



# Impact Report

APR 2024 - MAR 2025





Welcome to our work with the Moseten and Tsimane people; our friends, collaborators and inspiration for more than 20 years.

Our nonprofit strives to ensure that the wisdom and cultural heritage of the indigenous tribes in the Pilón Lajas Reserve are empowered, have sovereignty, and work toward true sustainability which ripples out to preserve and regenerate 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 **April 2024 to March 2025**.



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Again and again in history some special people wake up.

They have no ground in the crowd and move to broader deeper laws.

They carry strange customs with them and demand room for bold and audacious action.

The future speaks ruthlessly through them.

They transform the world.

— Rainer Maria Rilke



Carolina and Ada with young women and children from Asuncion who display their handwoven bags

Photo by Abner Paredes



## A Letter from our Executive Director, Carolina Allen

### Dear Friends of Children of the Rainforest,

Welcome to the 2025 Children of the Rainforest Annual Impact Report. Thank you for being on this journey with us—for your care, your love, and the incredible impact you've helped make. Your support continues to uplift the men, women and children of the Bolivian Amazon in ways far beyond what can be shown in these pages.

The true power of giving—of being seen when often unseen, of loving service and deep gratitude—cannot be quantified. Its ripple effect reaches generations to come and touches the very survival of the Amazon Rainforest itself.

In the past year, we've walked side by side with the Tsimané and Mosetén peoples, formed new alliances with Indigenous friends in Peru and Ecuador, and partnered with conscious organizations in Bolivia. Your commitment carried us through fires, floods, and droughts—and through it all, we stood with our communities like never before.

We work in regions where the internet, electricity, and gasoline are scarce, unreliable or simply non-existent. This year, bridges collapsed, food ran short, and entire villages were flooded, a schoolhouse, many homes, ancient heritage trees and food forests were washed away as the rivers carved the soil banks into entirely new landscapes. A severe dengue outbreak followed, and families couldn't reach medical care. Other health conditions occurred for many people.

And yet, because of your support, every crisis was met with courage, care, and action. Lives were saved. Plans constantly changed, sleepless nights piled up, but we pressed forward together.

The Amazon is nearing its tipping point. On the ground, it's undeniable: the floods are deeper, the droughts harsher, the fires more frequent. The fish are fewer, the forest quieter. Millions of hectares have burned every year.

Science warns that in 12 years or less, this lush ecosystem could become a desert. Millions of lives and millennia of cultural knowledge hang in the balance.

This is not just a fight for land—it's a fight for ancestral memory, for languages, myths, and wisdom traditions that hold the blueprint for life in balance.

Much is unraveling... and yet, much is still trying to go right. The point of no return has not yet passed. But this is a critical time. A time for unity, for transformation to radical sustainability, a time for our passion and committed collaborative purpose to call out for a regenerative age- it is not a time for isolation, overwhelm or despair.

Our world depends on us.

In the face of this, we continue to act—with safe water access, education, agroforestry, women's empowerment, economic support, and emergency aid. We stretch every dollar. We keep showing up. This past year we had less funding than ever and must start anew. Our work meets needs no other nonprofit organization does in a critical area. This is the year to send support. We need you now.

We are launching small, deeply respectful eco-tours—starting with one this September (rescheduled due to the flooding in March), and others in January and May of 2026. Come experience the magic firsthand. The rainforest is still here.

Our friends are ready to receive you.

I am deeply proud of our incredible scrappy grassroots team of community builders and conservationists both in Bolivia and across the globe. Our team poured their hearts into this work. What began as my father's dream has become a shared vision: of a thriving Amazon where every child is healthy, safe, loved, and rooted in a culture that flourishes; able to weave their traditional heritage, their own language with the arts, music and way of storytelling. Their existence and collective story is a beacon of renewed hope for what is possible for a just, sustainable and healthy world. We will not give up.

You are part of that vision. You are part of this movement and if you want to see the Amazon with your own eyes and meet the people who have been its millennial stewards and are some of the most inspiring changemakers of today- there is no better time than now.

Throughout this report, you'll see what you have helped make possible. With your continued ongoing support and belief in us, the seeds we've planted will blossom into the future we all still hope is possible.

**With love and deep gratitude,  
Carolina**

[Carolina@ChildrenoftheRainforest.org](mailto:Carolina@ChildrenoftheRainforest.org)



To learn more and make a donation today, visit:

**[ChildrenOfTheRainforest.org](http://ChildrenOfTheRainforest.org)**



# The Reserve That Impacts the World: **Pilón Lajas**

## **988,423**

acres of extremely biodiverse  
Amazon Rainforest

## **3,000**

plant species and more yet-to-be-recorded biodiversity

Indigenous protectors of the Amazon can remain in their ancestral homelands—thriving, not just surviving. We envision a future where cultural traditions are passed down with pride, where inspired education and healthcare are accessible, and where both the people and the rainforest flourish together for generations to come.

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. If this trend continues and the indigenous people leave altogether, it is very unlikely that the land will remain protected.

At the heart of all our work is a bold vision: to reverse population decline and ensure that the



## **Guardians of the Amazon: Indigenous Families of Pilon Lajas**

## **13**

Moseten and  
Tsimane villages

## **850**

Indigenous lives  
impacted

The Moseten and Tsimane live in harmony with the Bolivian Amazon which provides them food, medicine, shelter and livelihoods. Under the canopy of the mighty Mapajo, and other jungle trees and plants, are the harbored stories and oral histories that formed the basis of the Moseten and Tsimane cosmovision, spirituality, and the essence of their education. The survival of these indigenous peoples depends upon vast, healthy territories. Territories protected from mining, logging, dams, poaching, industrial agriculture, roads and colonization.

When the reserve is safe, the people are safe.

When the people are safe, healthy and strong, the Rainforest thrives.

When the Rainforests thrive, the world is more whole, the climate is closer to balance and all life thrives.

It should be so simple and yet we are in a frontline battle with a ticking clock to make such an elegant description reality once again.



# Access to Water is How it All Began

## 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 we built over the years which almost every community in the Pilón Lajas Biosphere Reserve now has access to.

We have recently begun land measurements and research to install fish ponds and irrigation systems in the food forests and farm plots of several communities. These fish ponds will be a source of sustainable protein but also a direct response to a growing crisis: mercury contamination in the rivers due to illegal gold mining. This has made traditional river fishing extremely dangerous for the health of those who have been sustaining themselves with this practice for thousands of years.

We also plan to implement a new water system in the small community of San Bernardo. Access to safe water has always been paramount—it's how our work began over 20 years ago. But now, irrigation has become a new and urgent need, driven entirely by climate-change-induced severe droughts. Rainfall, once abundant and reliable in the rainforest, is no longer consistently able to sustain food production. These prolonged dry seasons are threatening ancestral ways of life, and threatening the survival of heritage trees, plants and crops. New forms of adaptation are not optional—they are essential for survival.



# Inter-Amazonian Exchange:

## Connecting Kusi Kawsay and Pilon Lajas



In August 2024, Luis and Eliseo - two men from Pilon Lajas - travelled by bus up over the highlands of Bolivia, through the Andes, to Cuzco, and finally to Pisac, Peru. This voyage was so they could visit and learn from the Quechua people in their inspired community built around the Kusi Kawsay Waldorf School and Cultural association as well as meet and receive mentoring from visiting Waldorf teacher trainers and teachers from the USA.

They were emissaries of their people, there to learn what is possible when culture and education are integrated with the oral history, dances, music, cosmovision, festivals and food of an indigenous culture. The Kusi Kawsay school and Cultural Association are world UNESCO recognized community programs that empower the children, youth

childrenoftherainforest.org and adults of Indigenous communities in the Sacred Valley near Cusco, Peru through the creation and support of permanent, multidisciplinary programs. This is done through its Andean school, community-produced videos, cultural center, workshops, traditional music and dance group, radio broadcasts, and cultural exchanges with other Indigenous communities.

Through our connecting and sponsoring travel, they are now forging an educational alliance with the Moseten and Tsimane of Bolivia as well as the Achuar of Ecuador, the Bay Area Center for Waldorf Teacher Training and several Waldorf teachers here in the United States.

Learn more about Kusi Kawsay:  
[www.kusikawsay.org](http://www.kusikawsay.org)

# Emergency Aid

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Community members were supported with medical care

A point of great pride for our organization is that, after 20 years of trust-building, we are the first call when community members face emergencies and are desperate for support. Whether a child is sick or a natural disaster is threatening the entire reserve, we are ready to do all we can in support.

This past year, we saw just how critical medical access and trusted local advocates are. This year our boots-on-the-ground support coordinated medical care for numerous community members, primarily women and children.

One Mosetén woman and a mother-of-two, became gravely ill during a pregnancy that wasn't going well. She was losing weight rapidly, too dizzy to stand, deeply disoriented and in pain. After traveling 12 hours by boat to the nearest clinic, she was dismissed by a doctor who told her it was "all in her head" and to return in two months' time.

Recognizing that something was truly wrong, our team stopped her at the dock just before she began the journey home. This intervention quite literally saved her life.

We arranged a second opinion, where another doctor immediately diagnosed an ectopic pregnancy with complications and rushed her into emergency surgery that very night. She survived, but it was a very close call.

Prejudice and class bias are real and deadly barriers to care in many parts of Bolivia. We are so grateful for those who have helped navigate complex, often discriminatory systems and assert their right to be seen and helped.

This past March, we also responded with emergency aid when dozens of Indigenous families from the Mosetén and Tsimané communities were stranded by catastrophic flooding. The rivers rose over their banks, sweeping away much of one village—including its schoolhouse—and many homes. Those who had traveled into town to sell fruit or buy provisions were suddenly cut off from their families and left without a way home. The rivers were unnavigable for over a month. Thankfully, many were able to take refuge in the emergency shelter we built three years ago for exactly this kind of situation.

While the shelter provided safety, bathrooms, and showers, it did not include a food supply or a way to purchase or cook food. In the first days, Our Lucas brought huge pots of soup, then partnered with local restaurants to bring in emergency meals. Later, we supported families in finding temporary work, and installed a gas stove so they could cook for themselves and stay warm during the worst of the glacial Antarctic storms.

These moments reveal the heart of our work: to show up when it matters most—with urgency, respect, and solutions rooted in trust, advocacy and love.



# Economic Development Rooted in Culture and Land



At Children of the Rainforest, we believe that true economic development honors culture, strengthens community, and protects the forest that sustains it all. Across the Mosetén and Tsimané territories, we are working to help cultivate locally led, culturally grounded economies that allow families to thrive without the forced necessity of leaving their land or compromising their traditions. Economies that allow for inspired education that honors and is grounded in what is important to families, traditional festivals and the annual cycle of their agricultural calendar: in essence their millennial heritage.

This includes the development of respectful, small-scale ecotourism, where guests are welcomed into community-built lodges and nourished with homegrown slow cooked meals prepared by local cooks. Community members step into dignified roles as guides, navigators, artisans, cooks, cultural educators, and hosts—sharing the richness of their language, land, and legacy.

But tourism is not the end goal—it is a bridge, not a crutch. Our long-term vision is for the communities to build regenerative, sovereign economies rooted in their land and lifeways. Tourism will become a special, celebratory event. A time for mutual exchange, learning, and joy, where visitors come to contribute, to learn and leave inspired. They

will sometimes bring art, music or other workshops that supplement local education and cultural life, rather than define it.

Meanwhile, families are looking forward and preparing to begin the cultivation of alternative income streams such as wild beekeeping with the tiny, native, jewel-like, stingless species called Las Señoritas, or cacao and vanilla production. There is interest in fruit preservation (leathers, marmalades), and the crafting of jewelry, bags, shawls, and other handwoven artisan goods. Local men and youth are reviving carpentry, carving, boat-building, and the use of Jatata palm and bamboo for sustainable, climate-smart construction. There is so much more possible. The biodiversity of the Amazon rainforest has untapped sustainable potential.

These efforts are about self-determination, resilience, and cultural pride—an economy where the rainforest is protected, the culture is celebrated, and the people are free.



# Journeys Delayed, Not Diminished

In last year's report, we shared the excitement building in the Pilón Lajas communities as they prepared to welcome their very first group of guests through a new, community-led ecotourism program. For months, Mosetén and Tsimané worked tirelessly—building new trails, repairing paths, building a new kitchen, sleep cabin, shower and bathroom. They prepared cultural presentations and practiced serving their delicious slow-cooked-over-an-open-flame traditional recipes with care and pride.

Then, just days before the journey was set to begin, catastrophic floods hit the region.

The river swelled more than 30 feet beyond its banks. Bridges and roads were washed away. Entire villages and towns were damaged or made inaccessible. The Bolivian navy and local government deemed the river unnavigable. It was clear: our guests could not safely reach the communities, and we were heartbroken to cancel the trip.

And yet, true to the spirit of the people we serve, the response was not defeat—it was resilience.

The Mosetén and Tsimané got back to work, recommitting to this project and expanding their preparations for the next opportunity. They are determined to share their lands, culture, and vision with those ready to learn and walk beside them.

We've now rescheduled the first eco journey for September 2-13, with additional dates in January and May 2026 soon to be announced.

This project has the power to transform lives—through dignified, self-determined income that allows communities to access medical care, inspired education, and the tools to thrive while preserving their traditional ways of life while sharing it with the world in the hopes of increasing support in saving the Amazon.

We invite you to be part of it all.

Come walk this path with us. Witness the beauty, the bravery, and the brilliance of these communities firsthand—while you still can.

Join our next journey!

Learn more at [childrenoftherainforest.org/journeys](https://childrenoftherainforest.org/journeys)





## Joyería Apprenticeships

### Reclaiming Culture Through Craft and Connection

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Knitting macramé together has been a wonderful way to share and get to know each other.

Knitting is rooted in these women’s knowledge, their abilities, and their imagination.

— Camila

In June 2025, a new jewelry-making apprenticeship program emerged through a heartfelt collaboration between Camila, a skilled jewelry artisan and wife of our community advocate Lucas, and women from San Luis Grande and nearby villages. What began as a simple invitation became a space of trust, creativity, and healing.

Camila opened her home and Workshop studio to share her knowledge of Jewelry making with macramé, and metalwork. Lucas lovingly cared for the children and offered food—reshaping gender expectations and building bridges with humor and gentle respect. The women, already skilled in traditional seed and wood jewelry, took to the new tools with grace and enthusiasm. Their hands moved with ease—revealing an inherited knowledge that speaks of many generations of artistry.

One of the most meaningful connections to grow from this circle has been the friendship between Camila and the wife of a community leader. As they sit and craft together, the space becomes more than a workshop—it becomes a place of mutual learning, friendship, and laughter.

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There is knowledge in the hands of these women. It lives in their imagination. It feels like part of their language

— Camila



“There is knowledge in the hands of these women. It lives in their imagination. It feels like part of their language,” Camila shared.

Inspired by this deepening trust, there is growing hope to bring macramé and other fiber art workshops directly into the communities—starting with Corte. They hope to weave their cultural symbols, plants, animals, and fruits into designs that reflect their identity and surroundings. With the right materials—threads, tools, and consistent access—this initiative could evolve into a vibrant artisan women’s cooperative rooted in ancestral tradition. There is hope that this initiative will empower the women to continue to reclaim their ancestral traditions in the making of jewelry, weaving and ceramics that might otherwise be lost.

So far, this work has moved forward without dedicated funding. But dreams are growing: to build a reserve of materials, expand and build dedicated craft work spaces with light in each village for the women. To incorporate all their artisanal cultural crafts and to even create a digital marketplace led by community leaders like the new vice president of the youth section of Pilon Lajas who has already offered to help with a catalog and online platform to share this art with the world and the Corriedor or Leader of the San Luis Grande Community who has been a continual strong stand and voice of support for the women.

This is more than craft. It is cultural resilience, economic empowerment, and creative storytelling with every stitch. We are honored and deeply moved to be able to support these artists as they imagine a future woven by their own heritage and hands.



# Educational Development

## Getting a teacher to Corte

The education system available to Tsimané and Mosetén communities remains deeply inconsistent and often shaped by a colonial model that undermines dignity, creativity, and self-determination. After 6th grade, most students must travel over 10 hours by boat to reach distant schools—without food, housing, or adult support. Yet families make these sacrifices because they deeply value education.

However, in the community of Corte, they hadn't even been able to access in-community education. No government teacher had been posted with them for over five years. Local leaders didn't know how to advocate for help.

Lucas dedicatedly met with and coached them through the necessary steps to report and remedy this situation. We paid for phone service, helped them arrange meetings, guided them through bureaucracy and mentored them in arranging necessary travel to a distant city. After many months of persistence, Corte finally received a contracted teacher for the first time in half a decade! We feel confident that if things get challenging, they will be able to advocate for themselves next time.

And it was not just any teacher... It was Veronica, a Tsimané woman, who speaks the language, knows the stories, and carries the community's worldview within her. She arrived with her three children, no resources, and no home—sleeping with her children under the teacher's desk at night. Through your support, we provided her with supplies and helped the community build her a small home, cleaned and cleared the school building, and even created a playground. A fresh start for education taught by someone who is connected to their culture. This was a BIG win.

But Systemic barriers remain. Many Indigenous youth, at only 11 years of age, go to town for further education. After years of separation and sacrifice, they find themselves underprepared for higher education. They are often steered toward trade work—mechanics and construction for boys, domestic labor for girls. While trades are honorable, these paths are too often framed as their only option. For those who dream of becoming something that necessitates higher education like teaching, doctors/nursing or law- or even as professional guides, the system rarely allows it. Worse still, none of the paths available to them support their cultural identity, nor give them access to their traditional heritage. The oral wisdom passed from generation to generation is getting lost because the children are separated from their homes, families and traditional way of life.

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When children are educated without connection to their ancestral roots—their traditions and way of life—separated from their heritage and family, it is as if they are birds being set free with broken wings. They are unable to go far and they certainly cannot fly. They cannot hope to soar into the sky of their full potential.

— Carolina Allen

There is a better way.

With your support, we are working to build an education system that uplifts Indigenous identity, preserves cultural wisdom, and opens real pathways to personal and communal sovereignty.

PS The Schoolhouse of Corte and the teacher's home were washed away by the recent catastrophic floods. The river changed the landscape so much that it is now self-evident that the entire village must move to higher ground. Your ongoing support today is needed now to help them move and rebuild.



# A Playground in the Heart of the Amazon



In the remote rainforest community of Corte, where no roads lead in or out and the only “highway” is the winding river itself, something extraordinary was built this past year: a handmade playground, lovingly crafted by the community for the children—most of whom had never had a teacher in their lifetime, let alone a place constructed simply for play.

At the request of the newly arrived Tsimané-speaking teacher—placed after a year of advocacy—families in Corte came together with joy and determination. This would be the first playground most of these children had ever seen, and they were ready to make it real.

Lucas traveled frequently to support the effort. Tools and supplies were brought in by boat, Lucas coordinated the logistics, and everyone worked side by side. Local Tsimane men skillfully cut and shaped fallen tree trunks into beams and usable lumber. Every piece was hauled, carved, and placed by hand.

Men and Women cleared the land, painted beams, prepared meals, and dug foundations. All of this happened while tending to their chores, their weaving and the all important vital work in their chacos—the food forest gardens where they grow bananas, rice, yucca, cacao, ginger, and many other fruits, plants and plant medicines to sustain their families. Men also fish, hunt and build boats (Corte hosts

the finest boat builders on the river). But amidst all the daily life activities the playground was created—with men and women helping in waves taking turns in between the daily chores necessary to live in their perilous paradise. Children watched with wide eyes, slowly realizing that this space was being built just for them to have a designated space for their own important daily work.... The work of Serious play.

The photos, after weeks of work, tell a powerful story: a story of resilience, laughter, trust, and what becomes possible when a community is empowered to shape its own future.

This playground is more than just swings and beams.

It is a symbol of love, imagination, and childhood restored—tools carried upriver, everything built by hand, and rooted in the heart of the families of the Amazon.



# Circular Wisdom Meets the Rainforest



"It was truly amazing to witness and support Ada's 'out-of-the-box' way of seeing and reflecting back her experience of the Amazon while at the same time learning through their eyes, walking in their footsteps, cooking and sharing food in their way and just quietly being at their side all at once. She had patience, spirit, compassion and the capacity to deeply listen- she had true interest. I see her as a mentor and leader for the Regenerative Age." Carolina Allen

This year, we were honored to be joined by Ada Kruiter, a Dutch philosopher and innovator working at the forefront of the circular economy movement in the Netherlands. Ada brought her expertise in zero-waste systems, regenerative design, and resource resilience into deep dialogue with the realities of the Amazon.

Her presence sparked new conversations on flood risk management, water resilience, and the untapped potential of wild fruits and local materials. She collaboratively led conversations to problem solve and seek for strength and potential resources already near to hand to our communities. She brought focus again and again to sustainability, regeneration and economic potential through repair, recycling, and reuse.

Ada's ability to walk beside Indigenous leaders, listen deeply, and see both the abundance and the possibility within reach was transformative. Her vision, rooted in compassion and systems thinking, illuminated a path toward the kind of radical, regenerative future the world urgently needed 10 years ago and even more so right now.



# Journey Upriver:

## Listening, Learning, and Strengthening Ties

This year, Carolina had the deep honor of traveling upriver with our friends and volunteers Ada Kruiter, a sustainability expert from the Netherlands, and Dennis De Lo Barre, an agroforestry expert from Bolivia, to visit several communities of Pilon Lajas. It was Ada's first time meeting our partners in person. Our connection deepened most markedly by the astonishing passing of a bolide type fireball—an exceptionally bright long lasting falling star that lasted almost a minute and made a long sparkling trail that ended with a sonic boom when it crashed to the earth. It was twilight when it came and we all stood struck with awe on the bank of the Quiquibay river and witnessed it all. A moment of a lifetime.

We were welcomed with astonishing generosity and warmth.

In each village, we gathered in small and large circles—first with the women and children, then with the men, and finally all together—and asked **three sacred questions**.

### 1. What breaks their hearts?

They spoke with deep concern about the mercury contaminating their rivers from gold mining upriver—threatening their families' health. They decried problems from poaching and the ever dwindling numbers of once abundant fish in their rivers. They shared and processed collectively the trauma endured from the fires that had burned millions of acres of land just months before. They are deeply concerned about the climate changes they experience firsthand: unpredictable rain, long droughts, vanishing species.

They worry for the future of the world—for the future of the Rainforest, for their children.

They spoke of constant fuel shortages in Bolivia, which make transportation, emergency care, and trade increasingly difficult.

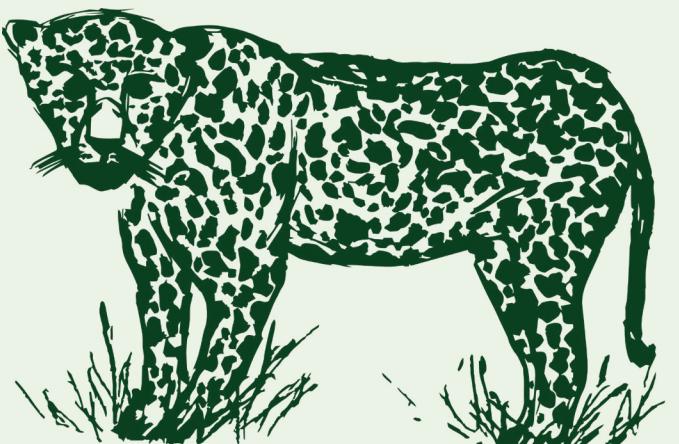


### 2. What brings hope?

The possibility of fish ponds, solar power, internet access, and renewable solar electric boat motors lit their faces. They asked about safe/clean unpolluted, upgraded water systems and ways to irrigate gardens and heritage cacao trees and other fruit trees during dry months. They were eager to learn about native beekeeping, new ways to grow vegetables and natural ways to protect their crops from birds and pests, seed preservation and sharing, and further ways to conserve the rainforest while growing their economies.

The women dreamed of electric light for their kitchens, art and maker's spaces to weave and gather communally. Young girls longed to travel, to study, to feel seen. Some asked for chickens, goats and a cow. They want to make cheese! Many asked for guidance on how to market and price their weavings, cacao and wild fruit.

The men were especially inspired by the story of the quiet solar-powered boats created by the Achuar in Ecuador. One community asked for help relocating their schoolhouse to higher ground; another requested medical supplies for a new health post.



# Journey Upriver:

## Listening, Learning, and Strengthening Ties

### 3. What makes their hearts sing?

Storytelling. Myth. Music. And Soccer!

They love to share their ancestral stories, sing and dance to traditional songs, and pass on the wisdom of their elders. They believe their voices, their culture, and their way of life are not only sacred—but essential to continue caretaking the Amazon and thus helping heal the world. They are deeply appreciative and filled with gratitude for the wildlife, their birds, the plants and trees of their perilous, beautiful and abundant paradise.

Everywhere we went, there was excitement for the upcoming eco-tourism journeys. Communities were building simple rustic comfortable guest quarters, testing recipes (to our great delight), and preparing to welcome new friends. Their pride in what they are creating—on their terms—was radiant. We went upriver to listen, to witness, to ask.

And what we heard was clear:

These communities hold vision, courage, dignity and cultural brilliance.

They are not asking for rescue. They are asking for respect, for partnership, for tools.

They are asking for us to walk with them—not ahead of them.

And they all absolutely LOVE soccer.



# Expanding Horizons:

## Building Alliances Across Bolivia and Beyond

While much of our work is rooted in the rainforest, an equally important part takes place behind the scenes and beyond the jungle altogether—in the cities, villages, and hearts of people across Bolivia and the world who believe in our mission.

Through this past year, we met with visionary leaders, innovators, professionals and extended family of Carolina's from a wide range of fields, each moved by the mission of Children of the Rainforest and willing to support our work. These expanding connections include women's artisan cooperatives and new possible agroforestry-related economic possibilities like wild bee keeping, dried fruit, cacao and coffee production. We will list and thank these new connections in the following pages.



Tu Quantum is now exploring the development of an electric boat motor that could dramatically reduce the rainforest's dependence on gasoline and lessen river noise pollution—an incredible innovation for the future of transportation and conservation in the Amazon.

They also met with lawyers who are generously assisting us pro bono with contracts and legal matters, to help us officially ground in Bolivia. They researched sustainable product models and cooperative development with inspiring organizations like Artecampo, a women-led artisan association in Santa Cruz.

Our travels also led us beyond Bolivia to Peru's Sacred Valley, where we visited the Waldorf-inspired school and cultural association and center Kusi Kawsay, founded by our longtime friends Roman Vizcarra and Fielding Wood in Pisaq. Their work continues to be a model of education rooted in cultural identity and ecological reverence.

As a result of this journey, new partnerships have formed, in-kind donations are coming in, and more and more people in Bolivia are learning about Children of the Rainforest and stepping forward to help. We have continued to work with talented Bolivian videographer, Abner Paredes, and invited social media coordinator, Alicia Cortez, to our growing team.

There is so much more to come. So much more to build. And it is the individuals who support us that have made this all possible. Watching this community grow—across borders, languages, and professions—has been one of the most inspiring parts of our year.



# Advocacy: The Heart of the Work

## Lucas Territoriale

At the heart of our on-the-ground work in Bolivia is Lucas Territoriale—a tireless advocate, bridge-builder, and daily inspiration.

Lucas lives in San Buenaventura, right across the Beni River from Rurrenabaque, with his wife Camila and their two-year-old son in a home they built by hand using natural materials from the jungle. Adjacent to their house is their jewelry-making studio, the same one where Camila now hosts community apprenticeships—work that Lucas has supported from the beginning with humility and heart.

From his first days as a volunteer, Lucas has gone above and beyond. When our team, together with Achuar leaders, guides, and a chef, needed to travel upriver during the start of the national fuel shortage, Lucas literally went restaurant to restaurant, collecting gasoline by the cup to make the journey possible as well as a multitude of minute logistics between cities. That trip—centered around new training and vision—would not have happened without him.

But that was only the beginning.

Lucas has become a powerful advocate for Indigenous rights and dignity, helping Mosetén and Tsimané leaders navigate cell phones, email, and government bureaucracy so they can advocate directly for their communities. A shining example is the work to get a teacher for the kids in Corte which we wrote about previously. Lucas stood beside local leaders from Corte as they made calls, traveled to offices, and persisted in their demands—until finally, a teacher was contracted and posted to their community for the first time in five years.

He shows up in moments of crisis as well, accompanying families to medical appointments where Indigenous families are too often dismissed or denied care. Because of his presence, many who would have



been turned away have received lifesaving treatment. [childrenoftherainforest.org](https://childrenoftherainforest.org) Lucas also coordinates our eco tours, facilitates communication across tribal lines, and visits remote communities every six weeks to deliver resources, check on projects, and continue building relationships. He helps maintain the refuge in Rurrenabaque, delivers emergency food, supports water access, agroforestry, school repairs, and even opened his own home to families in need.

What makes Lucas exceptional is not just his endless energy or his logistical brilliance—it is his deep, personal commitment to justice, reciprocity, and human dignity. He is not only a colleague; he is a friend, a brother, and a daily reminder of what advocacy truly looks like in action.

Through Lucas's steadfast efforts, we've seen new respect emerge between town and jungle, between officials and Indigenous families. His work is a living example of how one person, grounded in empathy and courage, can change the tone of an entire region.

We are endlessly grateful—and endlessly inspired—by his work.

# The Imaginal Cells Are Us

In the cocoon, when the caterpillar becomes nothing more than caterpillar soup, it is imaginal cells that spark the transformation. These miraculous cells carry the blueprint of the butterfly. At first, they appear alone—but then, they seek one another out. They connect, communicate, and grow together, until wings form where there was once only hunger and darkness.

Maybe the world feels like soup right now. But we are the imaginal cells.

Those who seek beauty, truth, justice, and belonging for all living beings—those who choose hope when despair or cynicism is easier—you are the transformative force.

Together, we can turn disintegration into flight.

Together, we grow a world where no one is left in want—where every being is free to fulfill their purpose, soar with their potential, and know love.

Now in this very challenging time. The Earth is calling.

Let's connect like the imaginal cells.

Let's shape a more beautiful world.

Let's walk forward—together.



Photo by our very own Board Secretary, Aliana Allen-Maloney



“

Those of us called to this work—those called to love, protect, and serve a better world—are the imaginal cells.

- Lynne Twist

# Be Part of the Transformation

“

I slept and dreamt that life was joy  
I awoke and saw that life was service  
I served and behold, service was joy

— Tagore

Thank you for walking this path with us—through classrooms built from hope, playgrounds carved from jungle wood, and communities rising in resilience, culture, and joy. If you've arrived here, you are already part of this story.

But now, **we invite you to take the next step.**

If you believe in a future where Indigenous voices rise strong and sovereign, where cultural wisdom is not lost but celebrated, and where the Amazon Rainforest still breathes for all of us—**let that belief take root.**

## Join us with a monthly donation.

Your support isn't just a transaction—it's a transformation.

It's solidarity in motion. It's the lifeblood of the regenerative reciprocity of our growing momentum.

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=SQD3EMXSQRN58](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=SQD3EMXSQRN58)

**Donate today** 

## Or reach out to explore other ways to support

From volunteer opportunities to creative collaborations: together, we can do what no one of us can do alone.



**Email** Carolina Allen, Executive Director  
[Carolina@ChildrenOfTheRainforest.org](mailto:Carolina@ChildrenOfTheRainforest.org)

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

# Our Growing Global Community

## New and Strengthened Connections

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 and strengthened our partnership with existing ones over the last year!

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

**Gustavo Heredia, CEO of Plastiforte**

[www.plastiforte.com](http://www.plastiforte.com)

**Lourdes Valenzuela, Executive Director**

**Aguatuya**

[www.aguatuya.org](http://www.aguatuya.org)

**Alexandre and Maria Fernanda, Hotelier managers of Finca La Vispera in Samaipata**

[www.lavispera.org](http://www.lavispera.org)

**Saul Arias, Biologist of the Refugio de Colibries**

**Artecampo Women's association of artisanal crafts**

[www.artecampo.com.bo](http://www.artecampo.com.bo)

**Alexander Pelican and Menno Starink, SAMAY**

[www.stichtingsamay.nl](http://www.stichtingsamay.nl)

**Carlos Soruco, Lawyer, founder and CEO of Tu Quantum**

[www.tuquantum.com](http://www.tuquantum.com)

**Abner Paredes Photography**

[www.facebook.com/abnerparedesfotografia/](http://www.facebook.com/abnerparedesfotografia/)

**Humberto Natusch, EcoJet**

**Elise Sambrano, Sambrano Services**

[www.linkedin.com/in/elise-sambrano-b6aa668/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/elise-sambrano-b6aa668/)

**El Mirador**

[www.facebook.com/elmiradorbolivia/](http://www.facebook.com/elmiradorbolivia/)

**Edgar Heredia, Inventor and founder of the Froebel School, the UPB University and Plastiforte**

[froebel.edu.bo](http://froebel.edu.bo) [www.upb.edu](http://www.upb.edu) [www.plastiforte.com](http://www.plastiforte.com)

**Inez and Jorge Soruco, Legal Aid, contract and non profit mentorship**

**Journeys with Steve and Juan**

[www.wetravel.com/users/steve-torneten](http://www.wetravel.com/users/steve-torneten)

**Roman Vizcarra and Fielding Wood, Kusi Kawsay**

[kusikawsay.org](http://kusikawsay.org)

**Dennis De Lo Barre, Agroforestry Expert from Bolivia**

**Ada Kruiter, sustainability expert from Denmark**

**Mauricio Prada, Architect**

**Renee Smits, Restore the Legacy**

[restorethelegacy.world](http://restorethelegacy.world)

**Amado Espinoza, performing artist, composer, and instrument maker**

[amadoespinoza.com](http://amadoespinoza.com)

**Javier Baptiste Canedo, Dentist from Cochabamba**

**Eugenia Ortiz, Artist/Designer**

[www.EugeniaOrtizArt.com](http://www.EugeniaOrtizArt.com) #EugeniaOrtizArt



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our work today:



[ChildrenOfTheRainorest.org](http://ChildrenOfTheRainorest.org)



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