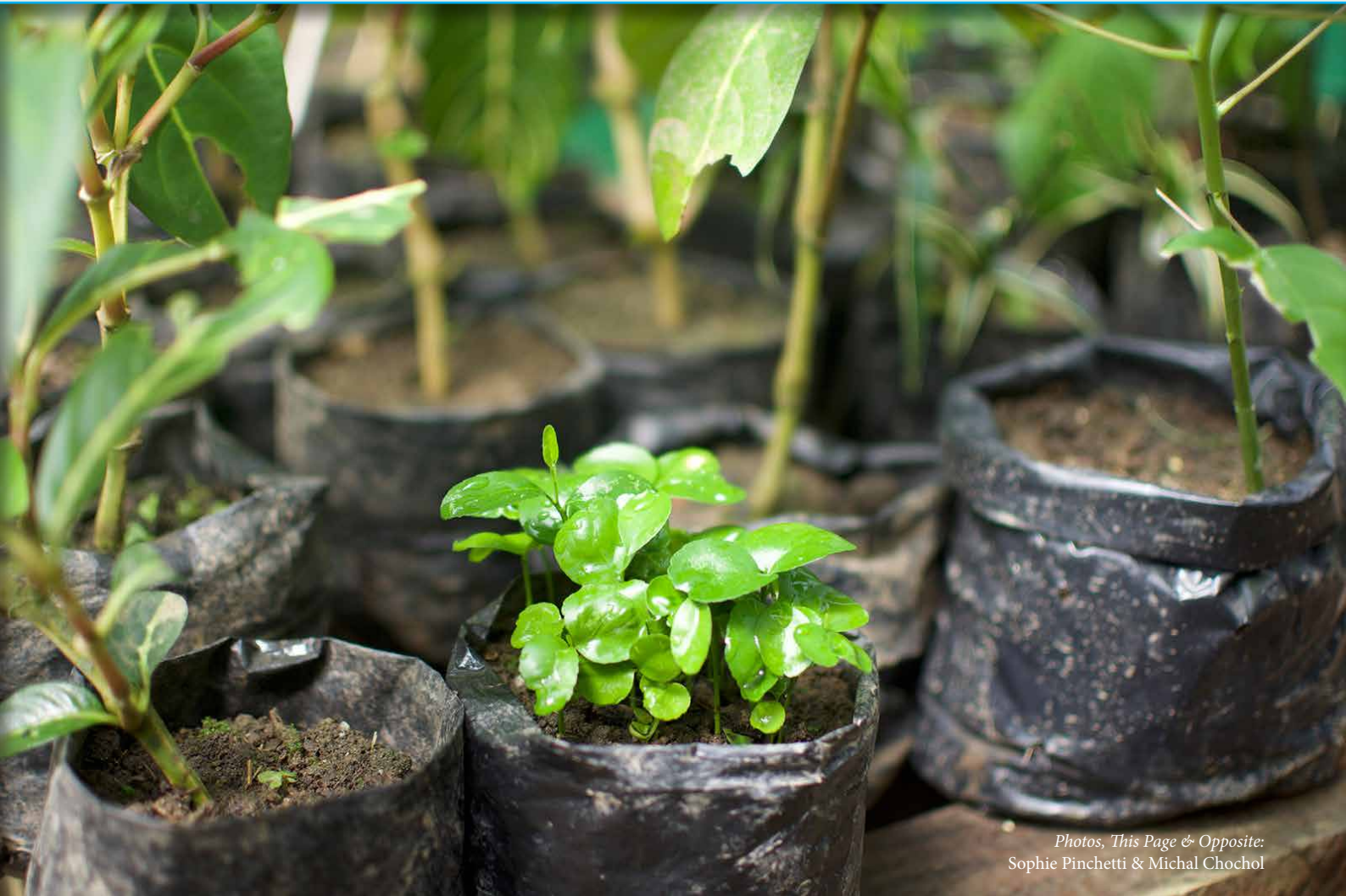
**DECEMBER** / Peru's political crisis deepens and Chaikuni accompanies indigenous organizations of five river basins as they prepare for a new defence strategy in response to the lack of fulfilment of the most important Saramurillo agreements, one year on.





*2017 Program Highlights*

# PERMACULTURE



*Photos, This Page & Opposite:  
Sophie Pinchetti & Michal Chochol*

Throughout 2017, new life was blossoming in our pilot Permaculture project in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest on land shared with our sister organization, The Temple of The Way of Light. This year saw an increased focus on our outreach work with local communities through capacity building workshops for eco-social entrepreneurship, as well as the refining of our pilot project to nurture the site as a place for learning and exchanging with local and foreign visitors. Creating a bustling space where people can reconnect to nature in an authentic way, all the while promoting and investigating abundant living systems that honor the indigenous concept of “Buen Vivir” (“Good Living”) are at the core of this Program.







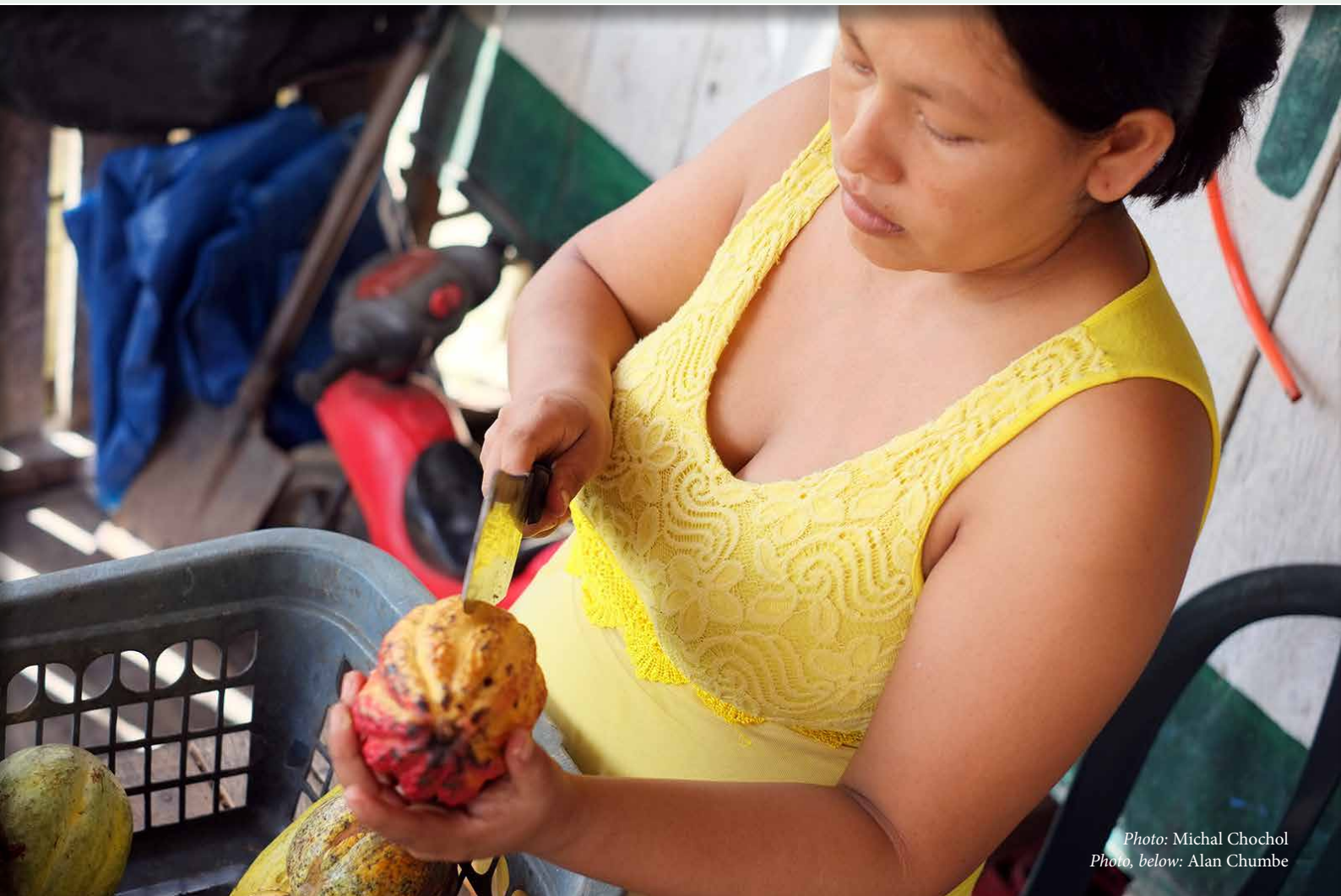


Photo: Michal Chochol  
Photo, below: Alan Chumbe

- We led a program of workshops and talks led by our staff and academic experts presenting sustainable cultivation methods and practices for local community members and visitors. From beekeeping to the management of a plant nursery and solid waste, our Permaculture grounds provided a fertile space for live demonstrations, theory classes and on-site advising. In order to support our accompaniment to local communities in the diversification of their income and sustenance opportunities, we also coordinated two workshops with the prestigious *Institute of Investigations of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP)* on fish farming (an important economic activity for low-income rural communities) and the importance of medicinal plants, their uses and business potential. Following the request of women from the community of Tres Unidos, we also organized a unique two-part workshop on cacao fermentation techniques, stimulating new ideas and alternative methods to incorporate as part of their existing cacao business.

- To promote urban permaculture in Iquitos, our Permaculture staff supported our Intercultural Education Program in the implementation of urban food gardens with the indigenous youth of OEPIAP.







This Page: Video stills by Gavin Hoffman



- This year, we were very excited to welcome our new Permaculture Research Coordinator, Alan Chumbe, and local Permaculture staff member Eliana Melendez Sangama. We also received the visit of several ecologist volunteers who contributed to our outreach work with local communities.

- As part of our work in refining our pilot project and opening the site as an educational Permaculture hub, we nurtured an increasing population of bees, ducks, chickens, and guinea pigs and carried out embellishment and maintenance work.

- We created a new chacra for the classic Amazonian foodstuff known as *cassava* or *yucca* using environmentally-friendly techniques. Production was sold to the community of San José de Lupuna, a community that has among its main economic activities producing *fariña*, a food produced from cassava. We also increased the variety of plants and vegetables growing on site, with recent additions including cucumber, coriander, radishes and chiclayo verdura (Japanese green beans).

*“As a biologist, I greatly appreciated the opportunity I received from The Chaikuni Institute to convert my theoretical knowledge into practical skills for their Permaculture Program, in one of the most fascinating areas of the world. I felt that there was also a real exchange of knowledge and skills in both directions between the local people and myself, that felt really important.”*

Diego Michiels, Ecologist Volunteer







# *Ayni Ayahuasca*

## AN INVESTIGATION ON THE SUSTAINABLE CULTIVATION OF AYAHUASCA

Photo: Sophie Pinchetti

In the past decade, more and more people have been connecting to the Amazon through the rising global popularity of ayahuasca, the native sacred medicinal plant used for millennia by Amazonian indigenous peoples as part of their shamanic traditions. Yet just like the Amazon rainforest itself today, ayahuasca is under threat due to the overharvesting and commercialization of the plant, and increasing export abroad.

With this in mind, and since 2016, we have been conducting an investigation entitled “Ayni Ayahuasca”, which aims to document best practices for the sustainable cultivation of ayahuasca in the region of Loreto and beyond.









Photo Alan Chambe



This year, our “Ayni Ayahuasca” investigation moved forward into its experimental stage. In addition to delving further into our field work in local communities, we began testing different types of soil and cultivation methods.

#### KEY FACTS ON THE INVESTIGATION SO FAR

- The first generation of ayahuasca vines was planted a 5-6 years ago at the inception of our Permaculture pilot project. 2 000 seedlings were planted, of which approximately 500 survived and 60 of which are ready to be harvested. This first generation was cultivated using different types of mother trees, around which the liana usually wraps itself.
- Since Fall 2017, our team began planting the second generation. The first phase of our experiment is testing ayahuasca growth on sandy soil on 1 hectare of land, where 182 ayahuasca seedlings were planted. This second generation is testing the horizontal growth of ayahuasca. After monitoring growth after 3 months, results show 107 plants are

growing strong (59%).

Our objective is to eventually publish a full report presenting best practices and recommendations for the sustainable cultivation of ayahuasca in the Loreto region, in order to protect this sacred Amazonian plant.



Photo: Shipibo healer Nelson with an ayahuasca vine on land shared with Temple Of The Way of Light. Photographed by Sophie Pinchetti





*Photos, this page & opposite: Sophie Pinchetti*







# INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION



Indigenous youth are the future of the Amazon. Supporting and empowering OEPIAP, the Iquitos-based student organization with whom we partner and which represents over 120 indigenous students from 13 Amazonian peoples, is at the heart of our Intercultural Education Program “Sui Sui”. Education is vital in shaping tomorrow’s society, yet in Peru it has never been a priority on the government’s agenda. In 2017, Chaikuni continued to accompany the students’ strong organizing, and their relentless perseverance resulted in an important victory for Amazonian indigenous youth: the regional government handed over a 10-year land lease to OEPIAP. On this land, which the students have been fighting for since 2012, they hope to start building their long-awaited dream of an indigenous student centre in 2018, paving the way for greater interculturality and better opportunities for all indigenous youth who can not yet access higher education.

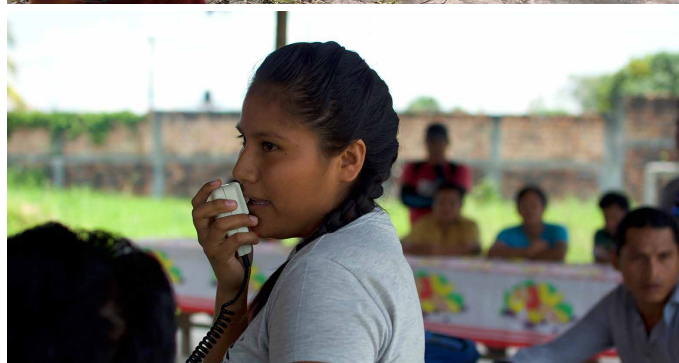




Photo: Sophie Pinchetti

- As part of our organizational empowerment strategy for OEPIAP, Chaikuni continued to support the organization in its advocacy work, which succeeded in securing land in order to build a permanent student centre. We supported the leadership of OEPIAP in their meetings with the regional government and relevant stakeholders, providing technical advice and input for the lobbying process, as well as financial support to cover the students' logistics and travel expenses.

- While lobbying work to support the building and implementation of the student centre remains core to our work, we also doubled efforts to achieve our immediate aim of improving the students' living and working conditions in the short and medium term. In coordination with our Permaculture program and OEPIAP, we delivered a series of Permaculture workshops for the indigenous youth, during which they inaugurated unique urban gardens with medicinal plants and ingredients to improve their diet, such as lemongrass, ginger, tomatoes and papayas, and gained key skills in the plantation and maintenance of the gardens. We also began a volunteer-led study on the students' nutrition with the aim of providing recommendations.



*"In the long term, the hope is that the student centre will encourage more and more indigenous students to take the long trip to Iquitos and attempt pursuing higher education, bringing along the positive effects of an educated indigenous youth."*

Stefan Kistler, Program Coordinator







“Every indigenous woman has the right to study”.

- Leonarda Suarez Guerrero  
Indigenous Ticuna student  
& Member of OEPIAP



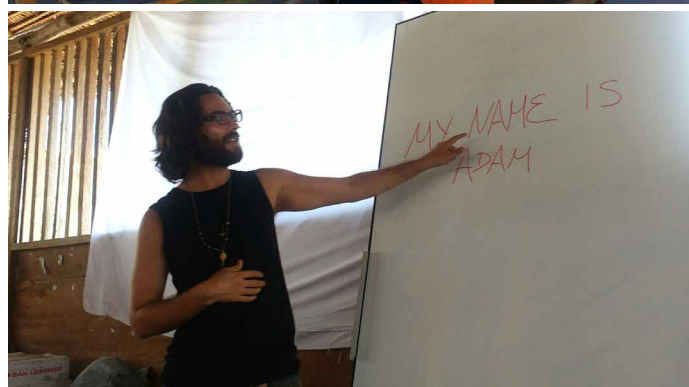
This photo: Sophie Pinchetti. Photos below, from top: Sandra Soto, Sophie Pinchetti

- To strengthen the academic, technical and professional skills of indigenous students, we consolidated a program of workshops based upon the students' self-reported needs. This year, we were able to organize and provide mathematics classes, intensive basic computer training, English classes, a communications workshop on the Internet and digital media, and talks on sexual health, among others.

- We launched our pilot bicycle project “Conduce Tus Sueños” (Drive Your Dreams) which provides an alternative and ecological mode of transport for some of the indigenous students, while also addressing one of their key difficulties: the lack of economic resources to meet their local transportation costs. The project launched in October 2017 with a beautiful event in Iquitos including a bicycle convoy composed of the indigenous youth, the Chaikuni team and local cycling collectives.

An initial donation of 10 bicycles was made to the students. OEPIAP and Chaikuni, in alliance with the local cycling collectives, hope the project will also lead as an example for ecological alternatives and better living in the bustling city of Iquitos.

- Revitalizing and strengthening indigenous identity is core to our Program's empowerment strategy. To this end, Chaikuni provided opportunities for group sharing and personal development through its CINEFORO program presenting contemporary audiovisual productions related to indigenous culture and history and





organizing a series of discussions.

Highlights included the hosting of a special screening and Q&A with the Director of the new groundbreaking documentary “*Stories from The Rubber Epoch in the Peruvian Amazon*” by the Centre of Visual Anthropology Peru (CAVP) and the screening of the documentary “*When Two Worlds Collide*” on the 9th anniversary of the Bagua Massacre, one of the bloodiest episodes in recent Peruvian history. Such events foster the students’ reflection on their identity as indigenous, their engagement with indigenous rights issues, and help to strengthen the students’ public speaking skills.

- A regular women’s circle was reinitiated following the request of indigenous female students of OEPIAP. Aged between 16 and 24 years old, women represent just 10% of the indigenous student organization and often face gender discrimination in their communities and in the city, making it all the more difficult for them to access higher education. The women’s circles work through thematic

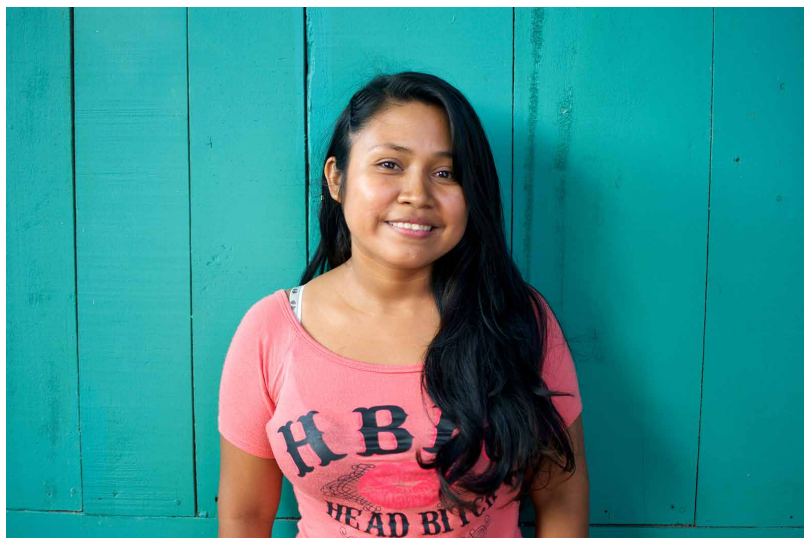
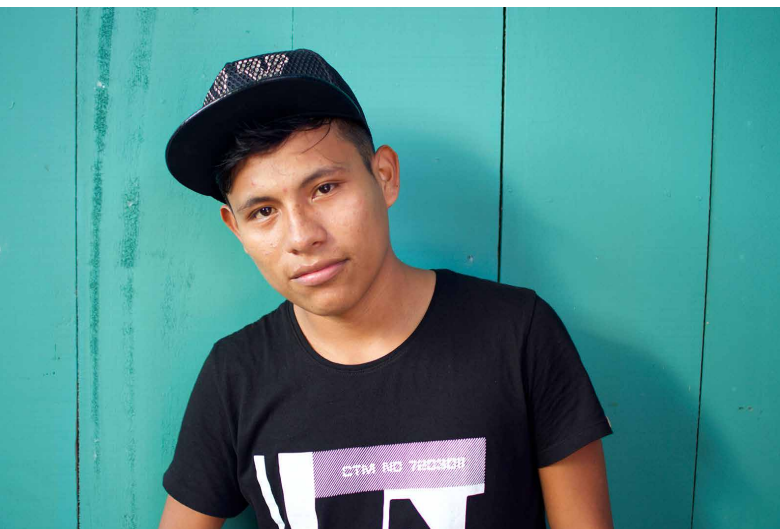
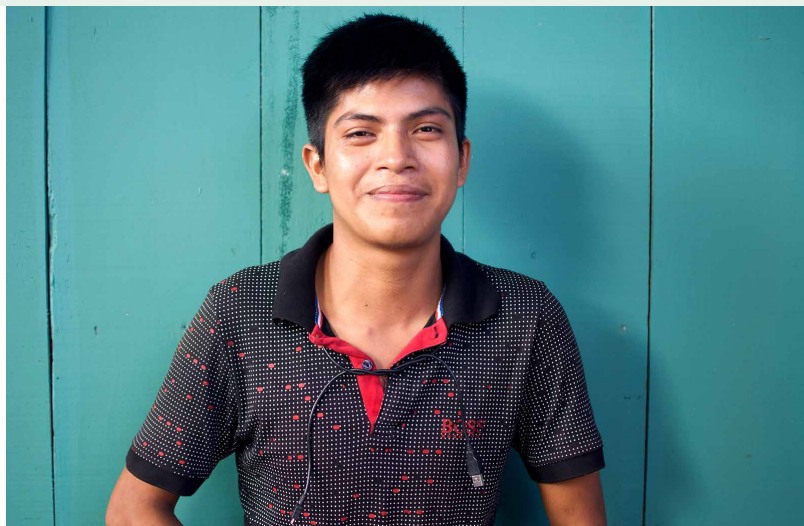


discussions, experience sharing, education, art, healing and music, and provided an important space for the empowerment and personal development of 10 young indigenous women.

- Chaikuni continued to increase the visibility of indigenous youth in the Loreto region and beyond. Chaikuni’s Student Monitor Sandra Soto collaborated with the Pucallpa-based *School of Amazonian Cinema* and created a video portrait of Floida, the







## INSIDE OEPIAP, THE ORGANIZATION OF INDIGENOUS STUDENTS IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

- OEPIAP was founded in 2003 and currently represents over 120 indigenous youth aged between 18-25 years old, from 13 Amazonian ethnic groups: Achuar, Kichwa, Ticuna, Matses, Awajun, Kandozi, Shawi, Wampis, Kukama, Maijuna, Shiwilo, Urarinas, Huitoto from the regions of Loreto and Amazonas in the Peruvian Amazon.

- Indigenous youth of OEPIAP are studying at higher education level at university or institutions in Iquitos in the following academic subjects:

ecology, education, law, anthropology, nursery, social sciences, industrial sciences, information sciences, health, administration and accounting.

- In 2012, the organization signed an agreement with the regional government, the Peruvian National University of Amazonia (UNAP) and national umbrella indigenous organization AIDESEP which included the construction of a permanent student centre.

*Photos, This Page & Opposite: Sophie Pinchetti*



first indigenous Kichwa student from the Upper Putumayo River to graduate from university, whom the Sui Sui Program has accompanied and supported since her arrival to university in Iquitos. The video was broadcast on national television and presented in numerous film festivals.

We also collaborated with indigenous media *Radio Ucamara* to create a new music video production in 7 indigenous languages - a beautiful incarnation of the incredible cultural diversity and richness of indigenous peoples in the Peruvian Amazon. Along with Radio Ucamara, we led a casting with the students and selected 9 indigenous youth to participate in creative workshops to develop the song and video production released in early 2018. The creative process of this production strengthened the youth's storytelling and artistic skills, while also revaluing the importance of native languages and culture.

- This year, the “Sui Sui” program was fully integrated into The Chaikuni Institute following the approval of a joint project funded by The Liechtenstein Development Service (LED) to build a study centre for OEPIAP. The Sui Sui Program was first set up by “VZW Putumayo”, a Belgian volunteer organization in coordination with FORMABIAP, the educational arm of national indigenous organization AIDSEP.







# *Building An Indigneous Student*



Photo: Sophie Pinchetti

In order to contribute to the building of the students' dreamed student centre, Chaikuni achieved to build and secure alliances with international donors such as the LED Liechtenstein Development Service, and private donors through the launch of our crowdfunding campaign "Build An Indigenous Student Centre In the Amazon" on the GlobalGiving platform.

Indigenous students in Peru's Amazon face multiple challenges. Having left their remote communities to pursue their dream of higher education in Iquitos, the students lack the financial resources to study and basic services such as food and accommodation are not adequately provided for by the university. Building a dedicated indigenous student centre will guarantee the basic living and studying conditions for indigenous youth in the city of Iquitos for 150 indigenous students.



# *Centre In The Amazon*



## PAVING THE WAY FOR FUTURE INDIGENOUS GENERATIONS

The student centre will help the youth to reach their individual potential as professionals, and to be empowered to work in the city or to return home and support their communities. Collectively, the empowerment of OEPIAP will pave the way for future generations of indigenous youth to progress on to higher education. This cultivates a vital community supporting the next generation of indigenous professionals and leaders who will become key advocates for their rights and culture throughout the Amazon and beyond.





# HUMAN & NATURE RIGHTS



*Photo: Sophie Pinchetti*

Peru's political crisis set the scene for a challenging year for the advance of indigenous peoples' rights and demands for eco-social justice after over 40 years of irresponsible oil activity. In 2017, rivers of the Loreto region in the Peruvian Amazon were struck yet again by a new series of oil spills from the North Peruvian pipeline, further contaminating the main water sources and territories of indigenous communities. Working hand in hand with our indigenous partner FECONAT and other allies, we continued to accompany the Kichwa people in their alliance with a coalition of indigenous peoples from five river basins affected by oil activity, and achieved to strengthen their defence strategies for the follow up of key agreements with the state, while also increasing the visibility of the agenda of Loreto's indigenous movement.





- As part of our work to amplify the Kichwa peoples' voices and support their communications, we supported the creation of a publication entitled "Consultation, Yes! Abuse, NO!" released in November 2017 to highlight important agreements between the Peruvian state and indigenous organizations of Peru's largest and most prolific oil field, Block 192, as well as news on a new bidding process for the block, which puts indigenous rights at risk once again. The publication featured photographic contributions from the likes of *The Guardian's* David Hill, and was distributed to 26 indigenous Kichwa communities represented by FECONAT along the Upper Tigre river. A digital version was also released in tandem with a video message profiling indigenous Kichwa leaders speaking on the critical situation in Block 192.

## KEY FACTS BLOCK 192

- Block 192 is Peru's most prolific and important oil field and harbours an estimated 13 billion dollars of proven reserves of crude oil. It is one of the many oil and gas concessions created on ancestral indigenous lands since the Seventies in the Peruvian Amazon.

- The current operator is Canadian company Frontera Energy Corporation (formerly known as Pacific Exploration & Production), which was granted a 2-year contract following a 2015 emblematic prior consent process between indigenous organizations of Block 192 and the state. The contract, which was due to expire end of August 2017 was extended to February 2019.

- In the past 2 years of Frontera Energy Corporation's operations in Block 192, at least 40 oil spills have been documented by Peru's Assessment and Environmental Control Agency (OEFA).

- Achuar and Kichwa people face a lack of transparency about the current 2-year concession and the inevitable new future concession for 30 years or more.

- United Nations' Special Rapporteurs called for Peru "to hold companies accountable for any failure to respect human rights, before re-licensing the land."



Photo Courtesy of Wilmer Chavez





“ We want the government to solution the problematic in all of the river basins. To this day, the oil spills continue and this is our big worry because we don't want any more deaths. We need the state to resolve the entire platform of demands. All of Loreto is affected by this contamination. We will continue to fight until we see our grave”.

- Fernando Chuje Ruiz,  
Indigenous Kichwa leader of the  
Tigre river & President of FECONAT



- We provided organizational empowerment to FECONAT through advice and assistance in project report writing, execution and planning of activities, as well as its strategy for the prior consultation process in oil block 192, Peru's largest and most important oil block on ancestral indigenous territories. This ongoing support to FECONAT strengthens its strong and transparent leadership in vital processes for the territorial defence of the Kichwa peoples of the Tigre river.

- As part of our partnership with FECONAT, we continued our support and advising on defence strategies to the indigenous coalition of five river basins formed in 2016 during a landmark 117-day indigenous protest at the native community of Saramurillo on the Marañon river. This coalition unites indigenous peoples from the Tigre, Corrientes, Pastaza, Chambira and Marañon rivers in their demands for justice after over 40 years of irresponsible oil exploitation on their territories.

Although turbulent political times have worsened an already unfavorable context for indigenous rights and little advances have been made for the most important agreements signed in Saramurillo (such as an independent study of the North Peruvian pipeline, a Truth Commission and integral remediation of oil blocks 192 and 8), the coalition



maintained its unity and strengthened its visibility, all the while integrating more organizations from the river basins.

- Throughout 2017, many meetings were held as part of so-called Multi-Sectorial Commission over the past year to formulate a special investment plan for projects in these five river basins. We contributed ideas for the development of communities' post-oil life plan (for example, eco-businesses, capacity building). We also lobbied the state to modify conditions for the state's scholarship "Beca 18" program in order to make it more accessible for indigenous youth. As part of this now ongoing alliance with Beca 18, special attention is being





Photos, This Page & Opposite: Sophie Pinchetti

directed towards the access of higher education opportunities for indigenous youth from these river basins. 200 youth were also offered a space as part of the “Beca Productiva” where they received training in capacity building workshops.

- We provided vital communications support to the coalition, helping to write and distribute press releases, facilitate media requests, and contributed content to major newspapers such as *The Guardian* and digital platforms such as *The Intercept* and *AJ+* in order to amplify the indigenous communities’ demands, voices and to increase coverage and awareness on oil contamination in the Peruvian Amazon. We also created and released a short acclaimed film with the indigenous organizations, entitled “*Saramurillo: Justice for Peru’s Amazonian Peoples?*” presenting the voices of indigenous leaders from the Achuar, Kichwa and Kukama tribes. The film has been distributed nationally and internationally and screened in platforms both online and in academic spaces, and continues to provide an important tool for the visibility of the struggle and indigenous agenda, and to advocate for rights.





A full-page background image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and purple. The sun is partially obscured by the clouds, creating a bright glow. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a forest line is visible against the horizon. The water in the foreground reflects the colors of the sunset. In the bottom right corner, the dark hull of a boat is partially visible.

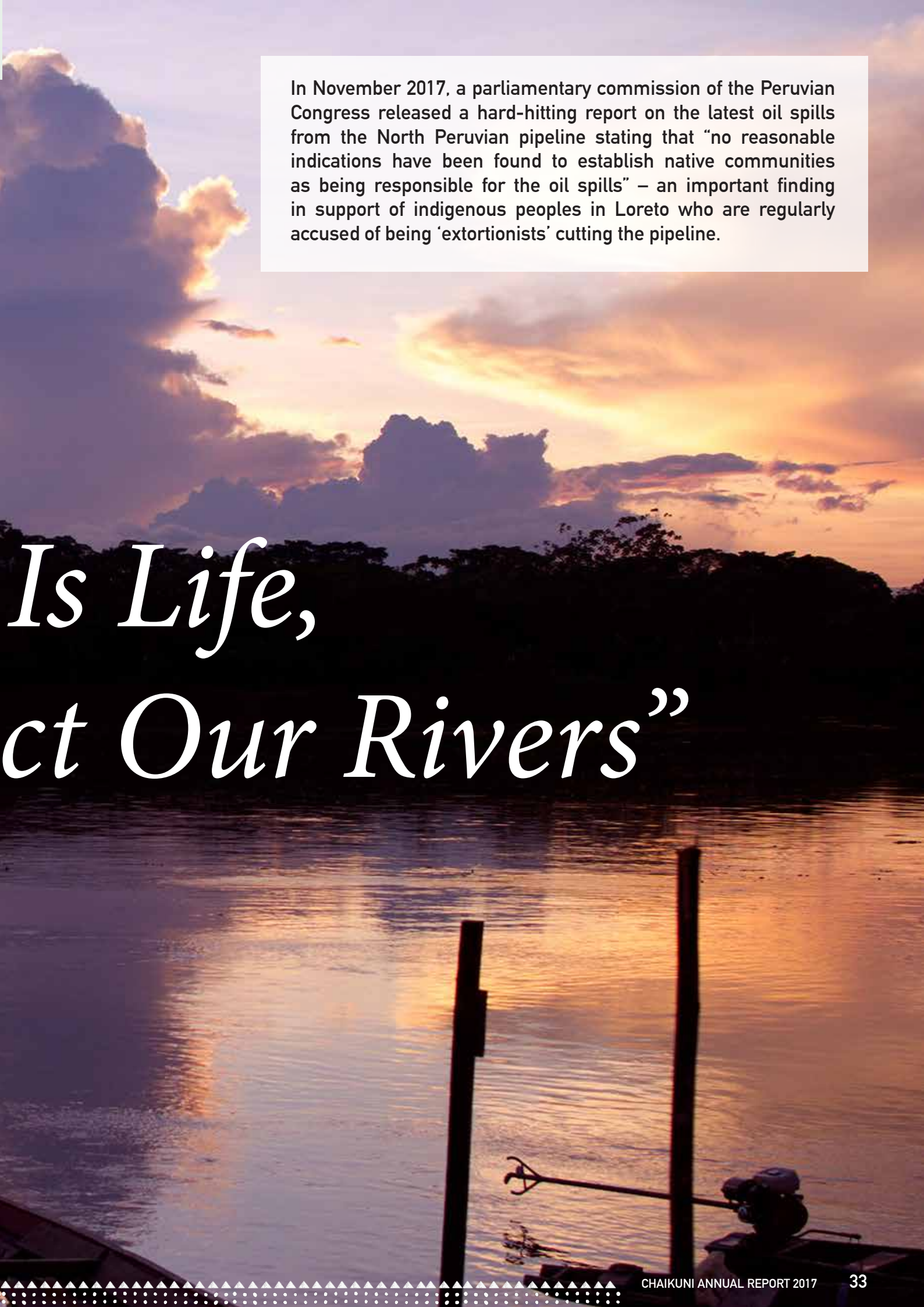
# *“Water We Must Prote*

*Photo: Sophie Pinchetti*

We completed the facilitation of an investigation with Lima’s prestigious Pontifical Catholic University of Peru entitled, “The human right to water in the context of socio-environmental conflicts in the basins of the Tigre and Marañón rivers Loreto, Peru”, which provides an influential tool for advocating for indigenous communities’ fundamental rights and demands for justice in Loreto. In November 2017, the results were presented during an event in Iquitos with an indigenous delegation sharing their testimonies. In conjunction with the presentation, we also organized an academic week with the law faculty of the University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP) and led a presentation on development and indigenous peoples’ rights.

The investigation has been sent to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with hopes to secure a hearing for the cases of these two communities and to set a legal precedent for indigenous communities in Loreto.



A full-page background image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with large, dark clouds illuminated from below by the setting sun, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The water reflects this light. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of a boat is visible, including a vertical pole and a small outboard motor.

In November 2017, a parliamentary commission of the Peruvian Congress released a hard-hitting report on the latest oil spills from the North Peruvian pipeline stating that “no reasonable indications have been found to establish native communities as being responsible for the oil spills” – an important finding in support of indigenous peoples in Loreto who are regularly accused of being ‘extortionists’ cutting the pipeline.

# *Is Life, ct Our Rivers”*



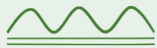


Photo: Oil Spill in Santa Rosa. Sophie Pinchetti. Below: Photos Courtesy FECONAT



## FECONAT'S INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM

Indigenous peoples know their territories better than anyone. In 2017, we continued to provide support to the independent community-based environmental monitoring program of our indigenous partner FECONAT, a Kichwa federation, in order to gather evidence of contamination from oil spills. We led a workshop on indigenous rights and prior consultation process with FECONAT's environmental monitors, and provided ongoing political and technical advice about remediation and drinking water issues.

We support FECONAT and other indigenous peoples in their demand for a law to recognize their environmental monitoring work, in order to enable them to hold authorities and companies to account and to advocate against further pollution.



- We acted as guide for Discovery Channel's new series "Jeremy Wade's Mighty Rivers" documenting the world's most important rivers with a dedicated Amazon episode. In coordination with our indigenous allies, we organized, facilitated and accompanied the filming crew to three communities affected by oil activity along the North Peruvian pipeline, and provided advising for the character list and testimonies for the documentary. The show is set to increase international visibility on the threats to rivers and advocate for their protection. The Amazon episode premieres for U.S. audiences in May 2018 and worldwide in 2019.

- In response to local discriminatory radio broadcasts against indigenous peoples, Chaikuni helped to organize a protest with indigenous organizations of five river basins and indigenous youth of OEPIAP. The protest succeeded in inciting a public apology from the radio, and while discrimination and racism remains a serious issue, the action helped to draw attention to the coalition's platform of demands for Loreto's urban population and raise awareness on the contamination of water which affects the entire region's population.

- As part of a delegation of Amazonian indigenous organizations from Loreto, we travelled to the VIII Pan Amazonian Social Forum (FOSPA) in Tarapoto – an event bringing together social movements, associations and individuals to find alternatives to global capitalism. The building and strengthening of strategic cross-border Amazonian alliances is something we feel strongly about and we were delighted to plant seeds for future cooperation between Peru and Ecuador's indigenous peoples.

- For World Environment Day, we marched through the Amazonian city of Iquitos alongside allies such as indigenous students of OEPIAP and the Water Defence Committee, calling attention to the suffering caused in Loreto from the repeated leaks from Peru's oldest pipeline, and strengthening civil society engagement with the issues through the integration of different schools in the march.



This Photo & Below: Sophie Pinchetti



Photo Jose Fachin



*"I feel grateful to be able to volunteer for Chaikuni. All their projects focus on empowering indigenous people in the Amazon by supporting and listening to them in a respectful manner."*

- Laura Martinez Oliveras, Volunteer





# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2017

## REVENUE & SUPPORT USD

Foundation Grants	26 089
Temple Of The Way Of Light*	47 271
Individual Donors	15 113
Permaculture Income	650

<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>89 123</b>
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## EXPENSES USD

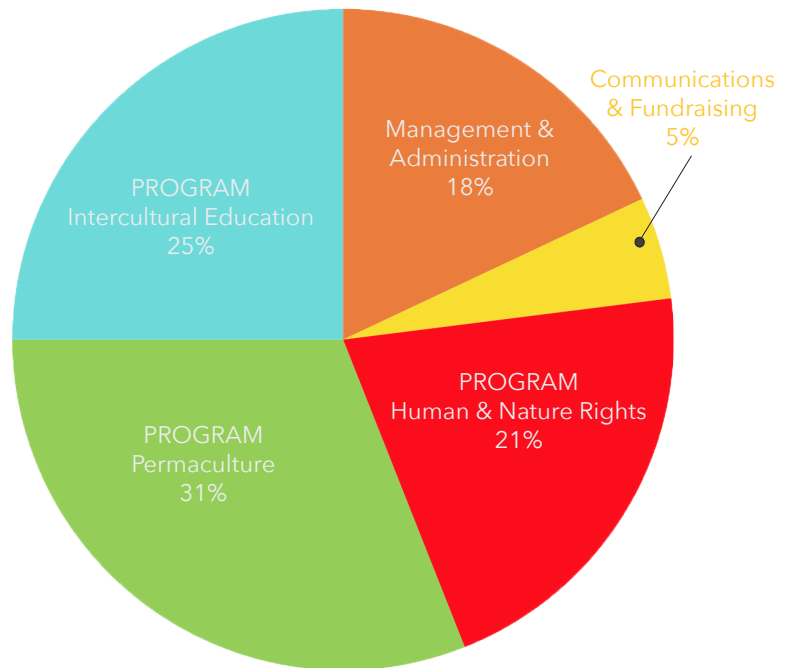
Permaculture Program	21 479
Intercultural Education Program	17 641.40
Human & Nature Rights Program	14 788.12
Management & Administration	12 531.97
Communications & Fundraising	3431.44

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>69 877</b>
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Change in Net Assets	19 246
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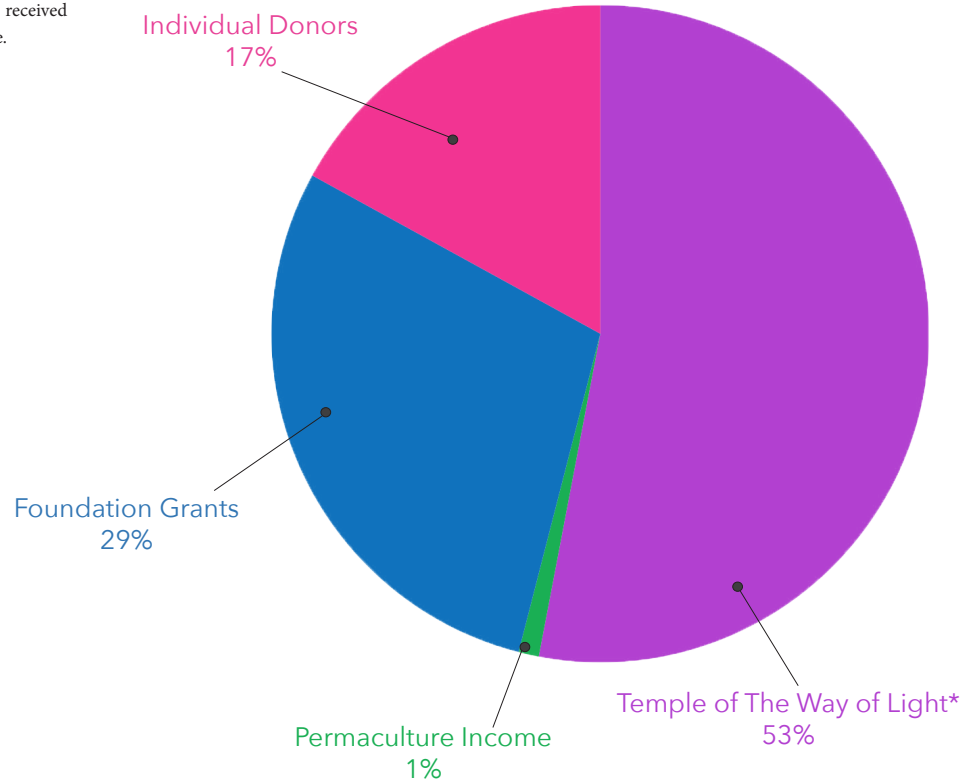
*Corresponding to 2018 Project Activities*

## 2017 EXPENSES



\* In addition to our sister organization The Temple of The Way of Light's direct contribution, the organization also contributes to Chaikuni's work by sharing human talent, skills and providing basic services: in 2017, this indirect support was valued at approximately 17 709 USD (this amount is not included in the figures and charts above). This contribution was used to reinforce the Permaculture program and was received as provision of services: office, internet, and telephone.

## 2017 REVENUE & SUPPORT





# With Special Thanks To...



# & With Deep Gratitude...

*To all the special individuals who support Chaikuni with donations, we thank you for all you are doing to protect the Amazon rainforest and its peoples!*

This Annual Report is dedicated In Loving Memory of a friend of The Chaikuni Institute and Temple of The Way Of Light who sadly passed in 2017. He was moved by the work of Chaikuni, particularly with how the Permaculture project helped create an environment where humans could connect authentically with each other and nature. We're grateful for his support and how he shared himself with both Chaikuni and The Temple during his time with us.







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**CHAIKUNI  
INSTITUTE**

Protecting the Peruvian Amazon

[www.chaikuni.org](http://www.chaikuni.org)