



AMAZONIA INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP (AIWF)

©SEBASTIÁN ESPIN

Indigenous land accounts for **27% of the Amazon**

Challenges faced in the Amazon:



Deforestation causes the loss of Indigenous (culture, life, people), their wisdom and knowledge of the forest, that has been passed down through generations.



Contamination of water sources from mining and the use of pesticides leads to negative impacts on the health of indigenous communities, including the spread of diseases and other health risks.



Climate change poses a greater threat to the livelihoods and culture of Indigenous peoples, including their food sovereignty, forcing Indigenous communities to relocate from their traditional homelands.



Indigenous women play a vital role in environmental care, communal representation, disseminating Indigenous knowledge and transmitting newly acquired knowledge to adapt to changing environments.



The fellowship

The AIWF aims to promote the ideas and actions of Indigenous women to conserve the Amazon and maintain climate stability. We work towards funding projects and initiatives led by Indigenous women to promote their leadership and effective participation in conservation.

» Our history

In **2011** Conservation International's Indigenous Peoples program launched the Indigenous Leaders Conservation Fellowship.

In **2021** The AIWF was launched as part of the Our Future Forests – Amazonia Verde, a project finance by the French Government and aligned with the mandates that emerged in the First Summit of Indigenous Women of the Amazon Basin. The mandates established the groundwork for the movement of Indigenous women in the Amazon, demanding increased participation in decision making and more opportunities for effective leadership.



© MARLON DEL AGUILA GUERRERO



CI's collective goal:

Conserve 80% of the Amazon by 2030 in partnership with Indigenous Peoples (men and women).

» Our commitment

We aim to create opportunities for visionary Indigenous women to lead socioenvironmental actions in the Amazon basin. Our work supports the women with the networking, training and funding needed to implement their initiatives, manage their territories and promote the overall conservation of the Amazon.



Fellowship Objective:

Engage, equip and connect Indigenous women in socioenvironmental conservation to achieve greater impact in the Amazon.



Our principles

- ▶ Improve intersectional gender balance in conservation.
- ▶ Promote the creation and consolidation of networks of Indigenous women leaders.
- ▶ Foster innovation through local actions and Indigenous knowledge systems.
- ▶ Provide personalized guidance to increase women's leadership.

» Funding models

Selected fellows are awarded a one-year \$10,000 grant to implement their projects.

Fellows work in close coordination and collaboration with CI advisors and learn about other initiatives led by Indigenous women committed to socioenvironmental transformations. Each year a new call for proposals is launched.

1

Open calls through our public applications.

2

Direct calls through invitations to Indigenous women leaders.

3

Project extensions through additional grants to ongoing initiatives led by the women and that are aligned with the program objectives.



➤ Priority themes

- ▶ Natural resource governance.
- ▶ Environmental advocacy and awareness raising.
- ▶ Recovery and revitalization of ancestral knowledge.
- ▶ Indigenous rights and legal recognition.
- ▶ Indigenous Women's Participation in Local Economies.
- ▶ Leadership and strengthening of Indigenous organizations.
- ▶ Education, training and professional development linked to implementing socioenvironmental solutions.

➤ Our scope



Indigenous groups:

Peru: Yanesha, Yaguas, Bora, Murui Huitoto, Kukama Kukamiria, Harakbut, Machiguenga, Asháninka, Ashéninka, Mastanahua, Awajún

Brazil: Povo Guajajara, Povo Inu Kui Ni, Puyanawa, Povo Xipaya, Povo Kumaruara, Povo Baniwa, Sateré Mawé, Shanenawa, Tikuna, Apuriña

Bolivia: Quechua, Tacana, Aymara

Guyana: Lokono, Arawak, Carib, Makushi, Warrau, Wapichan

Ecuador: Achuar, Kichwa, Siekopai

Colombia: Áwa, Nonuya, Aticoya, Madroño

Suriname: Arowak, Wayana

➤ Our Impact by 2023



61

Fellowships awarded
to Indigenous women



27

Women influencing
decision-making in
their communities



73

Indigenous
organizations
engaged



51

Knowledge exchanges
for networking and
peer-to-peer learning
organized



02

Generations
of fellows

» Women promoting change

Esther Marslowe

Lokono, Guyana

Project: *Promote the preservation of Indigenous culture and youth empowerment*

“When I first started this project, I knew I wanted to make a difference and I knew I wanted to help Indigenous youths to understand their identity so they could better define themselves. I didn’t realize that I would need them as much to understand myself better. From working on my project, I have that listening is very important and creating a space where individuals feel safe learned to expressing themselves is equally as important.”



Josiane Otaviano

Tikuna, Brazil

Project: *Strengthening Indigenous culture in the Upper and Middle Solimões River region through agro-ecological activities.*

“Today I can show to the local Indigenous population, especially the women, that it is not necessary to have a job to be a leader. In addition, I can give visibility to the work of the Indigenous women who are inside the association and those who are not. I participate in meetings, assemblies and conferences through formal invitation, and as a speaker.”



Sharmaine Artist

Lokono, Suriname

Project: *Bio-hydroponic farming to encourage women to plant in an environmentally friendly way*

“Now I appreciate my roots more. For example, I am not afraid to wear my Indigenous handmade jewelry. Also, I respect my environment more and I now am involved in environmental discussions.”



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT <https://bit.ly/3kXebcm>