



IMPACT REPORT

JAN 2023 - MAR 2024



children OF THE
RAINFOREST



Welcome to our work with the **Moseten** and **Tsimane** people; our dear friends of more than 20 years.

Our nonprofit organization strives to ensure that the **wisdom** and **cultural heritage** of the indigenous tribes in the Pilon Lajas Reserve are empowered which ripples out to **preserve the biodiversity of the Amazon Rainforest** for generations to come.





We develop essential infrastructure, create projects that support resilience and regenerative systems, provide clean drinking water, offer emergency aid during crises, support economic development and promote inspired education that celebrates Amazonian culture, traditions, and sustainability practices.

Here we share our accomplishments toward these goals from **January 2023** to **March 2024**.



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Carolina with women from the Chita family, long-time friends and collaborators from the Mosen community San Luis Grande.
Photo by Abner Paredes

Dearest Children of the Rainforest Family,

I am so grateful to be a part of continuing my father's legacy and for the opportunity to be a bridge builder for enduring change in the Bolivian Amazon Rainforest.

I am in awe and humbled by how all I have learned from life, from my beautiful family on two continents; my journey as a Waldorf teacher, artist, and humanitarian/community-do-good-not-harm-sort; and the experience of learning from and sharing firesides with Lakota communities throughout my life are now pouring into this work to help awaken the world to the invaluable wisdom of ancestral indigenous tribes. Life moves in mysterious ways indeed. It is hugely inspirational to be part of our incredible team and to empower leaders of the Mosen and Tsimane communities to guide the world towards global holistic sustainability.

Hope is so very important these days.

When I am with the communities we serve—and all those who experience our work—I see the possibility of a different future. I believe our work can catalyze innovative solutions and holistic systemic change to address the challenges faced by both humanity and the rainforest. But we need to weave this great tapestry of hope through our work to bring this future into being.

Our mission is to work towards the conservation and preservation of the Amazon jungle and the families whose lineages have held the stewardship of the jungle and withstood thousands of years. They now need a hand-up (not a handout) to ensure they can meet our modern age with agency, in spite of the fact that they have been underserved and denied opportunities for generations. We—you, the board, myself, our staff, and all the many volunteers—work for and with them.



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Change takes time and the challenges of our present moment are more interconnected and extreme than ever before. Therefore, we have worked in global collaboration with our friends in the Amazon to put many things into action this year.

We have been immersed in the Amazon, where we heard and responded to the request to initiate ecotourism. Our friends in Peru and Ecuador now support our work through beautiful inter-indigenous collaboration. We have provided emergency aid during record-breaking fires in the Amazon, supported individuals through medical emergencies, shared stories and expanded awareness of these communities through social media, provided training and creative educational opportunities, shared puppet shows and dance parties, and much more which you will read about in this report.

I know what you read here will inspire and help you see the possible future that I see. I hope you will be moved to get involved as a volunteer and make a donation to the continuation of this profound work.

Lastly, I can't wait to share with you the coming year's story of impact as we continue to meet our mission to protect the Amazon Rainforest and empower its indigenous communities.

Sincerely,
Carolina Allen
Executive Director
Children of the Rainforest
Carolina@ChildrenoftheRainforest.org

Click to donate today

**Click for our website,
socials and more**

Carolina greeting a
Moseten leader of the
community Asunción.
Photo by Abner Paredes



The Reserve That Impacts The World:

PILÓN LAJAS

8

Moseten and Tsimane villages

850

Indigenous lives impacted

988,423

acres of extremely biodiverse Amazon Rainforest

This UNESCO-recognized World Heritage site used to be home to more than 30 indigenous villages. Modern climate-change-related crises including floods, fires and drought caused many people to flee and assimilate into nearby towns and cities.

We aim to reverse this population decline and keep these protectors of the Amazon in their ancestral home.



The Moseten community San Luis Grande in the Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve
Photo by Abner Paredes

REFUGE INAUGURATION Jan 2023

Approximately **488** people use our refuge on a regular basis.

In January 2023, we finished construction on and inaugurated a refuge with running water, bathrooms, and a shelter for our Moseten and Tsimane friends who were stuck downriver in Rurrenabaque due to all-to-common gas shortages, storms or dangerous river conditions.

Before, the Moseten and Tsimane people had to resort to sleeping under trees, on the sides of houses, or wherever they could

find shelter as none had ever been provided for them. This project was the first to address this problem and now houses our indigenous friends regularly.

In a heartwarming display of care, the community named the refuge **Centro de Acogida Tsimane Mosetene, "Jack Allen"** to honor our founder Jack. This name translates to the **"Jack Allen" Tsimane and Moseten Welcome Center**.

The "Jack Allen" Tsimane and Moseten Welcome Center on the day of its inauguration
Photos by Abner Paredes



Inter Amazonian Exchange: **MOSETEN, TSIMANE, ACHUAR AND ANDEAN COLLABORATION**

4 indigenous cultures

connected to solve modern challenges facing them all

One particularly inspiring aspect of our work to emerge in the past year and a half has been the bridge-building between indigenous communities and individuals throughout the Amazon and Andes.

The Achuar people in the Ecuadorian Amazon have been particularly important mentors to the Mosen and Tsimane as they formalize and enhance their ethical and sustainable ecotourism program. They have also been blazing a trail in finding creative solutions to problems within their education system, which has historically colonized their children, often forcing them to leave home and assimilate into modern Ecuadorian society. We are working with Mosen and Tsimane leaders on this same problem and have now connected them with Waldorf teaching experts from around the world.

Our Executive Director, with 20 years of experience as a Waldorf teacher, was able to help connect Achuar leaders with Waldorf teachers in the USA from the Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training (BACWTT) as well as the leaders of the Kusi Kawsay Andean Waldorf-inspired School, who have found an educational model that incorporates their Indigenous Andean culture and practices within their school year and integrated with the Andean cosmology, their agrarian calendar, cultural music, festivals and life celebrations.

We also had a highly respected musician named Amado Espinoza, who is of Andean descent in Bolivia, travel through the communities in Pilon Lajas to share his music, listen to their ancestral songs, and hold workshops on how to create instruments from natural materials around them in the Amazon, like bamboo.

We are excited to continue facilitating these connections and building this network of support between Indigenous peoples as they all work toward maintaining their tribal identities and ancestral homes in the face of modern challenges.



Economic Development: **JOURNEYS PROGRAM**

12 Moseten and Tsimane leaders

traveled to Ecuador to mentor with the Achuar

Many of the communities within the Pílon Lajas Reserve have been hosting international visitors interested in experiencing life in the Amazon as an opportunity for cultural exchange, as well as to support the few costs they have, such as medical emergencies and food supplies, in the face of environmental crises like floods and fires.

The Achuar people have been building eco and cultural tourism and multicultural exchange within some of their communities, including the widely known Kapawi Eco-Lodge, enhanced by their partnership with the Pachamama Alliance for over 20 years. Our nonprofit has been able to learn from the Pachamama Alliance on how to support our communities through this endeavor in an ethical and sustainable way.

In the last year and a half, a prominent Achuar leader named Jose Peas visited three communities in Pílon Lajas that are interested in expanding their Journeys Program. He brought with him Steve Torneten, who has guided trips with the Achuar for more than 10 years, Juan Fernando Duran, a prominent nature guide in Ecuador and exceptional translator, and Luciana Alves, a fantastic chef with experience and knowledge

in food safety, preparation and presentation. This team spent time in each of the three communities—Asunción, Corte, and San Luis Grande—leading workshops on everything from food safety, housekeeping, nature guide training to how to maintain their power as the authorities on what is appropriate when international guests come to their home- the immense majestic Amazon rainforest.

We then sponsored 12 leaders- 6 men and 6 women- from these three communities to travel to Sharamentsa, a vibrant model Achuar community that is a main stop for journeys through their territory, to be mentored by the people who run their programs.

These three communities are now preparing to welcome their first inaugural group of guests through this new offshoot of the Journeys Program on August 5th - 18th 2024. Our team is working hard to find the lucky guests to embark on this trip of a lifetime to visit them. We receive no profit from the ticket sales, and all money goes to those who make the trip happen, with most of that work and profit remaining within the Moseten and Tsimane communities.



WATER SYSTEMS

121,800 gallons of clean water

per hour can be delivered to the communities through our systems

Our nonprofit continues to maintain the clean water systems that each community in the Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve has access to. During this past year and a half, we purchased a new well-digging machine to aid in future projects, built a new well in the community of Corte, and conducted maintenance on multiple systems.

We have recently begun prep work, including land measurements and research, to install irrigation systems in their food forests and gardens and put in a new water system in the small community of San Bernardo. Irrigation is a new need that is related to climate-change-caused droughts. The rain has always been sufficient in the rainforest to grow food, but these droughts are devastating their ancestral ways of living in the jungle, and new ways of adaptation are necessary.

STORYTELLING

1,182

new followers in our digital community

2

Waldorf-style puppet shows paying homage to Indigenous histories and myths

58,200

minutes of our video posts viewed

In order to continue the important work we do in Pilon Lajas, we need to introduce a broader audience to their story and bring in supporters who will volunteer, advocate, and donate.

During the past year and a half, our team grew our Instagram followers from 59 to 1,034 and shared carefully crafted, educational content about the area, the Indigenous people, and our work to support both.

We also utilized storytelling as a means of bridge-building with different communities.

On one trip to Pilon Lajas, Carolina carefully prepared and performed a Waldorf-style puppet show telling a Mosen myth of their sacred Ceibo tree—"Wujshinaj" in their native tongue—and Hummingbird that an elder had previously told her. The honor paid to this cultural story had such an impact that it brought tears and two elders in the community proceeded to share a traditional song and dance that had

never been shared with our group before.

Later Carolina thoughtfully collaborated with the Achuar elders to prepare a puppet show to honor an Achuar legend as a way to connect with the community during a trip with various Waldorf education leaders to work on the Achuar educational goals. This again opened up fascinating pivotal conversations with elders, enchanted the entire community and especially the mothers and children in a manner respectful of their own culture and consequently built trust between her, the other Waldorf teachers and the Achuar peoples increasing awareness and understanding of Waldorf experiential methods. Storytelling has an ancient lineage or power to deeply resonate within the human psyche bridging worlds and knowledge sharing in unexpected and magical ways that these two events exemplified for us all.

We are excited to continue holding storytelling as a core part of our work, both to share the stories of the Mosen and Tsimane people with the broader world and to connect and build trust between our team and the Indigenous communities.



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EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



2 visiting educators

brought music and agroforestry learning directly to the communities

390 books

were delivered to bolster the libraries within the communities

On each trip upriver, our team brings a selection of books curated by our Executive Director, Carolina Allen, and her knowledge of early children's education to begin to build up lending libraries within each community as well as basic art supplies. In addition to these gifts, we are partnering with education-minded community leaders to explore solutions to the challenges their children face.

The educational system for these communities is inconsistent and based on a colonial model that erodes their sense of dignity and discourages the development of self-reliance and independence, rather than encouraging innovative or creative thought.

For some, after 6th grade, the children must attend school in the nearest town, a 10-hour or more boat ride away from their families and community. These young people go without access to other adult support, housing, and sometimes food—a sacrifice made because

of the value the Mosesten and Tsimane place on education despite the system's drawbacks. We know that so much more is possible.

In the past year and a half, we have worked with Waldorf teaching experts from around the world, the Waldorf-inspired Kusi Kawsay Andean School in Peru, Achuar leaders, and leaders of the Tsimane and Mosesten communities to collaborate on creative solutions to these problems. It has been a research and development period focused on building connections, identifying key problems, and exploring solutions.

We are excited to act on some of these ideas in the coming year, including working towards the creation of a private school that could allow the communities to teach with their cultural heritage celebrated and their Indigenous languages incorporated without requiring their children to leave home.



EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Agroforestry with Dennis De La Barre

Agroforestry plays a vital role in combating climate change, preserving biodiversity, improving living conditions, and promoting better health and nutrition. It also greatly helps minimize and prevent the deforestation of the Amazon. We invited volunteer and dedicated agroforester Dennis De La Barre to visit Pilon Lajas and teach workshops in several of the indigenous communities.

Dennis shared the benefits of intentionally integrating agroforestry practices—planting trees and shrubs into farming systems for crops and animals. This approach creates positive impacts on the environment, economy, and society, which is crucial for the future of our planet.

During his visit, Dennis motivated and guided the community towards climate-resilient agroforestry. He shared valuable knowledge on planting specific seeds and crops to maximize germination and protect them from pests. He also taught techniques for seed storage and more, initiating a new chapter in the journey toward sustainable and climate-friendly practices.

These practices not only help mitigate global warming but also enhance water retention in the soil and improve its overall quality. In time, what Dennis began

will contribute to improving the financial position of our Indigenous partners, ensuring a sustainable future for the Amazon and its people.

Dennis's visit marks the beginning of ongoing support for our communities' agricultural needs.

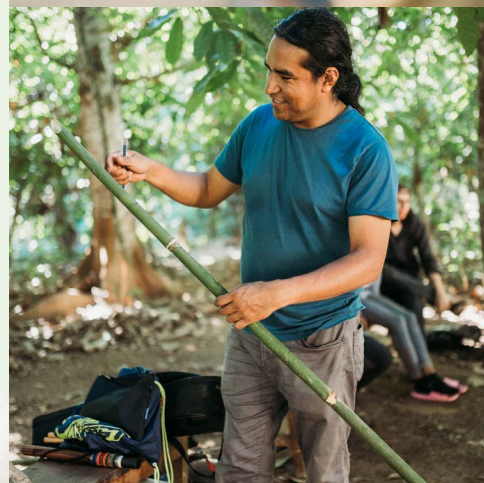
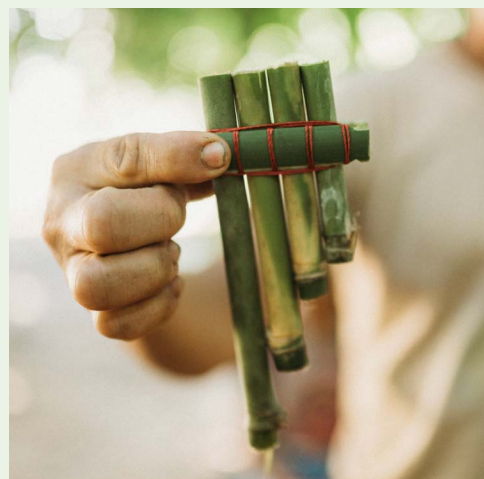


EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Gift of Music with Amado Espinoza

As part of our broader effort to bring inspired education to the Pílon Lajas Reserve, we invited musician Amado Espinoza to travel upriver and visit the communities of San Luis Grande, Corte, and Asunción. Amado—embodying the Andean indigenous values of Ayni and Ayllu (reciprocity and community)—shared the gift of music and taught community members how to build musical instruments using materials found in their environment.

Using Amazonian instruments like the Charango and Siku, Amado demonstrated how music has played a fundamental role in human relationships, with each other and with the environment, for millennia. He introduced various instruments, including the quena, sikus/zampoña (Andean pan flutes), the charango (a 10-string guitar), the guitar, and the Tarque (a type of wood recorder). Through these instruments, he celebrated indigenous musical styles such as Sikuri, Huayno, Tarqueada, and Tinku, enriching the cultural heritage of the region and inspiring children and elders alike.



OUR GROWING GLOBAL COMMUNITY

6 staff

members joined our team

48 volunteers

gave their time from around the world

50 mentors

shared their wisdom with our Executive Director and staff

We are an international team of legacy and bridge builders for enduring change in the Bolivian Amazon Rainforest, and we have welcomed many new friends over the last year and a half!

We are deeply grateful for the support, time, and mentorship from our community that has shaped and honed our rising nonprofit's work as we evolved and grew during this time of great restructuring.

We would not be here today without them or their support.



Our special gratitude to the
Paypal Giving Fund

and the many wonderful people who supported us through donations when making a purchase via Paypal.



OUR GROWING GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Mentors

Without their wisdom we would not be who we are today.



Aaron Peterson
Alejandro Heredia
Andrea Quiñonez
Anita Heredia
Anne Rogers
Ada Kruiter
Amy Siegel
Carlos Soruco
Maria Paula Garcia
Chris Guilfoil
Darren Reilly
Daniel Tanner
David Alsop
Domingo Peas
Edgar Heredia
Fidel Castro
Fielding Vizcarra
Gustavo Heredia
Inez Soruco
Jeannie Schwanekamp
Jennifer Mckinly
Jose Peas
Julie Yarnhill

Jorge Soruco
Juan Fernando Duran
Julie Tilt
Karen Prada
Ken Smith
Kristine Deason
Leo Prada
Lourdes Smith
Luciana Alves
Lynne Twist
Marianne Alsop
Maria Soruco
Mauricio Prada
Pepe Prada
Robert Girling
Roman Vizcarra
Rosemarie Soruco
Sara Vetter
Sergio Prada
Simon Riling
Steve Torneton
Virginia Heredia



OUR GROWING GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Partnerships, Alliances and Support

Abner Paredes Photography

<https://www.facebook.com/abnerparedesfotografia/>

Aguatuya

<https://www.aguatuya.org/inicio>

Alvaro Pesantes Photography

<https://www.facebook.com/alvaropesantesphotography/>

Amado Espinoza

<https://amadoespinoza.com/>

Bay Area Center of Waldorf Teacher Training (BACWTT)

<https://www.bacwtt.org/>

Casey House Website Design

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/casey-house-15a600111/>

The Early Childhood Teachers and Assistants of the Marin Waldorf School

<https://www.marinwaldorf.org/>

Ecojet

<https://flyecojet.aero/en/inicio-english/>

El Mirador

<https://www.facebook.com/elmiradorbolivia/>

Gustavo Heredia Deiters Photography

<https://www.gustavoheredia.com/elviajedelagua>

Integration Playground

<https://www.integrationplayground.com/>

Journeys with Steve (Amigos of Steve)

<https://www.wetravel.com/users/steve-torneten>



OUR GROWING GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Partnerships, Alliances and Support

Julianos Restaurant

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Juliano's%20Restaurant/146269642697461/>

Kusi Kawsay

<https://kusikawsay.org/kk/>

Landmark Education Worldwide

<https://www.landmarkworldwide.com/>

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www.Lovemypod.com

Luz Del Mar

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Luz-De-Mar-Restaurant-100053696382851/>

The Pachamama Alliance

<https://pachamama.org/>

Plastiforte

<https://www.plastiforte.com/>

Sambrano Services

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/elise-sambrano-b6aa668/>

S.C.O.R.E.

<https://www.score.org/sanfrancisco>

Soul of Money Institute and the Sophia Circle Sisterhood

<https://soulofmoney.org/>

Tu Quantum

<https://tuquantum.com/>



Thank you for taking the time to learn about our work

If you want to see the Indigenous tribes of Bolivia find their voice and make the call out to the world that will be pivotal in the fight to rebalance the climate crisis, preserve their cultural heritage and protect the Amazon Rainforest for the whole world; commit a monthly donation today.

You can also reach out to find other ways to support our work including volunteer opportunities.

Click here to...

Email our Executive Director, Carolina
Carolina@ChildrenOfTheRainforest.org

Find our **website, socials** and **more**
<https://linktr.ee/childrenoftherainforestbolivia>

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