



AMAZON SACRED HEADWATERS

2022 REPORT



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PROJECT ACTIVITIES/ GENERAL PROGRESS

We are pleased to report notable progress on ASHI's work to protect the Amazon Sacred Headwaters region, Indigenous rights and the rights of Nature through the following strategies:

- 1) Strengthening Indigenous alliances across the bioregion and globally;
- 2) Mapping and seeding the transition to a post-extractive regenerative economy (Bioregional Plan 2030);
- 3) Advocacy, legal and media strategies to recognize and protect Indigenous territories and to restrain extractive industries. This report provides an account of activities from January - December 2022.



After 3.5 years of research and participatory planning and visioning with Indigenous organizations representing 30 Indigenous nations, ASHI launched the [Bioregional Plan 2030](#) at a series of [events](#) in Ecuador, Peru, France (IUCN) and the UK (COP26) between August and November 2021.

The plan presents solution pathways aimed at permanently protecting the Sacred Headwaters and accelerating transition to a post-extractive regenerative economy. We also produced a 9-minute illustrated video made possible by the One Project grant, Amazonia 2041: A Vision from the Future in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) to highlight the solution pathways featured in the bioregional plan.



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BIOREGIONAL PLAN FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION

The Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative celebrated the culmination of its first phase, following the completion and global launch of the Bioregional Plan 2030 in late 2021. At the start of 2022, we held three strategic planning meetings in Ecuador to take stock of our achievements and lessons learned and to map the bioregional plan's implementation (Phase II). A number of key decisions were made during these meetings to strengthen ASHI's organizational capacity and governance, expand its alliances and build power.

ASHI's Steering Committee which includes the leadership of AIDSEP, COICA and CONFENIAE, as well as representatives from Fundación Pachamama and the ASHI technical team met first. Following this meeting, a 2-day gathering was held with the full [Governing Council](#). Other Indigenous organizations from Ecuador also attended and a number of new organizations formally joined the alliance.

ASHI's governance council meeting in Ecuador



ASHI's Governing Council meeting in volcano Ilaló, Ecuador for two days of strategic planning meetings



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Key decisions taken for Phase II of ASHI are as follows:

- Establishment of 5 working groups within the ASHI Secretariat and representatives from Indigenous organizations:
 - i. Alliance Strengthening (including legal strategies, communications and advocacy);
 - ii. Implementation of Bioregional Plan and Projects (including developing a Commission to analyze carbon financing mechanisms);
 - iii. Organizational Development (including Budgeting, Governance, Capacity Building and Financial Management);
 - iv. Research and Learning (including Monitoring and Evaluation, and Metrics for the bioregional plan); and
 - v. Fundraising and resource mobilization.
- Begin the process to establish the Amazon Sacred Headwaters foundation as an Indigenous-led non-profit institution with one incorporated as a 501(c)3 in the USA whose main task will be to raise funds and develop partnerships, and two sister entities incorporated in both Ecuador and Peru that will focus on the implementation of the projects and programs from the Bioregional Plan.



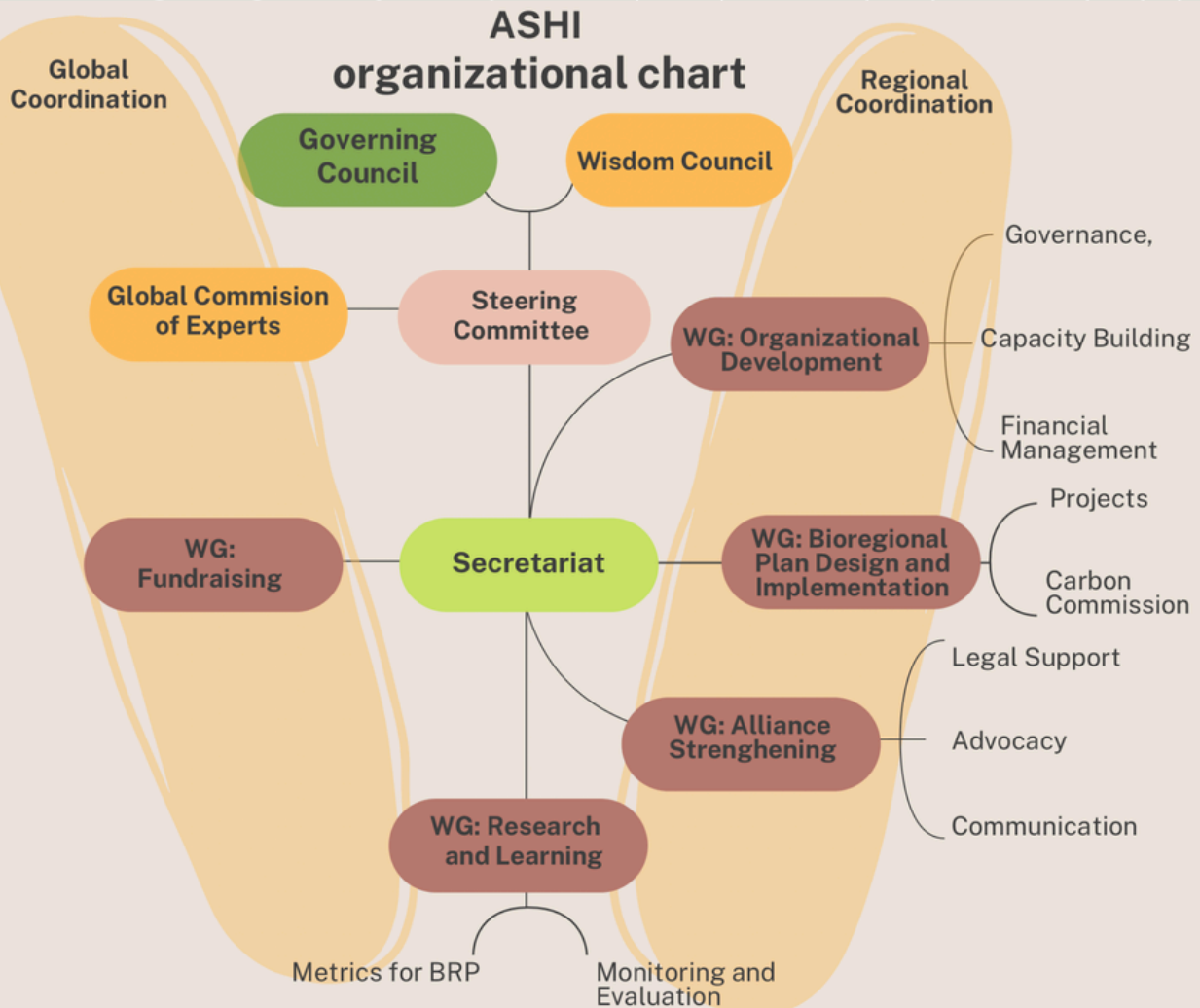
Presentation on Indigenous-led bioeconomy project in the Amazon at COP27

- Allocate at least 50% of ASHI's funds directly to implementing the Bioregional Plan in the territories.
- Co-governance at the regional and global levels.
 - Steering Committee to meet once a month virtually and the Governing Council twice a year in person;
 - Organizational development: provide funding to hire additional technical staff for CONFENIAE and AIDSEP;
 - Grow the fundraising team;
 - Develop campaign/advocacy strategies for both regional and International levels.

The third strategic meeting included the technical staff of the ASHI Secretariat and was a key step in ensuring that the decisions of the Governing Council are implemented. Also, during this meeting, we assessed the capacities of the Alliance so far and the steps needed to fully implement the Bioregional Plan 2030. We also identified strategic advocacy and communications campaigns for the coming year.



Credits: Caroline Bennett



OUR ORGANIZATION

ASHI's organizational and governance structure is composed of representatives of 27 Member organizations who serve on the Governing Council, an 8 member Steering Committee of the Governing Council, the ASHI Secretariat Staff composed of Coordination & Technical Teams and consultants, as well as nearly 30 Members of the Global Commission of Experts and various working groups.

See above our organizational chart and see this [document](#) for the current members of each governing body.

With clearly defined and ratified organizational and governance structures in place, working groups were able to develop clear goals, lines of action and internal processes to carry out their priorities. Here are some of the key advances of each group.



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I. ALLIANCE STRENGTHENING

A) ASHI Delegations at Global Events and Forum

COP1 of the Escazu Agreement on Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago, Chile.

The first Conference of Parties (COP1) of the recently enacted [Escazú Agreement](#) (Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean), was held in Santiago de Chile from April 20th to 22nd. As the first Conference of Parties for the signatory countries, the conference aimed to establish the rules, procedures and the modalities for significant public participation (article 15.4) and the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance (article 18), including discussion on financial provisions (articles 14 and 15.4b). An estimated 780 delegates from national, international and regional organizations, panelists and civil society representatives participated in the conference.

Indigenous peoples' participation was very low. Nevertheless, COICA, one of the core members of ASHI, attended, bringing the voices of Indigenous peoples of the Amazon.

CONFENIAE's vice president Lolita Piyahuaje also joined COICA's delegation. COICA aimed to secure a permanent seat for Indigenous peoples in the decision Committee of the public participation mechanism.

It is worth mentioning that this agreement has a great deal of relevance for Indigenous peoples as it is the first regional and the first global agreement with specific provisions for protecting environmental human rights defenders.

After three days of discussion and debate, an important decision was to establish an ad hoc working group on human rights defenders in environmental matters, which will allow for meaningful public participation, especially by Indigenous peoples and local communities (see decision [here](#)). The rules for the delegates of the committee are expected to be released on August 31st.

The Agreement's objective is to guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making processes and access to justice in environmental matters, and the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation, contributing to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development. The Escazú Agreement is the only binding agreement resulting from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

Summit of the Americas, Los Angeles, USA

In the lead up to the IX Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles June 6-10, 2022, Amazonian Indigenous leaders traveled to Los Angeles for a series of events and press opportunities including an event at the Hammer Museum organized by Artists for Amazonia, Amazon Watch, Stand.earth and ASHI. The event called on world leaders to make the protection of the Amazon rainforest a hemispheric priority. The event called for action to avert the looming tipping point of no return and presented: 1) the campaign calling for 80% of the Amazon to be permanently protected by 2025; 2) the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative which seeks to permanently protect the most biodiverse ecosystem on Earth; and 3) campaign to end California's Oil Imports from the Amazon Rainforest. The delegation took part in other events and several rallies organized by Amazon Watch, Stand.earth and Artists for Amazonia as well as media interviews. ASHI had three featured media stories on [CNN en Español](#), [Democracy Now](#), and [AFP](#) with several hits in other media.

UN High Level Political Forum, UN Headquarters in NYC

ASHI Indigenous territories coordinator, Domingo Peas, was invited by the President of ECOSOC to the UN High Level Political Forum at the UN Headquarters in NYC on July 11, 2022. This HLPF focused on SDG #15 - Life on Land and its relation to other SDGs. Domingo's presentation was aimed at providing input to the pathway to the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15). See [his intervention here](#), minute 55.

Pan-Amazon Social Forum (FOSPA), Belem, Brazil

ASHI representatives participated in the [X Panamazon Social Forum](#), a gathering of organizations and representatives from Indigenous nations from throughout the Amazon basin, held from July 28th to 31st in Belem, Brazil. The ASHI delegation included Gianella Sanchez, youth representative from AIDESEP (Peru) and spokesperson of the ASHI Governing Council, and Lolita Piyahuaje, vice-president of CONFENIAE (Ecuador), Wrays Perez, ASHI's Peruvian territories coordinator, and Natalia Greene, ASH Technical Team member. The team participated in a series of events as speakers and also held an event to showcase the initiative and the Bioregional Plan (see agenda of the ASHI delegation [here](#) and the event materials [here](#)). The ASHI delegation participated as [keynote speakers in the Amazon Assembly](#). ASHI staff members also worked on steering and aligning Civil Society and Indigenous organizations in Ecuador for developing the national declaration for the Forum. This process required months of coordinations and several meetings.





Climate Week NYC 2022, New York

Fundraising Event in New York

An ASHI delegation was present in a series of events and meetings during Climate Week in September. The delegation included Atossa Soltani, Uyunkar Domingo Peas, Belen Paez, Jesus Chavez, Udi Mandel, Nati Greene, Manari Ushigua and Rafaela Iturralde as well as colleagues from COICA, Gregorio Diaz Mirabal, with Tuntiak Katan, Zack Romo and finally Leonidas Iza and his CONAIE team, among others. The week's main event was a meeting with current donors and potential new donors to raise funds for the initiative.

This fundraising event was held at the home of Debra Fine and Marty Schneider in their Central Park apartment and was made possible with the support of Lynne Twist and Sara Vetter. We had around 50 guests, made new allies and reconnected with old friends. The next day, ASHI was invited by the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature to be part of a fundraising breakfast. The team attended and presented the idea of the initiative within the framework of the rights of nature to 30 participants in person and another 10-15 online. A couple of days later, the team attended an event hosted by current donor Synchronicity Earth entitled, Reimagining financing for conservation and climate, attended by civil society organizations, representatives of Indigenous organizations and leaders of philanthropy.

The ASHI delegation had the opportunity to exchange ideas and talk with representatives of foundations such as the Christensen Fund, Nia Tero, and the Land Tenure Facility, among others. During the week we also had the opportunity to have face-to-face meetings with stakeholders who are important to the initiative, including the Rainforest Foundation US, who are members of the Governance Group. We were able to talk about the next steps in the collaboration with them, how they can support us in our work in Peru and how we can support them in their work in Ecuador.



Climate protest, New York

Press

During our participation in Climate Week NYC 2022, we managed to complete four original press stories that generated 42 replicas. Among the media that published our participation are: [Telemundo](#), [The Guardian](#), [NY Daily News](#), [AFP](#), Yahoo, Barron's, La Libre, El Financiero, MSN, The Economic Times, Tutti, El debate, La Razón, France 24 and RFI among others. The information was published in English, Spanish, Italian and French, in the media of countries such as the United States, France, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Costa Rica, Peru, and even Kenya and Brunei. During Climate Week we were also present at events organized by other entities that were essential in finding and reconnecting with allies and scheduling meetings for the rest of the week. The delegation also actively participated in the climate march that took place on the last day.



Credits: ASHI Photo Archive



COP 27, meeting with Brazil's president

UNFCCC COP 27, Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt

Indigenous leaders from throughout the nine Amazon countries showed up in record numbers in Sharm-el-Sheik in November. Our delegation demanded more ambitious actions; sounding the alarm bells that the Amazon, which is key to climate stability, is fast crossing a tipping point of no return. We joined a growing alliance calling for the permanent protection and restoration of at least 80 percent of the Amazon biome by 2025 including the Amazon Sacred Headwaters bioregion.

In coalition with Indigenous peoples worldwide, we worked hard to put pressure on governments to adopt just climate solutions that prioritize the protection of the rainforests and support Indigenous territories, the oceans and all of the Earth's living systems and support Indigenous peoples rights, human rights, the rights of nature and future generations.

A highlight of the COP was a historic meeting between President-Elect Lula who attended the conference and a large delegation of Indigenous peoples from around the world. At this meeting, Lula reiterated his campaign promise to bring deforestation in the Amazon to zero and to create a ministry for Indigenous peoples. His words and promises brought hope to Indigenous peoples.

Here are some of the key activities that we organized or participated in:

1. [Financing Mechanisms for the Amazon: Towards Better Cooperation Between Indigenous Organizations and Funders](#)
2. [Why Direct and Local Climate Financing for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is Urgent Now](#)
3. Landscapes for Life: Demonstrating Inclusive, Just and Resilient Transformation of the Land Use Sector
4. [Science Panel for The Amazon We Want: Investing in Forest Restoration and Indigenous Territories to Prevent the Amazon from Reaching a Tipping Point](#)
5. Indigenous Peoples in the NDC Through Capacity Development
6. [Recognition of the Inherent Rights of Nature: A universal paradigm in defense of Mother Earth](#)
7. [Nature Based Currencies & Instruments](#)

We left COP27 with a bittersweet feeling. On one hand, we celebrate that after decades of fighting, a “Loss and Damage” fund was created to support the countries most affected by the climate crisis created by the world’s developed economies.

While this fund addresses the consequences of the climate crisis, COP27 failed to address the main cause of the crisis: fossil fuels. Once again, world leaders failed to include a swift, just, and equitable phase out of all fossil fuels in the final agreement. COP27 led to incremental progress, far from the actions we need to address our global climate emergency. The silver lining of COP27 is the growing strength of civil society organizations with a significantly greater participation of Indigenous, women, and youth voices who are calling for systemic change.

Participation in other Global Events:

In addition, ASHI delegations participated in the following international gatherings between January and July 2022, speaking on panels, bringing global visibility to the initiative and recruiting allies and supporters for the Sacred Headwaters Initiative:

[Circular BioEconomy Alliance](#) – Meeting hosted by His Royal Highness Prince of Wales (now King Charles) at his Dumfries Estate – January 2022, Glasgow, Scotland

[Governor’s Climate and Forests Task Force GCF](#) – March 2022, Manaus, Brazil

[World Biodiversity Forum](#), June 2022, Davos, Switzerland

[Oslo Tropical Forest Forum](#), June 2022, Oslo, Norway

[Nexus Global Summit](#), June 2022, New York, NY

[Nature Based Solutions Conference](#), July 2022, Oxford, UK



UNCBD COP 15, Montreal, Canada

During the UN Biodiversity Conference, COP15 in Montreal in December we and others worked tirelessly to push world leaders to adopt the strongest possible Global biodiversity framework (GBF), a global agreement to protect and restore biodiversity. Getting 190 countries to agree on a document as complex as this agreement was no small feat, and while the agreement is not as ambitious as it needed to be to address the current mass extinction crisis, it far exceeded our expectations.

We are celebrating the explicit recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights and territories and their role as "custodians of biodiversity and partners in the conservation" of nature which is referenced throughout the text of the agreement.

This historic moment took years in the making. The GBF builds on 4 overarching goals and 23 conservation targets in order to halt and reverse the global loss of biodiversity. Parties to the agreement commit to:

- Halt and reverses nature loss by 2030, protecting 30% of the Earth and Oceans and restore another 30% of areas degraded;
- Mobilize at least USD 200 billion annually in private and public financing for the implementation of this agreement;
- Require that all large business and financial institutions assess and disclose their risks, impacts and dependencies on biodiversity;
- Promises comprehensive reforms of environmentally harmful subsidies; and
- Implements solutions such as stopping further destruction of critical biodiverse ecosystems and protecting their ecological integrity.

This agreement contains highly important targets which countries will be held accountable for. This big advance for biodiversity protection could not have been achieved without the support of millions of people who mobilized around the world; the Indigenous leaders who spent the past 4 years at global negotiations demanding action; the government negotiators who worked tirelessly to advocate for our rights and for higher ambitions; and the hundreds of organizations who worked in coalitions to push for meaningful targets.

Given that Indigenous peoples protect 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity and yet receive less than 1% of all climate and conservation funding, we have been strongly advocating for more direct funding to Indigenous-led initiatives such as the Amazon Sacred Headwaters and countless others that help get resources to the frontlines.

In COP15 the team participated in multiple events, including the High Level Event on Financing the Global Biodiversity Framework, and met with ministers from the United Kingdom, France, and Ecuador among other global leaders. We were able to share our message with the top tier international outlets like [CBC](#), [AP](#), and [EFE](#)

Our participation in COP15 included the following events:

- Climate March
- Amazonia Against the Clock: Where and How to Protect 80% by 2025
- Indigenous Visions of Ecological Transition for Amazonia
- World Biodiversity Summit - Biodiversity Solutions for All: Towards an Inclusive Nature-Positive Future
- STOP ECOCIDE's Panel Recognizing Ecocide, a legal frameworks to protect nature, communities and our common future
- Press conference: Biodiversity can only exist with "Land Back"
- Plenary: High Level Event on Financing the Global Biodiversity Framework



The Strategic Advocacy Plan for 2022 identified the following priorities:

1. Engage in dialogue with the authorities from key government ministries in Ecuador and Peru towards concrete actions for ecological transition and moratorium on more extractive industries.
2. Get commitments from the provincial governments of Pastaza, Morona Santiago and Zamora Chinchipe to include relevant elements of the Bioregional Plan 2030 in their own provincial plans.
3. Engage embassies and other international cooperation organizations to commit to support the promotion of the principles/objectives of the Bioregional Plan.
4. Generate spaces for dialogue and meeting between the binational Indigenous organizations and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs for the establishment of cross-border circulation and support mechanisms.
5. Review existing declarations of protected areas and promote the creation of Indigenous-led permanent protection zones (e.g., biosphere reserve) in the Sacred Headwaters bioregion with support from the Climate Action Network.
6. Promote the Bioregional Plan among key local governments Amazon and win commitments.
7. Support the process of legal recognition for Peru's Indigenous peoples integral territories.
8. Promote a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Ecological Transition.
9. Promote the recognition of the existence of the Indigenous Peoples in Initial Contact (PIACI) and the legal recognition and protection of their territories and PIACI reserves.
10. Advocacy actions by Indigenous organizations and their base communities calling for a moratorium on extractive industries in both Ecuador and Peru.

Key outcomes so far in 2022:

- The Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador have entered into permanent dialogues with ASHI, initially aided by Roque Sevilla, a member of ASHI Global Commission who has been named as “Ad Honorem Advisor on environmental issues for the Ecuadorian Presidency”.
- ASHI is also engaging Ecuador's Subsecretary of Climate Change on alternative and innovative proposals for carbon compensation that meet Indigenous peoples' demands for a climate just financial mechanisms.
- Indigenous Peoples have been engaging the government in dialogues about halting new mining and oil drilling (Indigenous Peoples have negotiated a one year moratorium on new oil concessions) and supporting policies for promoting post-extractive economic alternatives.



ASHI's legal team has been prioritizing legal actions and strategies aimed at protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples who inhabit the Amazon Sacred Headwaters and advancing objectives of the Bioregional Plan 2030. Our legal actions focus on defending Indigenous peoples' rights to self-determination and their territories threatened by extractive industries, infrastructure projects that do not consider eco-social impacts, and clandestine activities. The team also contributes to strengthening the capacities of Indigenous organizations in their legal defense. Key achievements so far in 2022 in support of our member Indigenous member organizations are described below.

Ecuador

- Work on the isolated Indigenous peoples' (Tagaeri Taromenane) case that has advanced to the Inter-American Court on Human Rights hearings.
- Follow-up and promotion of the Mirador dam legal petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).
- Legal support to the Indigenous movement of Ecuador in two dialogue roundtables with the government following agreement to end the June 2022 Indigenous mobilizations resulting in the repealing of two presidential decrees that expanded mining and oil in the Amazon. Dialogue round-tables took place from July thru October between CONAIE and the Ecuadorian government and led to government's acceptance of a one year moratorium on new oil concessions;
- Follow up to ensure compliance with the Constitutional Court's sentence in the Piatúa Hydroelectric Dam case - where the court established standards in favor of the rights of nature and set a precedent;
- Monitoring and follow up on the legal case relating to Sapara's territory - in 2021, the Sapara had a favorable judgment in two instances before the constitutional court.
- Supporting CONAIE in their drafting of a proposed water law.

Peru

- Support to AIDESEP/ORPIO in monitoring and promoting the creation of the Napo Tigre Isolated Indigenous Peoples Reserve. Though the request was submitted in 2003, the state has continuously delayed the creation of the Indigenous reserve because of the presence of an oil project in the heart of the area. Recently, an important step forward was taken when the government confirmed Indigenous movement's studies that Indigenous peoples in isolation are present in the area. Legal defense and advocacy against legal actions filed by opposition actors who seek to eliminate the advances in the creation of the Napo Tigre reserve, such as the oil company Perenco Peru Petroleum and its allies. We managed to have these filed actions archived.
- Support actions for the legal defense of isolated Indigenous reserves of Yavari Mirim and Yavari Tapiche - seeking to establish no-go zones and annul the existing extractive concessions. These concessions are forestry concessions illegally granted by the government on isolated territories. AIDESEP, ORPIO and MINCU filed a constitutional grievance appeal to get the case heard by the Constitutional Court. AIDESEP has joined the legal petition before the Ministry of Culture calling for permanent protection for these territories.

Peru continued

- Legal input for the presentation of a complementary study to request the creation of the Platanoyacu Chambira Isolated Indigenous Reserve.
- Supporting AIDESEP/ORPIO and other Indigenous groups in their call for a moratorium on new oil concessions and for a clean-up of multiple oil spills and a claim for ecological reparation in a number of different Indigenous territories. Communities of the Chapra and Wampis Nation were affected by a serious oil spill that occurred in September 2022 in the North Peruvian pipeline. AIDESEP and Sacred Headwaters have been providing advice to the government of the Chapra Nation as well as accompaniment to face-to-face meetings with state interlocutors and the preparation of documents, including communication support, to publicize the problem, clean up and remediate the spill and the arrival of humanitarian aid to the territories by Petroperu, the state company that operates the pipeline.
- National policy of Indigenous peoples and national policy PIACI: AIDESEP has been supported so that it has legal technical advice in its participation in the multiple workshops for the construction of the National Policy for Indigenous or Original Peoples (started in August 2021). This process will continue during 2023. In this same process, AIDESEP has requested and been technically and legally supported before the State so that the National Policy for Indigenous Peoples in Situations of Isolation and Initial Contact be approved as a specific policy, in accordance with legal mandates. existing ones, which seek to be breached by the Ministry of Culture.
- Legal and advocacy actions against 7 legislative projects presented in the Congress of the Republic that are harmful to the collective rights of Indigenous peoples, their territories and their forests these include:
 - Modification of the forestry law, with a bill to modify the Forest Law in a detrimental way, and allow the change of forests to carry out agriculture without technical support, if approved it will bring deforestation and increase in illegal activities.
 - Bill to modify the Law for the protection of Indigenous peoples in situations of isolation and initial contact. If approved, it will promote the extermination of the PIACI.
 - Norms that are a backward step for Intercultural Bilingual Education. The Ministry of Education approved regulations in order to remove the requirement of mastering the native language and culture of students to apply for the position of school principal. As a result of the denunciations of the Indigenous organizations such as AIDESEP and ORPIO, it was possible to have them rendered null and void.
- Support to AIDESEP and ORPIO to provide a legal, advocacy and communication response to the political and legislative campaign to deny the existence of Indigenous peoples in isolation in Loreto and propose to repeal or modify the protection law for PIACI. Awareness campaign on the importance of protecting the life and territory of the PIACI in universities directed at students and teachers. This awareness-raising campaign will continue in 2023 in order to reach a larger student population that is unaware of the existence of the PIACI, its characteristics, and the threats to which their lives and territories are exposed.

D) Communications

The team created a communications plan that seeks to elevate the profile of the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative and bioregion, build support for the initiative, and mobilize civil society and decision makers to protect the region.

The strategy seeks to:

- Position ASHI as a leading Indigenous-led alliance in international climate action.
- Underline the critical role of Indigenous peoples in the protection of forests and biodiversity.
- Showcase the Bioregional 2030 plan co-created by Indigenous nations for a just ecological transition from an extractive economy to a regenerative wellbeing economy that serves as a model for the world.
- Develop a narrative that inspires global solidarity movements to join ASHI as an Indigenous alliance working to accelerate the transition to a regenerative economic model.

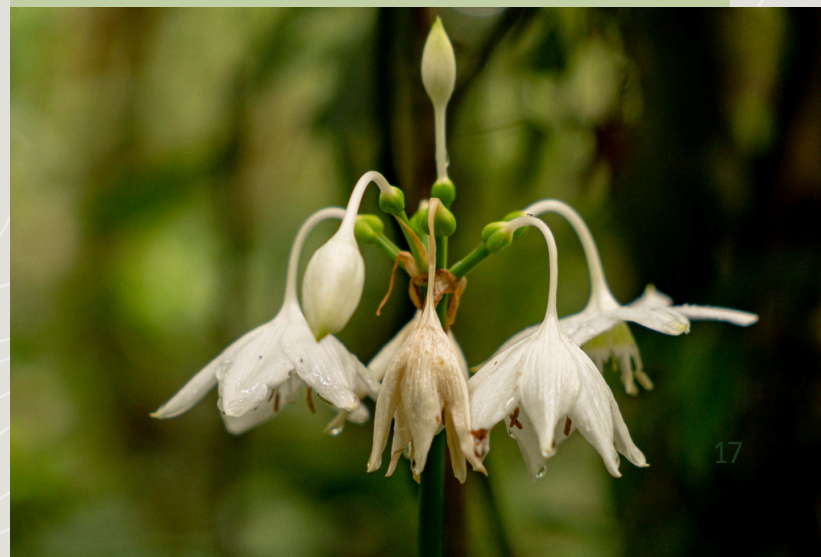
Media Coverage:

The team has been undertaking ongoing media relations efforts to systematically secure media coverage throughout the year. Earned media coverage is the most cost-efficient tactic to increase visibility, engage new audiences, and increase awareness of ASHI's goals and achievements.

So far in 2022 the team has secured over 200 media hits in top-tier online, print, and broadcast outlets including CNN *en Español*, Democracy Now, AFP, Telemundo, and AP. International coverage reached target audiences in the USA, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, France, Peru, Ecuador, Indonesia, China, Spain, Argentina, and Colombia among other countries. Stories were published in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese helping us advance our goal of elevating the international profile of the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative with global decision makers, business leaders, funders, and civil society.

Highlights:

- [Líderes indígenas van a Cumbre de las Américas para pedir a jefes de Estado que salven la Amazonía - CNN Video](#)
- [Indigenous Amazon Leader, Excluded from Summit of Americas, Urges Leaders to Protect Rainforest | Democracy Now!](#)
- [Amazon's Indigenous leaders make plea at Americas summit](#)
- [Les indigènes d'Amazonie veulent se faire entendre au Sommet des Amériques | Le Devoir](#)
- [Loreto: aprueban estudio para reconocer nueva reserva donde hay indígenas en aislamiento | Noticias](#)



Social media:

- Raise awareness and funds through ongoing amplification of media hits, announcements, and other developments.
- Use as a powerful distribution channel for our visual assets: animations, infographics and other materials.
- For community building and to educate civil society and other actors who have not been exposed before to an Indigenous-led climate initiative.
- Show the power of a holistic inspiring vision and innovative solutions.
- Amplify the voices and views of Indigenous peoples of the bioregion
- Show we are having impact and are a positive force for progress.

Podcast:

ASHI created a podcast series [Amazonia Habla](#), co-produced by Emergencia Amazonia and with the participation of Fundación Pachamama and Lanceros Digitales, where Indigenous leaders, activists and researchers speak about the issues facing the Amazon, including the ancestral Amazon worldview, the ecological challenges the region is facing, the use of technology, Indigenous governance and financing mechanisms for the Amazon. The podcast series has special episodes recorded “From the Territory” by our Indigenous communication collaborators from “Lanceros Digitales”, CONFENIAE who received a special training in podcast production and sound recording from our communication team.



During COP 27 La Amazonia Habla and ASHI in collaboration with Hub Culture produced a live recording session and conversation: Financing Mechanisms for the Amazon: Towards Better Cooperation Between Indigenous Organizations and Funders.

This conversation brought together several strategic actors: leaders of Amazonian Indigenous organizations, programme managers of NGOs, funding mechanisms and private conservation funds to discuss their respective experiences and expectations for the protection of the Amazon and empowerment of the Indigenous people. A conversation amplification pack was shared with Hub Culture, Rainforest Norway and Christensen Fund who participated to the meeting.

Reporting Period: From January to December 15th, 2022

	Facebook Spanish	Instagram Spanish	Twitter Spanish	Instagram English	Twitter English	Email Spanish	Email English
Reach	2,485,052 + (127.9%)	1,300,529+ (307.8%)	265,229	-	43,840	1,515	1,122
Profile Visits	9,690+ (186.5%)	5,543+ (41.9%)	55,733	-	-	n/a	n/a
New Likers/Followers	555	1,072	556	-	-	152	14
Total Subscribers/Followers	12,740	2,684	1,439	275	124	1,515	1,122

Amazonia 2041: A Vision from the Future

We publicized the [Amazonia 2041: A Vision from the Future](#) film via traditional influencer amplification and through screenings at film festivals. Our efforts generated several important exposure opportunities:

1. **At Sundance Film Festival:** The video was presented during a climate storytelling panel as part of the Sundance Film Festival 2022. The discussion explored how film and storytelling tools can help us find courage in the face of climate chaos and center communities of color who are often the most vulnerable.
2. **The eco film festival CulturAmazonia** in Macas, Ecuador. The festival organized by the cultural institutions of the European Embassies represented in Ecuador gathered more than 8,000 people.
3. **At COP 27.** A screening was organized in Sharm-el-Sheik, in Egypt in November at "If Not Us, Then Who" Village.



Amazon Film in Collaboration with Financial Times and Lombard Odier

As part of our efforts to elevate the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative and reach decision makers and global funders, the Initiative partnered with the Financial Times and Lombard Odier to produce a video that underscores the need to protect the amazon rainforest, and advance a circular bioeconomic model that creates values while protecting nature. This partnership is a direct result of our partnership with the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance founded by HRH King Charles of Wales.

The video and other storytelling assets are available at a designated space within the Financial Times ecosystem denominated [FT RETHINK](#).

E) Amazon Sacred Headwaters' Global Commission

The Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative Global Commission is a high-level group of experts that the Initiative has sought to give feedback and complement various public policy recommendations, economic and governance frameworks that can guide Ecuador and Peru to a transition beyond the “growth“ and “development“ paradigm, focused on collective “Buen Vivir” (Collective Wellbeing) and the continued flourishing of the Amazon. The Sacred Headwaters Bioregion is a vital organ of the Earth’s biosphere, key to the system transition proposed by this Initiative, which seeks to be implemented through the Bioregional Plan. The Amazon Sacred Headwaters counts with 36 Global Commissioners from all over the world, who have supported and continue to contribute to the Initiative, committing to:

1. Serve as advisors and peer reviewer for the bioregional plan and share relevant contributions and frameworks in areas of expertise towards the Bioregional Plan and its implementation for protecting the region;
2. Are serving as Ambassadors to help build public visibility and support for the initiative;
3. Participate in various working groups of the Initiative;
4. Adhere to the principles of the Sacred Headwaters Initiative;
5. Participate in Global Commission gatherings.

After the task of reviewing the Bioregional Plan, the next mission of the Global Commission is to advise ASHI over the best strategy to take the opportunities around carbon and the inclusion of ASHI as a Nature Based Solution with the highest level of ethics and alignment with principles of the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative. A working group of the Global Commission has been created for this purpose to provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat.

The Global Commission has met twice in 2022 to define its role and involvement in ASHI. The Commissioners have formed a task force to discuss a very important topic of climate financial mechanisms for the Amazon region, their risks and opportunities. A list of the 36 Commissioners, their organizations and countries can be found here: <https://cuencasagradas.org/global-commissioners/>

The Commissioners have been offered an opportunity to participate transversally in ASHI according to their interest as they can participate in the various spaces and working groups that ASHI staff already and become active members of the implementation of the bioregional plan in Ecuador and Peru.

II. IMPLEMENTING THE BIOREGIONAL PLAN

The key actions undertaken in this working group in 2022 entail: a) promoting a circular bioeconomy within the Bioregion, b) creating the Living School of the Amazon; and c) developing a climate just compensation mechanism for Indigenous communities considering carbon and ecosystem values.

A) Promoting a Circular Bioeconomy in the Bioregion

Following meetings with HRH Prince Charles (now King Charles) and Indigenous leaders during COP 26 in Glasgow and again in January of 2022, ASHI was invited to join the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance (CBA), a network of private and public entities convened by His Royal Highness with a mission is accelerate the transition to a circular bioeconomy that is climate neutral, inclusive and prospers in harmony with nature. In March, a delegation from CBA visited the Amazon Sacred Headwaters region to learn more about the initiative and how the Alliance can provide support. Finally, delegates participated in the 38th anniversary of COICA at the Casa de la Cultura. Here is an [article by Marc Palahi](#) and the [short video](#) produced in partnership with the Financial Times.



Photo of workshop in the Awajún Community of Nazareth



Photo of workshop in the Wawik-Chapi Community



Photo of workshop in the Wawik-Chapi Community

Reforestation Pilot Project

In June 2022, ASHI received the first year's contribution through the Fundación Pachamama for the pilot reforestation project now beginning in Ecuador. The project contemplates reforestation of 300 hectares and the enhancement of another 300-600 communal food forests (called Chakras). Reforestation will be providing funding and technical assistance for this pilot initiative. Phase 2 will include a similar initiative in the Peruvian Amazon.

Starting in August and into November, a series of workshops were designed and conducted in Peru in a number of communities (Pakuy, Bichanak, Nazareth, Yupicus, Wawik and Wachapea) to share information about the Reforestation project, to start collecting data on the land of the beneficiaries; possible species to reforest; social, cultural, environmental problems, the communities face and to better know the families which will participate in the implementation phase in 2023. The local government also participated in these workshops.





Photo from November workshop with new EVA faculty, Puyo, Ecuador

B) The Living School of the Amazon (EVA)

The Living School of the Amazon (EVA) will train the next generations of leaders of the Ecuadorian Amazon. The School seeks to train leaders rooted in their Indigenous ethical values and cosmovision to foster autonomous territorial leadership and influence global transformation. Resulting in a regional youth leadership training network, alongside a planned Escuela Viva in Peru, to usher an Amazonian 2030 vision for change throughout the bio-region. The School will facilitate a leadership development for young people who are the future stewards of this vital bioregion. The pathway includes:

- (1) serving as cultural liaisons, passing on vital learnings from elders to fellow youth in their communities;
- (2) becoming earth guardians, protecting the rainforest by coordinating campaigns, conservation, restoration and livelihood projects envisioned in the bioregional plan; and
- (3) serving as community transformers, equipped with the know-how and resources to transform themselves and their communities and connected to global solidarity networks.

EVA progress so far in 2022 includes:

- Two Coordinators were hired and began working in September and October respectively:
 - the Leadership Coordinator the primary coordinator, managing the strategy and vision of the School, coordinating the leadership development curriculum for the students, and stakeholder engagement with support partners and organizations.
 - the Academic Coordinator charged with academic development and coordination of the School, working with EVA's partner university – AmawtayWasi, coordinating the selection of faculty along with their lesson/syllabus planning, also supporting student learning objectives.
- Teacher selection, communicated across CONFENIAE channels, attracting 57 applicants from across the Ecuadorian Amazon and beyond. Resulting in 12 teachers selected representing traditional professors, subject experts, and Indigenous elders with diverse expertise including bioeconomy, agroforestry, reforestation, law, communications, ancestral knowledge, and more.

EVA actions in 2022 continued...

- The curriculum is in its final stages of elaboration and definition. With the School's Academic Coordinator, Technical Team (Rhiza), university partner (AmawtayWasi), and the EVA faculty working quickly to prepare for the start of classes in January.
- The contract for the School's certificate – Sciences and Knowledge of the Peoples and Nationalities of the Amazon – has been organized, approved, and signed by CONFENIAE and Amawtay Wasi (the accrediting university). The result is that the School is now able to provide a university affiliated certificate for the completion of the program.
- Student selection is in its final phase with organizations selecting two students (one female and one young man). These young people are already beginning to interact with the EVA Coordinators to clarify questions, commitments and announcements including specifics on their scholarships and dates.
- The School's physical infrastructure is also in its final stages of development. This includes:
(a) breaking ground on two traditional Indigenous designed classrooms located alongside the CONFENIAE headquarters outside of Puyo; (b) equipping the student lodging structure; (c) retrofitting the kitchen to be equipped for student meals.

C) Carbon and Climate Financial Compensation Strategy

- Engaging the Ecuadorian Government on Carbon Rules

On May 16, 2022, ASHI representatives met once again with Ecuadorian Minister of the Environment, Gustavo Manrique, Vice Minister of the Environment, Bianca Dager and Subsecretary of Climate Change, Karina Barrera, to deepen discussions about the Bioregional Plan as well as ASHI's efforts to design financial compensation strategy including from voluntary carbon markets. The Ministry is planning to issue its Carbon compensation strategy and rules later in 2022 and further conversations with Ministry representatives have been scheduled.

- Workshop with Indigenous communities

On May 18, 2022, ASHI and CONFENIAE organized a meeting about compensation mechanisms for climate financing in the Ecuadorian Amazon, with the participation of Indigenous leaders and the Undersecretary of Climate Change from the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador. At the meeting Shuar leader, Juan Carlos Jintiach, participated as an expert speaker on behalf of the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities. During his speech, he referred to the global and regional context of Indigenous peoples and nationalities, as fundamental agents in the fight to mitigate climate change. You can access the report of the workshop in Spanish [here](#).

III. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Based on recommendations on key priorities for development of ASHI and on the Governance Council's mandate, the Organizational Development Working Group developed the following strategy and points for action.

Strategy

1. An annual strategic planning process: annual priorities are mapped according to a timeline and linked to a budgeting process. Plans are presented, modified and adopted by the Governing Council and tracked and reported on by staff throughout the year.
2. An adaptive learning system designed and integrated into the ongoing planning process including: a) A Monitoring system: To follow-up on actions and progress; b) An evaluation system: To assess quantity and quality of impact; c) Learning system: Qualitative insights on processes and culture; d) A theory of system transformation: mapping and analysis of key levers and experiments needed for large-scale system transformation.
3. Strengthening initiative governance: Instituting processes to deepen collaboration and participation of the Governing Council and to further ground the ASHI's strategies to the realities of the territories.
4. Exploration of how to integrate and connect ASHI's work with the other seven Amazonian countries.

Culture

1. Clarify how various types of operational, strategic and governance questions are raised and addressed.
2. Re-activate the ASHI Wisdom Council composed of cultural and spiritual leaders from the Sacred Headwaters Bioregion who help hold the initiative's DNA, identity, and culture, and where their values and principles guide our interactions, decisions and actions.
3. Integrate ASHI principles in work culture and decision-making creating a Culture of Buen Vivir.



Actions taken to date in 2022 by the Organizational Development Working Group:

1. Governance: Working with lawyers in three countries, ASHI began the process of establishing the Amazon Sacred Headwaters as its own entities in Ecuador, Perú and the US and is bringing the proposed entities, their governance structures to the upcoming governing council meeting in September for initial review and then to the first quarter 2023 meeting for formal adoption.
2. The first step was to initiate the legal process for the constitution of the new organization in the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador. We hope to receive the authorization at the end of February 2023. The next step will be to initiate the tax status and open bank accounts.
3. Clarification of roles, responsibilities and modus operandi of ASHI in general and each organ to usher in ASHI's Phase II focused on the implementation of the Bioregional Plan and financial sustainability..
4. Creation of a volunteer team within ASHI. A team of volunteers has been formed with young people between the ages 18 and 30. The group of volunteers has been divided into 3 themes: Education, Gender and Organizational Development.
5. Improvement of capacity building, accounting and financial systems to obtain adequate economic reports related to donations received and also to budget execution in Peru, Ecuador and the United States.



IV. RESEARCH AND LEARNING

This working group was created due to the need to centralize the management of information within ASHI, especially regarding the technical information that has been collected and that which will come with the implementation process of the Bioregional Plan. Similarly, this group has been formed with the intention of widely disseminating the information generated so that it can be used by other working groups more effectively and contribute to political influence and decision-making by the different actors within the Bioregion and at a global level. Hence, research, metrics and indicators are linked in this working group.

The Research and Learning working group, also generates new content that contributes to the implementation of the Bioregional Plan, and towards the social and ecological transition envisioned in the Bioregional Plan . This group seeks and consolidates visibility for the initiative through the generation of publications in the media and in academic journals, but also with strategic alliances with universities, experts and ASHI Global Commissioners to bring together contributions that reinforce the vision and mission of the Bioregional Plan . This working group is also tasked with designing and implementing the internal monitoring, evaluation, learning and transformation system for ASHI and the Bioregional Plan .

Key outcomes in 2022:

- New organizational arrangement of archives and migration towards an organizational shared Google Drive
- Building [ASHI's GIS Platform](#). This is a work in progress that will be preparing to launch in the first quarter of 2023 .
- Cooperation agreements with Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar and Universidad Técnica de Quevedo for different research projects that will allow us to move forward with the GIS Platform and support the Bioregional Plan's implementation.
- Development of a holistic measurement system with new indicators based on analysis and evaluation of “Buen Vivir” in ASHI's Bioregion. This is also a work in progress, mainly focused on the conceptualization of it.
- [Media publications](#)
- and Academic journals publications in [Scientific American](#), [Evaluation](#) journal and [other journals](#).



V. FUNDRAISING

ASHI's governing council adopted the following aspirational goals for ASHI for 2022:

1. That 50% of funds raised in 2022 be allocated to the implementation of projects in territories.
2. To raise and allocate up to \$500k for growing a more robust and expanded fundraising team in the US.
3. Recruit and scale fundraising team and systems of donor tracking, grant and financial reporting.

ASHI grew its fundraising capacity by hiring a full-time grant/report writer Udi Mandel in July 2022. The Fundraising working group which meets once every two weeks works closely with ASHI partners who support the ongoing work of raising funds for the implementation of the Bioregional Plan as well as the development of ASHI's capacity. We are also developing new relationships with funders in the US and Europe, so that we can meet our funding targets, as defined by the governance council, and to grow ASHI's capacity for the implementation phase II of the Bioregional Plan.

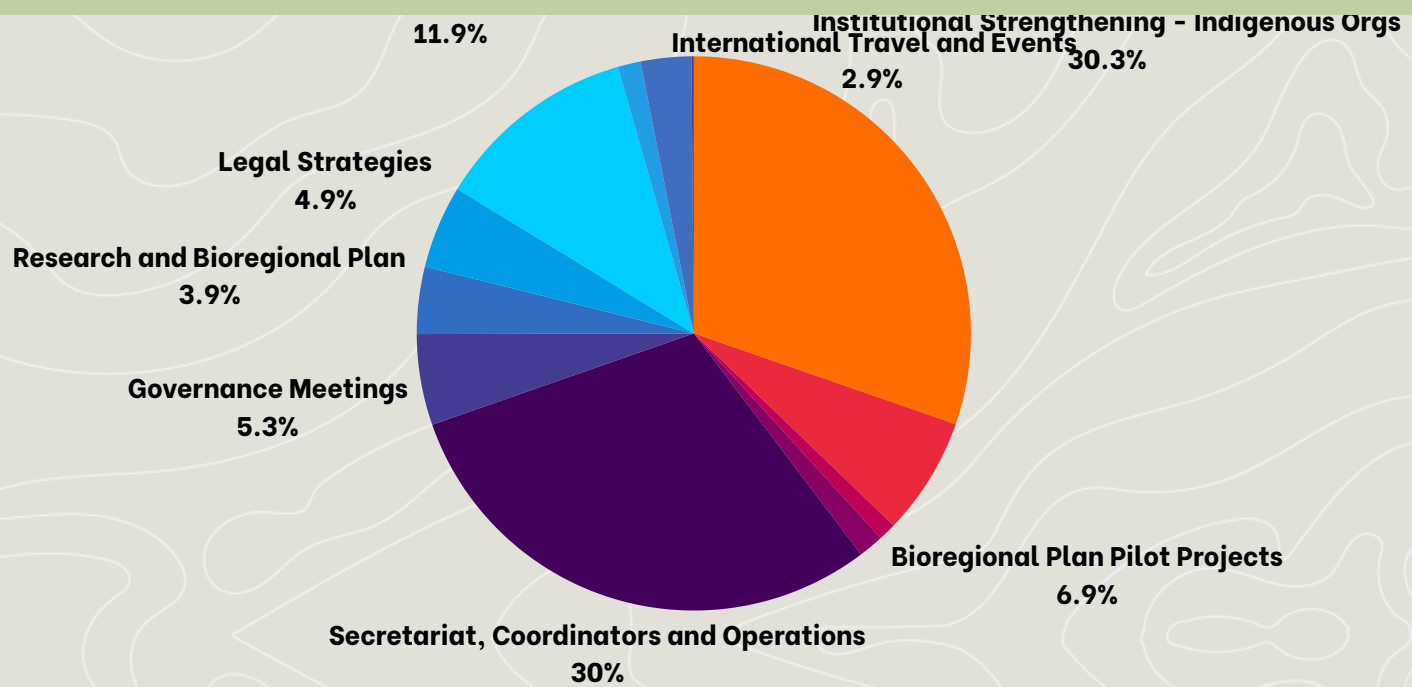
In 2022, ASHI's fundraising team has:

- Secured \$1.96 million in grants and renewals
- Has been invited to renew and/or apply for an estimated \$1 Million
- Organized a fundraiser and series of meetings with donors in Climate Week, New York which resulted in new and renewed donations, and relationships with prospective donors and supporters.
- Developed a grant-tracking infrastructure through Asana to support the workflow of the fundraising process.
- Developed new avenues for fundraising through a Giving Tuesday campaign and partnerships to build a Social Token campaign in 2023.

ASHI FUNDERS IN 2022

- Energy Transition Fund
- Bullens Heimann & Friends
- Chantecaille
- CISCO Foundation
- Henry Luce Foundation
- One Project
- ReforestAction
- Renewable 100
- Synchronicity Earth
- Trees for Climate Health
- Wallace Global Fund
- Waterloo Foundation
- Individual Donors

2022 BUDGET



Institutional Strengthening - Indigenous Orgs.
\$554,212.39

Secretariat, Coordinators and Operations
\$547,774.73

Communication (Local and Global)
\$216,689.95

Bioregional Plan Pilot Projects
\$125,785.58

Governance Meetings
\$97,027.77

Legal Strategies
\$88,780.63

Research and Bioregional Plan
\$71,496.85

International Travel and Events
\$53,936.13

Indigenous Summits
\$26,851.81

Emergency Actions / Response
\$18,872.44

Fundraising Expense
\$24,372.00

Monitoring and Adaptive Learning
\$2,500.00

Total spent in 2022 - \$1,828,300.28



2022 DETAILED SPENT BUDGET

Categories	Total 12 month
Institutional Strengthening to Indigenous Organizations	\$554,212.39
ORPIO	\$50,696.91
GTANW (WAMPIS)	\$33,492.70
FENAP	\$21,230.25
COBNAEP (PERÚ)	\$12,000.00
CORPI	\$11,010.00
AIDSESP	\$86,229.08
CONFENIAE	\$217,842.87
CONAIE	\$43,000.00
COICA	\$31,000.00
PUEBLO SHUAR ARUTAM	\$6,500.00
COBNAEP (ECU)	\$11,000.00
BIO WARMI	\$1,294.80
COMUNA MORETE COCHA - ASAMBLEA	\$7,000.00
COMUNA SAN JACINTO / PONAKICS	\$1,385.78
NACION ORIGINARIA NAOQUI QUIJOS- Sarayaku	\$3,000.00
NACION ANDWA DE PASTAZA	\$3,500.00
ACCIONES DE DEFENSA TERRITORIAL	\$5,000.00
PROYECTO EDUCATIVO SHIMAKA	\$9,030.00
Bioregional Plan Pilot Projects (EVA & Reforest)	\$125,785.58
Emergency Actions / Response	\$18,872.44
Indigenous Summits	\$26,851.81
Governance Meetings	\$97,027.77
Secretariat, Coordinators. and Operations	\$547,774.73
Research and Bioregional Plan	\$71,496.85
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Communication (Local and Global)	\$216,689.95
Fundraising Expense	\$24,372.00
Monitoring and Adaptive Learning	\$2,500.00
International Travel and Events	\$53,936.13
TOTAL	\$1,828,300.28

FUTURE PLANS AND PRIORITIES ON THE HORIZON

In 2023 ASHI will be working on multiple fronts to:

- Bolster institutional capacity and the operational infrastructure for fundraising, communications, advocacy campaigns, participatory governance, monitoring & evaluation and internal systems needed to support our decentralized and complex alliance as it grows.
- A strategic planning process to build the full infrastructure to implement the multi-scalar Bioregional Plan is underway now for phase II of the initiative.
- ASHI is gearing up to launch an aligned fundraising campaign needed to exact commitments toward the Bioregional Plan's implementation.
- Continue investing in the implementation of the priority projects and life plans in territories that have emerged through the bioregional planning process, building on the momentum that has been generated through this unprecedented alliance of 30 nations. This includes Living Amazon School, productive value chains, a pilot reforestation program, land titling and life plans.
- The implementation of Bioregional Plan will be facilitated by a Bioregional Project Platform through which priority requests directly from Indigenous organizations in the territories can be showcased to funders and the public. This GIS-based platform and an underpinning administration process will facilitate the mechanism by which proposals are generated, reviewed, funded and monitored by ASHI.
- We will also be focusing in the short-term in engaging the governments of Ecuador and Peru in deeper dialogue about pathways for an ecological transition and presenting proposals for financial incentives that can be activated should they be willing to commit to a moratorium on fossil fuel and mining expansion.
- Work on Debt relief will be a priority for Ecuador.
- A global partnership with King Charles is also in the works that will help elevate the global visibility of our initiative.
- We will be scaling up our global visibility under the leadership of our new Global Communications Coordinator Jesus Chavez Aguilar.
- We will be launching the redesigned English language website www.sacredheadwaters.org with a more strategic communications engagement strategy.
- We are continuing to build a novel, multi-scale monitoring, evaluation and learning system (ME&L) to track progress through transformation pathways and apply the most current advances in evaluation theory and practice. This bioregional and locally-sourced approach is being co-designed and implemented with people in the territories based on their own needs, observations, language and ways of documenting and communicating and derived from local biocultural indicators in ecological, social, cultural and economic systems and guided towards Buen Vivir or eco-social flourishing and wellbeing. Funds for this have been secured from CISCO Foundation and the One Project.
- Lastly, COICA has assumed a stronger role in ASHI's governing council and strategic planning process with an eye towards propagating the approach and solution pathways at the core bioregional plan 2030 to serve as a model and inspire similar processes in other 7 countries of the Amazon Basin.
- Similarly ASHI is engaging in the process of the larger Amazon Biome wide campaign of protecting 80% by 2025 providing a living laboratory for how we could achieve such a target.



Thank you so much for your interest in the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative and for your continued support. We are so grateful to all of you who took the time to be with us here and elsewhere. As you can see from this document, the Initiative is moving into a whole new phase of implementation of the [Bioregional Plan 2030](#). Your participation and support will be a powerful part of the unfolding of this bold and unprecedented alliance of 30 Indigenous nations in Ecuador and Peru, the largest Indigenous led conservation initiative on the planet.

Many of you offered your financial support and/or your connections to aligned funders and we deeply appreciate that.

We hope all of you will go online and sign the [Amazon Sacred Headwaters declaration](#) here.

Finally, you can find a link to [make a donation here](#).

Your generosity, good will, friendship and energy are powerful expressions of our common commitment to protect and preserve the Amazon Sacred Headwaters for future generations by empowering the Indigenous people who are its natural custodians.

With gratitude,

The Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative team

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As indigenous organizations we have to consolidate and unite to develop our own fundraising strategy together.

Domingo Peas
Territories
coordinator of the
Amazon Sacred
Headwaters Initiative





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