

## 2022 Year in Review

As 2022 comes to a close, we would like to share with you some reflections on our 30 year journey of promoting, protecting and advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples around the world.

In May of 1992, Land is Life was born in a small, forested valley in Brazil. Indigenous leaders from the Earth's seven socio-cultural regions had gathered there to contemplate the state of the world, to share experiences and to see if we could encourage the leaders of the world's governments, who were meeting in Rio de Janeiro for the United Nations Earth Summit, to take action to address the social and ecological crises that humanity is facing.

Since its founding, Land is Life has been an important part of the international struggle for Indigenous Peoples' rights. Communities and organizations from around the world – from the heart of the Amazon to the plains and forests of Africa; from the Arctic Circle to the islands of the Pacific – count on the strategic, financial, and moral support that Land is Life provides. For thirty years now, we have been working with communities to develop the tools and resources that they need to successfully defend their territories, lives, and livelihoods. What began as an informal coalition has grown into a global movement.

We, Land is Life, hold as our mission the international recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights. Our goals are lofty, but our work is practical. We are confronting serious problems, and we are doing so in ways that are innovative and effective. We are doing our small part to help create a world that is more peaceful, just, and sustainable.

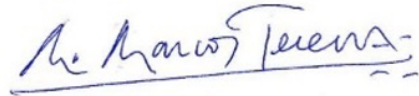
In 2022 our efforts continued to make a difference. Those who support Land is Life should be proud. Together, we have created an organization that is helping to create a world where Indigenous Peoples are recognized as valued members of the global community, and their human, economic, social, cultural and territorial rights are recognized and respected. Together, we are helping humanity to awaken so that we can learn, once again, how to live in a way that is responsible to future generations.

Today, we are about to enter our fourth decade. A decade full of challenges and responsibilities. Our commitment, based on a tradition of love for the Earth and respect for human diversity, is stronger than ever. We thank each of you for your support and hope that you will continue to partner with us in this most important work.

On behalf of Land is Life's Board and Staff,



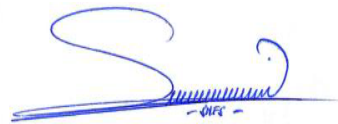
Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine



Marcos Terena



Jemiman Kerenge



Sinafasi Makelo



Brian Keane

## 2022 Highlights



## Safety and Security of Indigenous Peoples

Land is Life's Indigenous-Led Security Funds support Indigenous leaders and communities who are facing threats to their security. We currently have security funds in Asia, Africa, Meso-America, Colombia and the Amazon.

In 2022, we:

- Successfully completed the pilot year of the Indigenous-led Security Fund in Asia, supporting rights defenders in the Philippines and India.
- Established a security fund for the protection of Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) to address their situation of extremely high vulnerability.
- Developed a [Digital Security Guide for Activists](#), together with Citizen Clinic, to support Indigenous Defenders in responding to online threats.
- Supported Indigenous rights defenders with **120 rapid-response grants** globally.
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As threats against Indigenous rights defenders continue to grow, we hope that next year will allow us to further expand our Funds, to have the means to support Indigenous communities with tools and resources they need to be able to work safely.



## Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Land is Life works with Indigenous communities to develop autonomous protocols on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). In 2022:

- The FPIC protocol of [the Kichwa People of Sarayaku](#) was successfully completed and approved, and is now officially a Law in the territory of Sarayaku.
- Based on the success in Sarayaku, we initiated the development of a second FPIC protocol in Ecuador in the Kichwa community of Serena. The preliminary phase

of protocol development has been completed, with plans of approving the draft protocol in early 2023.

- We supported the Tacana People of the Indigenous Territory of Madre de Dios in Peru and the Ogiek People in Kenya to develop their FPIC protocols.

We look forward to continuing the ongoing collaborations next year and to expanding our FPIC program that provides communities with tools to design and develop their FPIC protocols, based on their own worldviews, norms and governance structures.

### **Building the Capacity of the Next Generation of Indigenous Leaders**

- In 2022 Land is Life launched a grassroots school and mentorship program for Indigenous youth leadership in Ecuador, called Runa Yachay (*The Peoples Knowledge*), which included 35 youth participants in its pilot year.

In 2023 we will be expanding Runa Yachay, and launching a new Women's Program which will include a mentorship program for young Indigenous women.



### **Indigenous Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact**

Land is Life works to advocate for the rights of Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation (PIACI), especially in our role as the Secretariat of the [GTI-PIACI Working Group](#). In 2022 we:

- Organized 15 meetings among the GTI-PIACI Working Group, including the group's [annual meeting](#), which brought together 60 representatives from 25

organizations across South America, to develop joint strategies to defend the collective rights of PIACI and address threats to their territories and lives.

- We participated in international forums and held meetings with various UN representatives, such as the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the President of the UNPFII, and the Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, to advance the rights of PIACI by means of international mechanisms. A specific recommendation for the protection of Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation was adopted in the final document of the UNPFII.
- Supported the participation of Indigenous organizations in the hearing of the historical case of the [Tagaeri & Taromenane vs. the State of Ecuador](#), where rights violations of Peoples Living in Voluntary Isolation were heard for the first time by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR). We also developed an Amicus Curiae to assist the court in determining the case.
- Partnered with Indigenous organizations and ally organizations across the Amazon and Gran Chaco to strengthen the protection of PIACI territories and rights. We directly supported 8 organizations in their local efforts to protect these peoples.



## **Grassroots Support to Indigenous Leaders and Indigenous Peoples' Organizations**

Land is Life continued to provide Indigenous organizations and communities with long-term strategic, technical, and financial support throughout 2022. Our network consists of **90 Indigenous organizations representing 58 distinct Indigenous peoples**. This year we:

- Provided direct support to Indigenous leaders and organizations across **26 countries in the seven socio-cultural regions**.
- Launched our Indigenous Food Security & Sovereignty Program to support Indigenous peoples' efforts to strengthen their food systems. In early 2022, We

hosted two [knowledge exchange workshops](#) between Indigenous communities and organizations from Sub-Saharan Africa and Mesoamerica. In fall, we launched the Agroecology Fund in Sub-Saharan Africa, which will support grassroots initiatives to strengthen Indigenous food systems across the region.

- Provided support to Maasai communities affected by [prolonged drought](#) in Southern Kenya.
- Continued our initiative “Strengthening Food Systems in Nicaragua” supporting two communities of Karata, as well as providing new support to the Tuapi Indigenous community in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region of Nicaragua.
- Partnered with the Washoe-led nonprofit [WZGT](#) to support them in their mission to build a People’s House, a place to gather, talk and learn Washoe language, conduct ceremonies, pray, and remember the values that their ancestors held as stewards of the land.



## **Strengthening Indigenous Participation in Policy Making**

Land is Life works to ensure that Indigenous leaders have a seat at the table wherever decisions are being made that affect their lives, lands and cultures, and we work to strengthen their ability to come to the table prepared to participate effectively. This year:

- A delegation from Land is Life participated in a number of dialogues and meetings at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. We also hosted five side events at the forum, [two](#) of them focusing on [FPIC](#), and the other three on the [collective security of Indigenous Defenders](#), [human rights violation of the PIACI](#), as well as the [30-by-30 conservation initiative](#).
- We supported a delegation of Indigenous women from West Africa in participating in [COP27](#) in Sharm el-Sheikh, where we also hosted a side event to

bring attention to the importance of the protection of PIACI territories in climate change mitigation strategies.

- As the GTI-PIACI Secretariat, we participated in the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([EMRIP](#)), to promote the rights of PIACI. We also hosted a [side event](#) on the extremely high vulnerability that the PIACI are exposed to.
- We participated at the 41<sup>st</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review ([UPR](#)) as well as in several meetings prior to the actual session, to address Indigenous rights violations of Ecuador, West Papua and the Philippines.

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A more comprehensive review of our work from 2022 will be updated on our website early next year. Until then, we want to thank you for your contribution to supporting Indigenous communities and wish you a healthy and happy New Year! We hope that each of you will stay along this upcoming year so that we'll be able to continue strengthening Indigenous rights in 2023.