



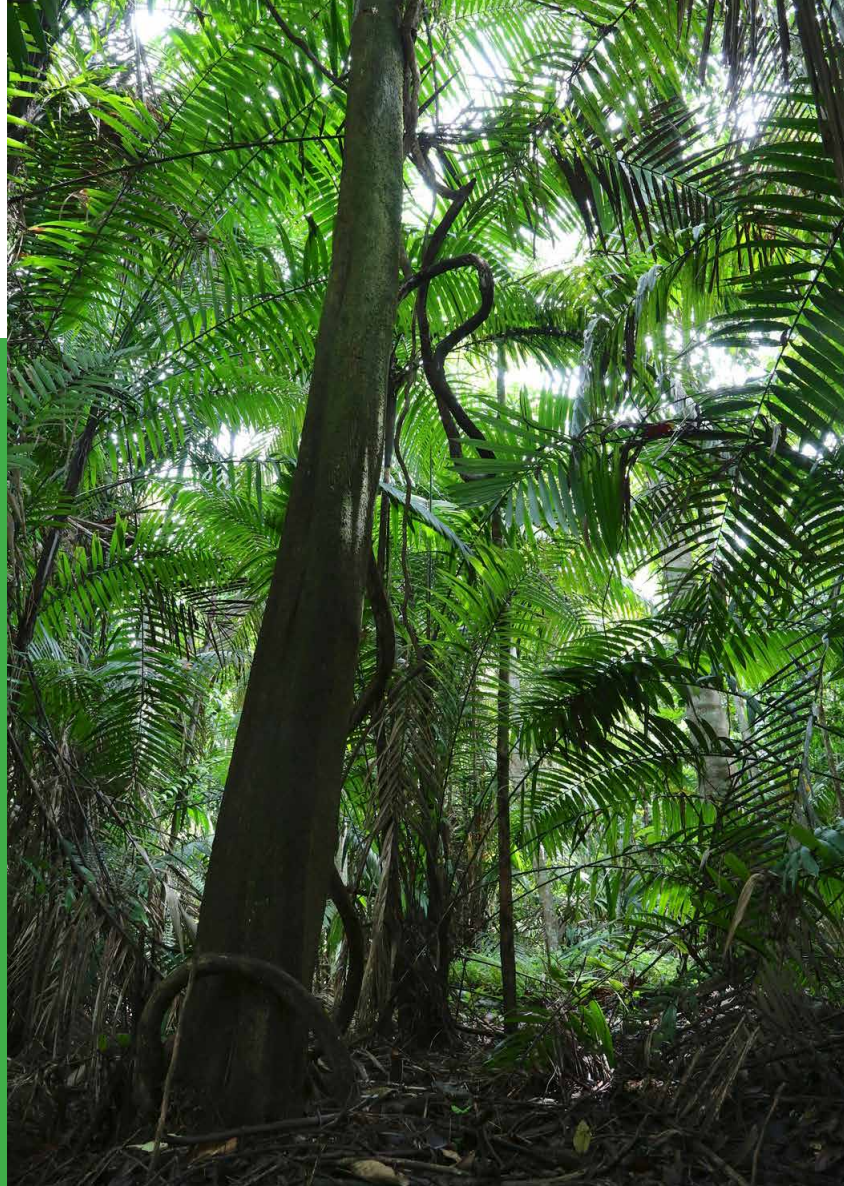
**CHAIKUNI
INSTITUTE**



2016 ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCES



The Chaikuni Institute is a non-profit organisation and grassroots collective based in the Peruvian Amazon. Chaikuni is founded upon principles of reciprocity and interdependence. We are dedicated to growing an alternative and sustainable movement at large by advancing **indigenous peoples & nature's rights**, promoting **intercultural education** and **permaculture**.



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Letter From The Director

It takes great vision to build a great organization. When I review last year's achievements, my first thoughts go immediately out to Matthew Watherston, Founder of *The Chaikuni Institute* and *The Temple of the Way of Light*. It is with exceptional gratitude that we continuously receive his confidence in our team. Chaikuni was born from his inspiration, and day after day, we work hard to determine how to put into practice our holistic vision of honoring indigenous wisdom and cosmovision in a modern world. We strive to move away from the dominant economic model in order to promote a life-affirming movement that honors core values such as reciprocity, respect, solidarity and interculturality.

Of course, it also takes a great team to do the sort of demanding, complicated grassroots work The Chaikuni Institute has been doing. It is with great pride that I can share with you what The Chaikuni Institute achieved throughout 2016 through the expansion of our incredible team of dedicated professionals, who are both local and international. In 2017, we will continue to set high standards for our work on the ground with our local and indigenous partners, and to us that firstly means respecting their right to self determination.

I am happy to see that Chaikuni has grown as an organization of both action and research, and is not afraid to be at the forefront of change. Peru went through a very tumultuous year marked by a difficult election process that left the country divided with two governments - the official one led by President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski and the other one as the Fujimori majority in Congress. We continued to empower civil society organizations believing real change is possible from the bottom up. While corruption scandals continue to abound (a legacy of nearly all of Peru's presidents), Chaikuni took action for better living conditions, alternative models and equal rights and opportunities for Peru's Amazonian peoples. And while Loreto, Peru's largest region, was polluted last year with the biggest number of oil spills ever, we stood with those who protect the water, land and life itself in one of the world's most important ecosystems to regulate the climate: the Amazon.

I can't present this Chaikuni Annual Report without giving special mention to the support we receive from our families, living close by or far away, and from our friends and allies in the global network of resistance and resilience. Let's continue to stand together. In 2017, there remain many challenges to tackle. Join us, there is nothing more necessary or urgent, and certainly nothing more exciting.



With love from the heart of the Peruvian Amazon,

Sarah Kerremans
Executive Director



*No Matter Where We Live,
We Are All Connected To
The Amazon.*

As the lungs of our world, the Amazon is responsible for every 1/5 breath of air we breathe. We work in the region of Loreto region of Peru's Amazon River basin, which contains over half (55%) of Peru's forests.



Image: Chaikuni Institute Archive

A Shared Vision: *Inside The Chaikuni Institute*

Being connected with others through a shared vision is incredibly potent. Chaikuni is thrilled to have such committed individuals working together to shape and advance our vision for a thriving, sustainable Amazon rainforest – sometimes even leaving their life on the other side of the world to do so.

We pride ourselves on being a multicultural and multidisciplinary team. This special synergy enables us to be forward-thinking, innovative and creative in the ways in which we approach and envision Chaikuni's three programs.

2016 was marked by the expansion of the



Silvia Del Aguila Reyna
General Permaculture Coordinator

"I have found a place where I work doing what I love: being in nature sustainably managing natural resources. Chaikuni means something very special for me. In addition to the multiple activities of our Permaculture program, we are concerned with creating a place where demonstrations can be made as well as an alternative of *"Buen Vivir"* ("good living") in harmony with the environment."

Chaikuni team as we warmly welcomed three fantastic, highly talented new members: Silvia Del Aguila Reyna – General Permaculture Coordinator, Sophie Pinchetti – Communications Coordinator, and Adam Andros – Research Coordinator.

At the beginning of 2016, we welcomed Silvia del Aguila Reyna in the role of Permaculture Coordinator. Silvia brings a wealth of past experience implementing social projects in



Above: Silvia shows where the medicinal plant known as chacruna (Psychotria viridis) has been planted and now growing on Chaikuni's Permaculture site. All Images Matthew Watherston

the Amazon region. She derives her interest in sustainable development from the ancient agricultural wisdom of her ancestors that was passed on to her at a young age by her mother. Since Silvia's arrival, our program has increased focus on outreach projects and exchanges with local communities.

In September 2016, we welcomed Sophie Pinchetti in the role of Communications Coordinator. Raised between France, USA and the UK, Sophie brings a multi-faceted multimedia communications and journalism expertise to Chaikuni, having worked across the environmental and human rights sector with a focus on indigenous peoples' rights, and in the contemporary arts, media and high fashion industries.

In October 2016, Adam Andros was welcomed to our team as Research



Adam Andros
Research Coordinator

"I love working in a truly intercultural team where all the perspectives are equally valued, where different ways of knowing are horizontal and not subordinated to one another. I think that the opportunity for real intercultural dialogue can bring forth solutions that are often overlooked or not even imagined by dominant discourses that are tied to dominant logics. This kind of approach is potentially revolutionary, not only because of its inclusivity, but also because it is rooted in empathy, solidarity, reciprocity and a deep sense of interdependence between all spheres of sentience."

Coordinator. Mexican-born and Israeli-raised, Adam brings his expertise as a psychologist, cognitive scientist and medical anthropologist to Chaikuni's research work. Adam has notably spent time working extensively in western psychiatric institutions and learning from a variety of indigenous and traditional healers around the world.



Sophie Pinchetti
Communications Coordinator

"I feel blessed that we can work here in the heart of the Amazon, as there has never been a more critical time to build sustainable alternatives and alliances in the face of climate change. I was attracted to Chaikuni's holistic vision, which recognises the need for community-based solutions and practices. I love that our work is both local and global, celebrating this most magical yet fragile Amazon, working hand in hand with indigenous peoples, and being active in a planetary movement. Working as a grassroots collective is also how we can see the power of grassroots organizing and the strength of movements that grow from the ground up."



Images: Chaikuni Institute Archive

PERMACULTURE

Our Permaculture program, based on land in the Nanay river, has experienced a great year as we continue to regenerate degraded landscapes, support the resurgence of indigenous knowledge systems and build a network of collaborators throughout the Amazon. After four years of research, learning and experimentation into positive, solutions-based ways of thinking and integrated design across 175 hectares of land, 2016 was a year in which we began to really harvest the “fruits” of our hard work and step into a new level of reciprocity and mutuality with local communities.

- Our Masterplan entered its fifth year of implementation on our site in the Peruvian Amazon. In 2017, we will be closely evaluating the masterplan.

- In January 2016, the team was fortunate to welcome Colombian civil engineer Daniel Londoño, who stayed with us as part of a work exchange for several months. Daniel's life passion is working with one of the most highly functional plants available in the tropics, vetiver grass (*Chrysopogon zizanioides*). Daniel helped us incorporate vetiver into our ecosystems and established a nursery for its future propagation.

- We continued to experiment with scheduling our working activities in relation to the moon cycle calendar, a system that we began last year. The relationship between the moon, water and nutrient flow within plants was initially discovered by indigenous people from all over the world and used as agricultural knowledge for millennia. Although this knowledge is not as commonly recognized in today's society, this ancient wisdom maintains its own enthusiasts amongst local Peruvian farmers.

- Our permaculture site was blessed with the arrival of new habitants: 100 chickens, two family of 3 guinea pigs and 3 ducks at the start of the year, and our first beehive in the mid-year. We will be excited to report on the growth of the family in 2017, as this year was the first time we introduced domestic animals on site. As in nature, most permaculture



systems incorporate animals for the myriad benefits they provide. By using animals in a way that allows them to exhibit their natural behaviors, it is possible to minimize the work that would otherwise fall to people.

- We reviewed and improved our strategy related to staple crop production (yucca, taro, plantain, papaya, etc). Crops are now planted on a monthly basis in plots of land previously prepared by the chickens.

- Implementing sustainable techniques shared by our local Permaculture staff continues to be very important in our work: there is no



Above: The newly arrived chickens. Top of page: Aquaculture on our site.



substitute for local knowledge and expertise. The ecosystem can benefit greatly from some of these techniques, for example: handling chickens in the most organic, chemical-free way.

- In April 2016, we held a workshop to map out the necessities of people from the Tres Unidos community, in which 16 people took part and expressed need for support in development of the cultivation of medicinal plants, rural fish farming, horticulture, animal husbandry, meliponiculture (stingless beekeeping), and agriculture. This year then marked the start of our contribution to *mingas* - a traditional method of communal mobilization in which friends and neighbors volunteer their time, effort, and sometimes funds to achieve a shared goal for the betterment of the community. Our efforts in contributing to these *mingas* were focused on our immediate neighbors in the community of Tres Unidos and throughout the year, we contributed to 7 *mingas* providing our workforce, expertise and advice, and supporting the joint effort with food.

- By offering our team to contribute to local *mingas* once a month, it also became an opportunity to co-create new sustainable income opportunities for local farmers, according to their self-reported necessities. As part of our medicinal plants mini-pilot project which began in 2015, we encouraged a few farmers from three villages bordering our land to grow the plants required for floral bath rituals to be purchased from our sister organization, *The Temple of the Way of Light*. We invited them to our nursery to share plant propagation techniques, provided a few plant samplings to facilitate and initiate growing their own plant crops, and visited the participants' crops to share our experiences in the cultivation of medicinal plants. This year, this project successfully resulted in two participants, Don Marcelo and Doña Inez, establishing themselves as permanent floral-bath plant suppliers to the Temple, providing them the opportunity to increase their monthly income and become active contributors to their community.

- In the summer of 2016, we held a successful beekeeping workshop on site and invited

people from surrounding villages and indigenous youth of local student organization OEPIAP to attend. The workshop was led by a local engineer and beekeeper who showed how to keep honey bees in a more sustainable way. While cleaning the forest for their yucca (*manihot esculenta*), locals and farmers often find wild beehives in the trunks of the trees they cut. In the past, they would have commonly harvested the honey, causing irreversible damage to the hive. As a team, our goal is to inspire our neighbouring farmers to switch to employing a more sustainable beekeeping practice that would not only save the life of this insect, which is integral to the functionality of the ecosystem, but also provide a regular source of income to the beekeepers.



Above: Indigenous students of OEPIAP attend the beekeeping workshop. Opposite page, from top to bottom: Our Permaculture team with our first beehive. Leo, Alfredo & Jorge from our Permaculture team.

- Our harvests and the value of our produce increased greatly in 2016. Many of the fruit trees we planted 4 or 5 years ago are finally bearing fruit. All of our harvests - from fruits to medicinal plants and building materials (fibres, thatches, timber) increased by over 50% in production since 2015.



- Across our Permaculture site, we propagated copious amounts of vetiver grass and planted many new fruit trees, medicinal plants, and timber, including 500 guava trees, 20 avocado trees, 12 coco trees, over 200 chacruna (*Psychotria viridis*), 50 Piñon Colorado (*Jatropha gossypifolia*), amongst others.



- Investigating the sustainable and ethical production of the sacred Amazonian medicinal plant known as Ayahuasca (*Banisteriopsis caapi*) and its use is a new pilot project which we initiated in October. We have already planted over 1 000 ayahuasca vines as part of our agroforestry ecosystem. We began investigating best practices for the cultivation of ayahuasca in the region of Loreto, starting with a special interview with the indigenous

Shipibo maestros and maestras who work at our sister organization, *The Temple of the Way of Light*. Our research led us out to begin our first round of field work in collaboration with the prestigious Institute of Research of the Peruvian Amazon (*Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana (IIAP)*), during which we travelled to Tamshiyaku to survey best practices by different maestros in the area who are cultivating ayahuasca for ceremonies and personal use.



Above: Permaculture Coordinator Silvia with a young ayahuasca vine growing on our Permaculture site. Left: Part of the Chaikuni team after our interview with the maestros and maestros of The Temple of the Way of Light. Top of page: Ayahuasca growing on our Permaculture site. Opposite page: Sunset over our Permaculture site. All Images Chaikuni Institute Archive



INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

Empowering indigenous youth and celebrating interculturality are fundamentals of Chaikuni. We are actively working towards the building of a truly intercultural society, where Amazonian indigenous youth are key actors and where intercultural education is made more accessible. By supporting the intercultural education program “Sui Sui” whom we are aligned with in vision, and by strengthening indigenous student organization OEPIAP with whom we partner, here’s how our research, advocacy and technical work moved our Intercultural Education program forward in the year of 2016.

- By providing financial support and advice, we continued to support the intercultural education *Sui Sui Program* in order to reinforce its expert work at individual monitoring of indigenous university students, and its research and advocacy work to promote intercultural sensibility in higher education institutions and state scholarship programs. Its main activities this year were:

- Student monitoring and accompaniment to three indigenous youth from indigenous federation FEDIQUEP and four from indigenous federation FIKAPIR. Throughout the year, one-on-one meetings were held with each student to discuss and address academic, health and personal issues. By creating a safe and trustworthy space for the students to communicate their needs and achievements, we then were able to provide reinforcement classes in areas which the students identified, offer them advice and recommendations to manage complex day-to-day situations, negative emotions and the future, as well as workshops for the development of personal skills such as public speaking.

- We published an in-depth study of the Loreto state’s scholarship program “Beca 18” and its implementation for indigenous students, highlighting numerous recommendations for the program. This key study led by Chaikuni and Sui Sui is now being actively used as a tool in our workgroup focused on the improvement of indigenous students’ life, the promotion of their rights and value of intercultural education. Completion and presentation of the diagnosis



of Scholarship 18. A dialogue table was held with actors involved in intercultural education and indigenous peoples, as part of the presentation of the diagnosis.

- At the end of the year, our cooperation with Sui Sui led to the approval of a significant joint project funded by *The Liechtenstein Development Service (LED)* to build a student centre for OEPIAP. The Sui Sui program now forms part of Chaikuni’s Intercultural Education program.



Above: Communications workshop with the indigenous students. Top of page: Indigenous students after a workshop on the grounds of FORMABIAP.



- We worked to strengthen indigenous student organization OEPIAP. After meeting with OEPIAP's leadership to reflect and help evaluate its operations, management and internal organization, we defined what support and capacity building we can provide, both in terms of content and technical aspects. The focus in 2016 was to establish basic practices for the better functioning of OEPIAP as an organization.



Above: Communications workshop with the indigenous students. Top of page: Indigenous students after a workshop on the grounds of FORMABIAP.

- We supported the involvement of students from OEPIAP in the historic 117-day indigenous protest in Saramurillo in the last four months of the year. Students took action by organizing a march with local allies in Iquitos to raise awareness and show solidarity for their indigenous brothers and

sisters mobilized in Saramurillo to demand justice and urgent solutions to the repeated oil spills. A group of students travelled to the area and providing moral and technical support throughout the debate. During this period, Chaikuni helped advise OEPIAP leaders to press for agreements relating to indigenous youth at higher education level. Education is at the heart of the long term vision for the future of all Amazonian river basins. This process resulted in commitments from the Peruvian government being made to title land for OEPIAP's headquarters and to build a permanent student accommodation, amongst others.

- Building upon our sister organization and pioneering traditional plant-medicine center *The Temple of The Way of Light's* experience in providing healing space for indigenous leaders, 2016 was the first year that this opportunity was opened up to Amazonian indigenous students of OEPIAP. Twice a month, students have the possibility to join community ceremonies to work with ayahuasca medicine and Shipibo maestros and maestras. In turn, this inspired the idea to design a unique pilot project to accompany the students in their healing process and investigate different aspects of traditional medicine and indigenous youth. The pilot project will be fully formulated in 2017.

HUMAN & NATURE RIGHTS

Protecting the Amazon rainforest and guaranteeing the rights of indigenous peoples is integral to social and environmental justice, not to mention also a key solution to climate change. This year saw many social conflicts in the Amazon region and over a dozen oil spills occurring in the Loreto region, the highest on record. Supporting processes of social change is at the heart of Chaikuni, and throughout 2016 we continued to work both on and off the ground to protect the rights of indigenous peoples, the water, land and life itself.

- We continued our partnership with indigenous Kichwa organization FECONAT in providing organizational empowerment within the federation, such as administering and reporting on projects and actions, facilitating financial support from international organizations such as *MCI*, *Global Green and 11.11.11*, and advising on new strategies and their environmental monitoring program, which plays a vital role in documenting the impacts of oil contamination on indigenous territories.
- Providing our legal advising expertise is another vital element of our partnership with FECONAT. This year, we supported FECONAT in meetings to follow up on several agreements which they have with national and regional governments involving institutions such as *FONAM (Peru's National Environment Fund)*.
- In order to highlight the emblematic prior consent process for Kichwas of the Tiger River which took place in 2015, we wrote and developed a report in which we shared our experience of participating and contributing our expertise to this process. As the first prior-consent process on an exploitation concession within in a previously contaminated area, this process was emblematic for Peru. Our report will be published in the *Latin American Review* in 2017 ahead of the new round of negotiations to grant a concession in Peru's most important oil lot.
- Facilitating and supporting research work to document indigenous culture and history

in Peru is an essential part of our role as an organization. This year, we worked with anthropologist Maria Guzman (Rainforest Foundation Norway & University of Oslo) towards the publishing of a bilingual book on the indigenous Kichwa people, and their history and identity. The book is to be published in 2017.



- The critically acclaimed documentary film *How To Let Go Of The World (And Love All The Things Climate Change Can't Change)* by Oscar-nominated American filmmaker Josh Fox was released and showcased at various festivals such as the prestigious Sundance Festival. The film features an important segment on the impacts of oil contamination on communities in the Peruvian Amazon,

Right: Fernando Chuje Ruiz, indigenous Kichwa leader and President of FECONAT. Bottom: Sunset over the Marañón river. Photos: Sophie Pinchetti





This page: The indigenous mobilization at Saranamurillo. Photos Sophie Pinchetti

which we facilitated and accompanied the filmmaker to shoot in locations along the Marañón River.

- Being an active part of the movement for the Rights of Nature is fundamental to Chaikuni. In May, we signed the *Declaration of the Rights of Nature* as launched by the *Global Alliance of The Rights of Nature*, a global network of organizations and individuals committed to the universal adoption and implementation of legal systems that recognize, respect and enforce "Rights of Nature". The Declaration aims to press elected government officials to adopt the legislation and to urge the United Nations to consider the petition to adopt a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth.

- During the summer, we joined the efforts of local organization *Comité de Defensa del Agua (The Water Defense Committee)* to take action against illegal deforestation in Tamshiyacu caused by Cacao del Perú Norte S.A.C., a company owned by United Cacao. We signed a letter denouncing United Cacao's CEO Dennis Melka, who is responsible for deforestation in Tamshiyacu and other parts of Peru, and participated in an awareness-raising conference about deforestation organized by The Water Defense Committee.

- We initiated an empowerment and research project on the right to clean water with researchers of the Catholic University in Lima (PUCP) and the participation of FECONAT, OEPIAP's law students, University of Antwerp in Belgium (UA), and the University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP). The project aims to reinforce UNAP's indigenous law faculty and law students. Chaikuni is providing research and logistical support throughout the project. The initiative began in October and will run through 2017.

- In order to advocate for the importance of indigenous territories and peoples in conservation, we held an exchange with *ICCA (Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas)* to discuss the current state of indigenous movements and territorial defense in Peru, and envision possible future actions. In autumn 2017, we

facilitated and supported an indigenous Kichwa law student and leader of OEPIAP to present his experiences on the strategies employed for the defense of Kichwa territories in the Peruvian Amazon at a conference in Bolivia.

- Between September and December 2016, we partnered with indigenous federations involved in the important indigenous mobilization of Saramurillo on the Marañón river, where many different tribes united against the oil destruction of the Amazon. A historic agreement was reached and signed between the indigenous organizations and the Peruvian government. We provided vital legal advising, taking on an active role in dialogues with the government on site, facilitating contacts with allies and human rights watchers, while also developing media tools and amplifying communications on a local and international level. We also collaborated with our ally *Amazon Watch* in the coordination of an international indigenous solidarity action with the Dakota Access pipeline protest in North America and we co-authored an article.



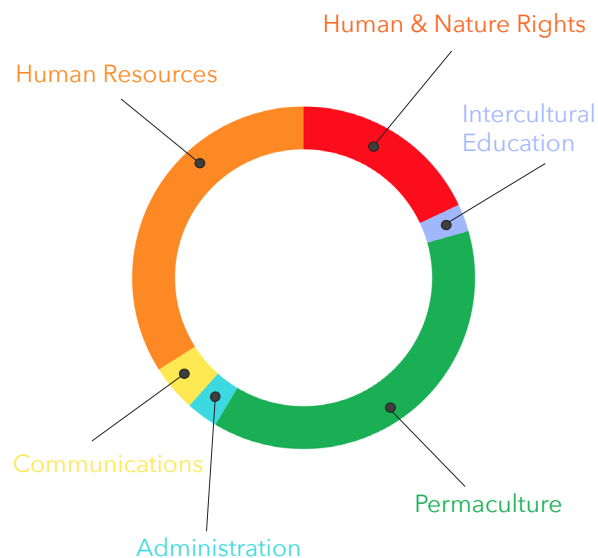
Top: Indigenous peoples mobilized in Saramurillo in the Peruvian Amazon stand in solidarity with their indigenous brothers and sisters in North America resisting the Dakota Access pipeline. Bottom: In response, indigenous leaders of North America (Indigenous Environmental Network) send a message of solidarity to Saramurillo.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016

2016 Expenses Overview

Program or Activity	TOTAL USD	% of Total Expenses
Human & Nature Rights	4 500	18
Intercultural Education	668 *	2.6
Permaculture	9 450	38
Administration	750	3
Communications	1 105	4.4
Human Resources	8 560	34
TOTAL EXPENSES	25 033	100

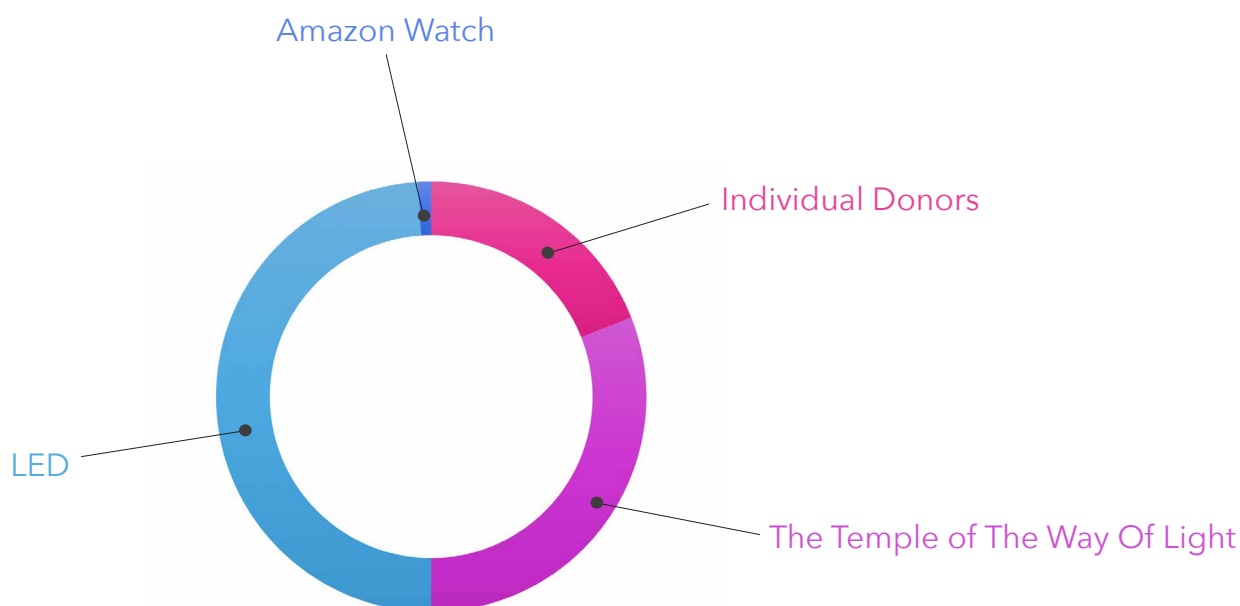
* Until end of December 2016, the Intercultural Education program "Sui Sui" has been financed by the Belgian non-profit organization Putumayo vzw.



2016 Income Overview

Source	TOTAL USD	% of Income
LED	24 200	49
The Temple of The Way of Light	15 133 *	31
Individual Donors	9 400	19
Amazon Watch	500	1
TOTAL INCOME	49 233	100

* 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 and skills and by providing basic services. In 2016, this indirect support was valued at approximately 32 115 USD. 94 % of this indirect support went directly to reinforce the Permaculture program while 6 % was received as provision of services: office, internet, and communications.





With Special Thanks To



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EMPOWERMENTWORKS
A GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY THINK-TANK IN ACTION

&

To all the special individuals who support us with donations, no matter how small or large, we thank you for all you are doing to support a new vision for a thriving and sustainable Amazon rainforest!

Every donation greatly helps to ensure that we can continue moving our projects forward. We know that there are many organizations trying to make a meaningful change in our world, and that there are many to choose from - so we want to thank you for choosing The Chaikuni Institute, and for having this confidence in our organization. Your donation helps our three core programs taking place on the ground in the Peruvian Amazon: Permaculture, Intercultural Education, and Human & Nature Rights. We are more than ever determined to continue empowering a life-affirming movement in the Amazon and beyond. Each day, we work hard to build upon our partnerships with indigenous peoples and allies to bring forth a more beautiful, sustainable and just society in balance with our planet and humanity.



Be Chaikuni, Protect the Amazon.

WWW.CHAIKUNI.ORG

