Our Impact in 2023

- **60** media projects, supported by Indigenous Community Media Fund in **20** countries totaling **$420,000**
- **49** Youth Fellowships supporting **129** Indigenous youth in **18** countries awarded
- **28** Indigenous women trained in radio production and journalism
- **72** Keepers of the Earth Fund projects supported in **21** countries totaling **$543,605**
- **472** Indigenous Rights Radio programs released in **40** languages
- **6** reports on human rights issues submitted to UN Treaty Bodies
- **7** Indigenous rights defenders in need of support urgently funded
- **4** issues of the Cultural Survival Quarterly magazine published
- **$225,000** generated for **30** Indigenous artists and cooperatives at the Cultural Survival Bazaar
- **103K** followers via our social media platforms, **9.9M** impressions
- **4.9K** social media posts made
- **8.4M** users - social media page and profile reach
Our work

Our Programmatic Priorities

Our Four-Pronged Approach
Cultural Survival’s Advocacy Program supports Indigenous Peoples around the globe by amplifying grassroots movements to bring awareness and international pressure to Indigenous struggles while enhancing Indigenous communities’ capacity with technical support, strategic litigation, local advocacy, and engaging globally with UN mechanisms and states. Always at the invitation of community leaders, our advocacy work is interwoven across all of Cultural Survival’s programs, reflected in the holistic support we provide to Indigenous communities.

A new frontier of extraction is impacting Indigenous Peoples’ rights and lands worldwide due to the rush to transition to the “green” economy and extract transition minerals such as nickel, cobalt, copper, and lithium for new technologies like electric vehicles and solar panels. At least 54 percent of transition minerals are located on or near Indigenous Peoples’ lands. Our work focuses on uplifting Indigenous Peoples’ right to self-determine what takes place on their lands.
2023 Advocacy Highlights

In September, over 50 participants from across southern Africa gathered for a week in Cape Town, South Africa, to exchange experiences about implementing the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the context of mineral extraction. As the first event of its kind hosted by Cultural Survival and our partner organizations in the African region, the participants allowed us to better understand their situations while demonstrating that the most valuable knowledge about Indigenous Peoples is in communities themselves.


We submitted six reports to UN human rights monitoring mechanisms holding governments accountable for rights violations of Indigenous Peoples in Russia, Chile, Bolivia, Mexico, and Malaysia.

We accompanied Adriana Sunun (Maya Kaqchikel) from the Maya Lawyers Association and Rosendo Pablo Ramirez (Maya Mam), founder of Radio Xob’il Yol Qman Txun, to advocate for Indigenous Peoples’ rights to freedom of expression and to their own community media at Guatemala’s Universal Periodic Review session in Geneva, Switzerland.
Cultural Survival staff advocated for Indigenous Peoples’ rights at UNFCCC COP28 and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

At the European Union, we educated about Indigenous Peoples’ rights, especially Free, Prior and Informed Consent, related to proposed legislation: Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA).

In collaboration with our Keepers of the Earth Fund, we distributed $31,000 in funding to 7 Indigenous defenders in need of urgent support.

L-R: Bryan Bixcul (Maya Tz’utujil), Lesley Muñoz (Colla), Pasang Dolma Sherpa (Sherpa), Gideon Sanago (Maasai), Galina Angarova (Buryat), Rodion Sulyandziga (Udege) and Vera Kuklina (Buryat). Speakers for the panel Securing Indigenous Peoples Rights in the Green Economy: Learning From Past Mistakes at COP28.

Final meeting day of the Indigenous Caucus at COP28.
"I’ve been to many, many conferences and this is by far the best one I’ve ever attended. There’s a number of things we’ve been grappling with and now we’ve found strategies for how we can do things better.”

– Anthony Williams (San), South Africa FPIC Event participant

"This process that Cultural Survival has brought to us has really opened our eyes to the work that is needed to be done in our communities as it pertains to the effects of the green economy. We are not on our land, we are not recognized as Indigenous Peoples. We need to plan... how we position ourselves on how best to respond. Thank you to Cultural Survival for opening this platform.”

- Lesle Jansen (KhoiKhoi), attorney at Jamma International, South Africa FPIC Event participant
Joram Useb (left), founding member of !Khwa ttu, with San and Nama youth.

Galina Angarova and Kate Finn present a new guide on Free, Prior and Informed Consent for Indigenous Peoples. “This is the first practical guide on how to implement FPIC written by Indigenous people, for Indigenous Peoples,” said Angarova.

Over 50 participants from South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Kenya, DRC, and Uganda came together to dialogue about Indigenous Peoples’ rights in the face of exponential demands for transition minerals mining in the new green economy. The event was hosted by Cultural Survival, Earthworks, Natural Justice, First Peoples Worldwide, Southern Africa Resource Watch, and the SIRGE Coalition.
We sent an Indigenous delegation to Dubai, UAE, to advocate for a just energy transition and Indigenous Peoples’ rights at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNFCCC COP28). Our Indigenous delegation followed and reported on the negotiations and resulting decisions on matters important to the rights and futures of Indigenous Peoples and interviewed dozens of Indigenous leaders and delegates who shared their wisdom and solutions for climate change. We hosted four side events focused on just transition, climate financing, and FPIC. We were invited to speak at six other events. Our Indigenous Rights Radio program produced over 40 radio programs covering the event.
Securing Indigenous Peoples in the Green Economy (SIRGE) Coalition

In 2023, the SIRGE Coalition and its five member organizations (Cultural Survival, First Peoples Worldwide, Earthworks, Batani Foundation, and Society for Threatened Peoples) successfully elevated the issue of Indigenous rights in the energy transition, aiming to ensure that they are prioritized in efforts to achieve a just transition to a green economy. We held discussions with Indigenous leaders, Indigenous communities, automakers, supply chain companies, mining companies, third-party assessment initiatives, international policy makers, media outlets, and international NGOs. We launched long-term efforts to ensure capacity building of Indigenous leaders and communities through regranting, training, and dialogues.
2023 Highlights

In 2023, we financed 48 Indigenous-led projects related to Transition Minerals through our Keepers of the Earth Fund (KOEF), Community Media Fund and Fellowships totaling $387,150, supporting Indigenous communities’ self-determined responses to this problem; KOEF awarded 22 grants for projects related to Transition Minerals totaling $197,150; The Community Media Fund awarded 18 grants totaling $150,000; and we awarded 8 fellowships totaling $40,000.

In collaboration with SIRGE partners, submitted an intervention to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which was reflected in the official report from the Forum with a call for Member States to provide resources to develop and implement Indigenous Peoples’ own FPIC protocols.


Educated policy-makers in the European Union about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as it relates to implications of the newly adopted Critical Raw Materials Act and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

Collaborated with the Lead the Charge campaign to ensure that Indigenous rights are highlighted in their scorecard ranking EV automakers on equitable, sustainable, and fossil-free supply chains.

Engaged in direct dialogues with EV automakers, supply chain companies and mining companies, to improve Indigenous rights protections in their policies.

Educated investors about Indigenous rights risk in the EV supply chain through the Investors and Indigenous Peoples Working Group and the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

Successfully planned and coordinated an FPIC Gathering in Cape Town, South Africa, September 20-25, in collaboration with regional partners and convening over 50 Indigenous community members.

Organized and presented at several side events at UNPFII, COP28 and UN Business and Human Rights Forum. The events were focused on Indigenous rights in the green transition.

Provided input to the revision of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct, ensuring that the revised guidelines incorporate references to FPIC and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Built a relationship with the Global Battery Alliance to ensure that Indigenous Peoples’ rights are included in the development of the Global Battery Passport.

Through our Indigenous Rights Radio Program, we produced 153 programs on transition minerals and on the SIRGE Coalition in English, Spanish, and 24 Indigenous languages in 16 countries.
Through the Capacity Building Program, Cultural Survival provides workshops and tailored capacity building opportunities for our Indigenous partners, especially women and youth, on topics such as leadership, human rights, Indigenous community media, technical skills in radio production, and more. By providing both in-person and virtual workshop sessions, youth fellowships, community-to-community exchanges, regional meetings, networking, and one-on-one mentoring, our goal is to increase and strengthen the leadership, technical organizational, advocacy, and sustainability capacities of Indigenous communities to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, self-determination, and ways of life.

Women Defenders of the Amazon Basin Gathering held in Trinidad, Beni, Bolivia: Participants and local representatives at opening ceremony.

Traditional dance by Los Macheteros.

Participants from Colombia and Bolivia presenting.
2023 Capacity Building Highlights

- We awarded 49 Indigenous Youth Fellowships supporting 129 Indigenous youth in 18 countries.
- We supported 28 Indigenous women broadcasters to receive training in community radio.
- We supported 4 Indigenous writers as part of our new Indigenous Writers in Residence Program.
- We organized 8 trainings and exchanges on Free, Prior and Informed Consent; Indigenous language revitalization; women’s land defense leadership; and radio production and transmission.

Indigenous Women in Radio

- "When we started there were women who told us that they had not studied, that they did not know anything. It was important to recognize and revalue the knowledge that we have in our communities.”
  - Erika Espinosa, Radio Chilate, Guerrero, Mexico.

- "Deconstructing the system has to do with our own processes, which are conciliatory processes that build respect and community. We must not only share the theoretical part, but also put it into practice.”
  - Alma Benítez, Tsilinkalli Radio, Morelos, Mexico.

- "It is important to build and contribute from our reality as Indigenous women.”
  - Guadalupe Záyago Lira, Tekuan Radio, Morelos, Mexico.
We must take action, take charge, and overcome inertia.”

– Dr. Richard A. Grounds (Yuchi/Seminole), Executive Director of the Yuchi Language Project based in Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Organized by Cultural Survival in Oaxaca, Mexico, in May 2023, the Grassroots Indigenous Language Exchange and Convening hosted over 50 representatives from several language revitalization projects from communities in Colombia, Russia, Mexico, the United States, and Ecuador. Participants shared strategies, methods, and resources for creating new language speakers.
Second Meeting and Exchange on Free, Prior and Informed Consent

"With prior consultation, we have stopped many projects. Sometimes we have to use this tool but think carefully about how we do it. Furthermore, the fact that we ask for prior consultation does not mean that we are accepting."

– Arthur Francis Cruz Ochoa (Huitoto Murui), Indigenous land defender from the northeast Amazon region, event participant

In October 2023, in Jo’/Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, Cultural Survival held the Second Meeting and Exchange on Free, Prior and Informed Consent as a space for attendees to reflect on their experiences and visions about their fundamental right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent. Some 40 Indigenous land defenders hailing from the Yucatán Peninsula and other regions of Mexico, as well as Costa Rica and Peru, representing the Ayuujk, Binnizá, Bri bri, Chontal, Maijuna, Maya, Murvi Buee, Nahua, Ñuu Savi, Otomí, Purépecha, Tzotzil, and Tseltal Peoples, participated in the exchange.
First Meeting of Women Defenders of the Amazon Basin

In October, Cultural Survival hosted the First Meeting of Women Defenders of the Amazon Basin in Trinidad, Beni, Bolivia. We gathered 15 Indigenous women land defenders from the Inga, Kamëtsá-Inga, Cayubaba, Kichwa Amazonia, Guarayo, Amoruasikuani, Mugeño, Itonama, and Chiquitano Peoples from Colombia, Ecuador, and Bolivia to develop their skills in digital security, project proposal writing, and to exchange knowledge of community processes in defense of land and protection of life. Participants left feeling grateful, encouraged, and inspired to continue the fights rooted in and for their territories.

“Everything was very special. The topics that were taught were very clear, especially the experience of digital security, how to prepare your proposal for funding, and also sharing with the rest of the colleagues about our daily lives and struggles.”

– Indira Vargas, Amazonian Kichwa, Ecuador, First Meeting of Women Defenders of the Amazon Basin participant.
“What I felt when recognizing my sisters was a lot of emotion. We shared experiences, smiles, jokes, and also the problems in our territories that unite us to strengthen and support each other among nations. I would like to thank the team from Cultural Survival: great professionals, and above all, great human beings. Pay (thank you), Mother; pay, God.”

– Luz Mila Jamioy Tisoy, Kamëtsá-Inga, Colombia, First Meeting of Women Defenders of the Amazon Basin participant.

“The meeting space allowed us to get to know each other from the critical problems in our territories and the traditions of our communities. Meeting each other allowed us to strengthen fabrics of trust and coexistence.”

– Muskuy Tisoy, Inga, Colombia, First Meeting of Women Defenders of the Amazon Basin participant.
This year we supported four Indigenous writers as part of our Indigenous Writers in Residence Program. This program provides a meaningful opportunity for Indigenous journalists, writers, and creatives to partner with Cultural Survival to continue their writing, share their expertise and experiences, and deepen their knowledge on topics important to them and their communities.

Hartman Deetz (Mashpee Wampanoag) has been active in environmental and cultural stewardship for over 20 years. This stewardship is based on his spiritual foundation in his Native traditions that value the Earth as a living being. Deetz is also returning to his work with the Wampanoag Language Reclamation Program as a student and teacher. He is a traditional artist as well as a singer and dancer, having shown his art in galleries and performed for audiences from coast to coast across the U.S. He is currently engaged with advocacy work for the Charles River Watershed Association, advocating for the health and restoration of the Charles River and other campaigns around Native rights to access waterways.

Chad Valdez (Diné) is a writer currently residing in Denver, CO, and working as a bookseller. He holds an MFA in Fiction with a minor in Native American studies from New Mexico State University, where he received numerous awards and recognitions. He has taught undergraduate courses in English and creative writing, sharing his love of Indigenous storytelling and understanding of epistemology. His writing has appeared in Windward Review and CBR.com, among other outlets.

Chenae Bullock is a Tribal citizen of the Shinnecock Nation and descendant of the Montauk Peoples in Long Island, New York, and African-American. Her given name is Sagkompanau Mishoon Netooeusqua (I lead Canoe I am butterfly woman). Bullock is currently the Managing Director for Little Beach Harvest, a cannabis business wholly owned by Shinnecock Nation. She is also the Founder and CEO of Moskehtu Consulting, LLC, an Indigenous-owned and operated cultural and heritage preservation firm. She is an entrepreneur, pioneer, Indigenous perspective historian, and cultural practitioner.
Claudio Ramirez Hernandez (Na Ñuu Savi/ Mixtec) was born in Santa Maria, California, a central coast farming community, where many people from his family’s municipality of San Juan Mixtepec, Oaxaca, Mexico, have migrated. He first became active in community work as a youth organizer alongside the working class community of Santa Maria through the nonprofit People United for Economic Justice Building Leadership through Organizing (PUEBLO). He went on to co-found People Respecting Others United by Diversity (PROUD) at the Pacific Pride Foundation, Santa Maria’s local 2SLGBTQ+ nonprofit. PROUD was a safe space for 2SLGBTQ+ youth who experienced homophobic attitudes at school or at home. As a volunteer for the Pacific Pride Foundation, he participated in their food pantry program and co-presented 2SLGBTQ+ history awareness workshops to local high schools and juvenile detention centers.

Indigenous Youth Fellowships

In 2023, we awarded 49 Indigenous Youth Fellowships that supported 129 Indigenous youth in 18 countries across the globe. Our Indigenous Youth Fellowships support young Indigenous leaders between the ages of 18-28 who are working to transform their communities and create opportunities for the elevation, defense, and strengthening of their cultures and traditions, while also providing the opportunity to develop their leadership, organizational, and project management skills. Youth Fellows are guided by Cultural Survival from the start to completion of their projects, which focus on themes such as language revitalization, land protection, media and art, reclaiming of traditions, and more. Today’s youth are the future’s global leaders, and it is important to provide support to Indigenous youth to prepare and support them in becoming powerful individuals for their communities.
From Our Youth Fellows

“\nWhat I am most passionate about is engaging with our Indigenous youth, children, and Elders. Thanks to Cultural Survival, [when] we can actively engage and share experiences with them, we contribute to the preservation of our culture for a better tomorrow. Cultural Survival has helped us and our community to reclaim our language and the culture of our community.”

– James Kwemoi Felx (Ogiek), Youth Fellow from Kenya

“We are happy with the creative process and grateful for Cultural Survival’s support. We believe it is important to provide environmental and holistic education that embraces the creativity and imagination of art to raise awareness of nature.”

– Nantu Mantilla (Pasto), Youth Fellow from Colombia

Wapichana youth fellow preparing for video recording as part of Wapichana Indigenous Literature and Inclusion Fellowship Project.
James Kwemoi (Ogiek), Ruth Chesang (Ogiek), Miriam Naibei (Koony), and Emmanuel Kiplimo (Ogiek) are from the Ogiek community of Mount Elgon and actively promote their Indigenous roots, cultures, and languages through community radio and multimedia platforms. Their fellowship project, “Revitalizing the Endangered Koony Language,” aims to increase the number of fluent Koony speakers and to create awareness about the importance of promoting and strengthening Koony language and culture.

Nantu Mantilla (Pasto) was born in Tulcán, an Ecuadorian territory bordering Colombia, to an agricultural and artisan family. She studied filmmaking at the Universidad de las Artes de Guayaquil and graduated with a master’s degree in Communications from the Universidad Simón Bolívar, Andean University of Quito. Nantu’s fellowship project will develop biweekly workshops on botany from her laboratory to foster the connection among culture, ancestral knowledge, and agriculture.
Indigenous-led Grantmaking

Our Indigenous-led grantmaking is implemented through a long-term vision focused on resourcing the global Indigenous Peoples’ rights movement, ensuring the right to self-determination, and the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples. The **Keepers of the Earth Fund (KOEF)** is an Indigenous-led Fund within Cultural Survival that is managed by Indigenous staff and designed to support Indigenous Peoples’ communities’ self-determined development projects. The **Indigenous Community Media Fund** provides opportunities for Indigenous community radio stations and media platforms to strengthen their broadcast infrastructure and systems while providing training opportunities to their community journalists through a participatory and dynamic grants program.

KOEF grant partner from the Pataxó community in Brazil.

With years of experience coordinating capacity building efforts through workshops, conferences, radio station exchanges, and supporting advocacy efforts to legalize and democratize community media, Cultural Survival elevates the experience, assets, and expertise of the communities that we partner with. We believe that it is crucial to listen and respond to the self-determined needs of Indigenous communities in order to provide support that is sustainable and, most importantly, pertinent to their needs.
2023 Grantmaking Highlights

The Keepers of the Earth Fund funded 72 Indigenous projects in 21 countries on issues related to community empowerment for land defense and autonomy; the transmission of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge; traditional medicine and Indigenous spirituality; food sovereignty and Indigenous economies; and the various forms of resistance to mining for the energy transition for a total of $543,605.

The Keepers of the Earth Fund team visited 40 grant partner projects in Chile, Bolivia, South Africa, Kenya, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brasil, the Philippines, Guatemala, USA and Colombia.

The Indigenous Community Media Fund distributed $420,000 to 60 Indigenous communication projects that are benefitting 87 Indigenous Peoples in 20 countries.

The Indigenous Community Media Fund diversified the types of media that could apply for our funds, adding visual media such as murals and photography to those we already fund: analog radio, online radio, print media, audiovisual projects, television, internet, and multimedia.

The Indigenous Community Media Fund team conducted 6 site visits to partners in Colombia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panamá, Bolivia, and México.

Cultural Survival staff visit Radio Comunitaria Puksi ik al ha in Isla Arena, Campeche, Mexico.

The Council of Indigenous Authorities for the Protection of Natural Resources (Maya K’iche’) in San Pedro Jocopilas, Guatemala conducting an activity of their reforestation program.
From Our Grant Partners

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MEDIA FUND GRANT PARTNERS

“**It helped us to lose our fear of the microphone.”**

– María Eugenia Toconás, participant in the workshops held at La Toleña FM.

“I can say about this course that personally it was very productive, both for the knowledge I acquired in video and photography, which are applicable to daily life, as well as the knowledge and thoughts of my colleagues on situations that happen in our community and that affect us or make us reflect on what is happening. For my part, I am very grateful to the Cabildo, to Professor Danilo, and to all my colleagues.”

– María Eugenia Toconás, participant in the workshops held at La Toleña FMt.
Before participating in the workshop of IPNEWS, I didn’t know what a potential tool I carry with me every day: my Android [smartphone]. Getting the training in mobile journalism, I am enriched with new knowledge on capturing videos and taking photos simply by using my phone. Now I am well equipped to make the best use of my smartphone. The training workshop helped me a lot in this regard.”

—Swe Sanu Marma, Reporter, IPNEWS BD and project partner coordinated by Indigenous Peoples News Bangladesh.

...I’m very grateful to the FEPA organization, Radio Kivu, and Cultural Survival for raising awareness of our rights. Because we’ve acquired sufficient knowledge of our rights, we’ve claimed them, and today I’ve become an advisor to the chief of our village. I hope that in the days to come I’ll be chief of this village.”

—Esnde Alimasi on the project implemented by Femmes Pygmées en Action (FEPA) and Radio Kivu FM in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
We want demarcation. We want to live well without the threat of miners and loggers. We want what’s good for our children. We are young warriors who will always be at the side of our people. We are the last generation that can save the Amazon; we are warriors in defense of our lands and life. Thank you very much, Keepers of the Earth.”

– Associação Indígena Pariri, Munduruku (Brazil).

“Through this initiative our community has developed the sense for preserving our own traditional herbal medicine, which is gradually disappearing from our society. Specifically, our youth are now able to identify medicinal plants that were unknown to them until now, and their nomenclature in our own language. Thank you, Keepers of the Earth.”

– ARHI-Social & Educational Institution, BodoTribe of Assam (India).
For 51 years, Cultural Survival’s communications strategy has strived to directly uplift and amplify Indigenous Peoples’ voices and visions. Throughout the year, we use a wide range of media platforms to achieve this: our Indigenous Community Media Program, our award-winning Cultural Survival Quarterly magazine, Indigenous Rights Radio, podcasts, webinars, social media, and more. We understand that Indigenous-produced programming strengthens Indigenous Peoples’ capacity to claim their rights and enables access to essential information and broadcasting in Indigenous languages that ensures widespread understanding and cultural continuity. Our communications have been, and continue to be, a unifying force that connects Peoples, movements, organizations, and others through storytelling across landscapes, waterways, and issue areas both locally and globally.
2023 Communications Highlights

- Produced 4 issues of our award-winning Cultural Survival Quarterly, highlighting topics of nature, Indigenous arts, being Indigenous in conflict areas, and Indigenous-led conservation.

- Released 472 Indigenous Rights Radio programs in 40 languages.

- Hosted the Indigenous Media Zone at the 22nd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues broadcasting over 22 livestreams of interviews and panels with Indigenous leaders.

- Followed by 103K people via our social media platforms, 9.9M impressions

- 4.9K social media posts made

- Social media page and profile reach: 8.4M users
In 2023, we celebrated the long-anticipated return of our Cultural Survival Bazaars, a beloved tradition in the New England area since 1975, for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We thank everyone who was able to join us at the Prudential Center in Boston from December 14–17, 2023. With free admission, the greater Boston community was invited to enjoy the annual event honoring Indigenous talent and traditions through handmade art, demonstrations, music, and dance.

Event goers enjoyed jewelry, clothing, accessories, housewares, paintings, sculptures, and more from Indigenous artists and cooperatives from around the world. Some of the participating artists include wampum artist and Cultural Survival Writer-in-Residence Hartman Deetz (Mashpee Wampanoag) from Massachusetts, wire artist Bernard Domingo (Shona) from Zimbabwe, pysanka (painted eggs) artist Ganna Nepiyvoda (Hutsul from Ukraine, cashmere artisan Akhtar Mir (Kashmiri), and textile artist Timoteo Ccarita (Quechua) from Peru. In addition, the Bazaars offered cultural performances and presentations including live music, storytelling, craft-making demonstrations, featuring performances by master flutist Juan Lazaro Mendolas (Quechua); renowned Andean folk ensemble New Inca Son, and Tia-Alexi Roberts (Narragansett, fancy dancer and Cultural Survival staff member.)
We were happy to welcome back the tradition of the holiday Bazaar, and to welcome a new Bazaar staff team: Candyce Testa (Pequot), Bazaar Events Manager, and Maya Chipana Lazzaro (Quechua), Bazaar Vendor Coordinator. “I view Indigenous art created within the 21st century as a weaving of the long threads of ancestral knowledge together with our present realities to tell unique stories of Indigenous continuance. Indigenous art is a reflection that culture is not static. Instead, both the individuals and communities within Indigenous cultures grow and change over time while collectively determining what to carry forward and what to leave behind. The art you will see at the Cultural Survival Bazaar celebrates who these Indigenous artists are today,” says Testa.

With a rich tapestry of arts and crafts from around the world, event goers were sure to find something both unique and meaningful during the events. Purchasing arts and crafts from Indigenous artists and cooperatives directly supports and protects millennia-old traditions and lifeways of Indigenous communities. This year, over the course of four days, the Bazaars generated close to $225,000 for 30 Indigenous artists, vendors, performers, and projects benefiting Indigenous communities worldwide.
From Our Bazaar Artists

“I have enjoyed meeting people from different cultures, making friends, and learning about their customs. Selling abroad has been a welcome challenge. I feel connected to my culture through my art because the Ayacuchano retablo (altarpiece box) is Peru’s cultural heritage. It represents history and is part of our family legacy.”

– Sebastian Palomino Jimenez (Quechua), Retablos artist

“Visibility is so important for artisanal and cultural craft-making. Indigenous art holds our history and we want to share that culture with anyone who is curious. A Bazaar that celebrates culture is a lifeline for these traditions and a way of surviving economically and culturally.”

– Selahattin Sep (Kurdish) of Tigris Handmade, traditional yemeni shoemaker

“Cultural Survival has given me the chance to demonstrate my Indigenous art, rug weavings, to the people in the U.S. It has allowed me to speak about the history of weaving and share ideas about organic dyeing. It has also given me the chance to talk about the history of Oaxaca, Mexico, and my village, Teotitlan del Valle. I have been able to explain many aspects of my Zapotec culture to people at the Bazaars. Without Cultural Survival, this exchange of information would not be possible.”

– Jose Buenaventura Gonzales Gutierrez, Zapotec Weaver
2023 Financials

FY 2023 Audited Financials
(September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023)

Income

TOTAL INCOME
$15,685,868

- SIRGE Specific Grants
  $1,816,200

- Grants from Foundations
  $6,646,988

- Bequest
  $5,800,000

- Other
  $150,800

- Donations from Individuals
  $1,271,880
Expenses

$575,795
Core mission support:
Finance, HR & governance

$648,863
Advocacy

$271,412
Capacity Building

$230,466
Core mission support:
Fundraising & Partnership

$209,994
Communications

$310,680
Community Media

$3,058,831
Grantmaking

$193,917
Indigenous Rights Radio

$216,369
Keepers of the Earth

$401,691
Other Programs

TOTAL EXPENSES
$6,118,018
Our Team

Staff

Galina Angarova (Buryat), Executive Director * (through February 2024)
Mark Camp, Deputy Executive Director
Avexnim Cojti (Maya K’iche’), Director of Programs
Verónica Aguilar (Mixtec), Keepers of the Earth Fund Program Assistant
Michael J. Beeler, Individual Donor Manager (through May 2023)
Bryan Bixcul (Maya Tz’utujil), Advocacy Coordinator
Cliver Ccahuanihancco Arque (Quechua), Keepers of the Earth Program Associate
Jess Cherofsky, Advocacy Program Manager
Michelle de León, Executive Assistant
Roberto De La Cruz Martínez (Binnizá), Information Technology Associate
Danielle DeLuca, Senior Development Manager
Georges Theodore Dougnon (Dogon), Capacity Building Program Assistant
Shaldon Ferris (KhoiSan), Indigenous Rights Radio Coordinator
Sofia Flynn, Senior Accounting and Office Manager
Nati Garcia (Maya Mam), Capacity Building Manager
Alison Guzman, Donor Relations Coordinator
Emma Hahn, Development Associate
Cesar Gomez (Maya Pocomam), Community Media Program Coordinator
Adriana Hernández, (Maya K’iche’), Emerging Strategies Coordinator (through June 2023)
Natalia Jones, Advocacy Associate
Mariana Kiimi (Ñuu Sàvi/Mixtec), Advocacy Assistant
Edson Krenak Naknanuk (Krenak), Lead on Brazil
Dev Kumar Sunuwar (Koïts-Sunuwar), Community Media Program Coordinator
Bia’ni Madsa’ Juárez López (Ayuuk ja’ay and Binnizá), Keepers of the Earth Fund Manager (through October 2023)
Marco Lara, Social and Digital Media Coordinator
Kevin Alexander Larrea, Information Technology Associate
Maya Chipana Lazzaro (Quechua), Bazaar Vendor Coordinator
Candela Macarena Palacios, Interim Community Media Program Assistant
Jamie Malcolm-Brown, Communications and Information Technology Manager
Amparo Monzón (Maya K’iche’), Program Assistant (through July 2023)
Diana Pastor, (Maya K’iche’), Media Coordinator
Guadalupe Pastrana (Nahua), Indigenous Rights Radio Producer
Agnes Portalewska, Senior Communications Manager
Tia-Alexi Roberts (Narragansett), Editorial & Communications Associate
Carlos Sopprani, Human Resources Associate
Candyce Testa (Pequot), Bazaar Events Manager
María del Rosario “Rosy” Sul González (Kaqchiquel Maya), Indigenous Rights Radio Program Manager
Sócrates Vásquez García (Ayuujk Jääy, Pueblo Ayuujk), Community Media Program Manager
Miranda Vitello, Development Coordinator
Candy Williams, Human Resources Manager
Raquel Xiloj (Maya K’iche), Community Media Grants Coordinator
Pablo Xol (Maya Q’eqchi’), Design and Marketing Associate

Board of Directors

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Tui Shortland (Māori)
Jannie Staffansson (Saami)
Stella Tamang (Tamang)

Interns

Miriam Abel
Katrina Arriola
Gerald Beelt
Francesco Cricchio
Blair Darian
Camilla Lindschouw
Yolis López Martínez
Nina Kaufmann
Charlie Malcolm-McKay
Sing Mong Marma
Alyson Odar
Candela Palacios
Deisy Pérez Xiloj
Avi Reyes Garcia
Alma Xochitl Zamora
Galina Angarova (Buryat) and Lesley Munoz (Colla) advocate for the inclusion of Free, Prior and Informed Consent in the EU’s Corporate Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) from COP28.
Since 1972, Cultural Survival has partnered with Indigenous communities to advance Indigenous Peoples’ rights and cultures worldwide. We envision a future that respects and honors Indigenous Peoples’ inherent rights and dynamic cultures, deeply and richly interwoven in lands, languages, spiritual traditions, and artistic expression, rooted in self-determination and self-governance.

Our programs work through the application of a holistic, four-pronged strategy of Grantmaking, Capacity Building, Advocacy, and Communications. Our programmatic priorities include Indigenous Women and Youth, Climate Change Solutions, Lands and Livelihoods, Cultures and Languages, and Indigenous Community Media.