



A Message from Our Executive Director **AVAVAVAVAVAVAVAVA**

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause unprecedented health, economic, and political crises across the globe, which deeply affected many Indigenous communities. In addition to providing our regular comprehensive programming, Cultural Survival also provided emergency support to Indigenous Peoples impacted by the COVID-19

pandemic globally. Indigenous communities experience alarming rates of inequities and systemic discrimination, including limited to no access to culturally relevant information, holistic medical care, medical supplies, food, clean drinking water, housing, and more. Additionally, Indigenous Peoples are nearly three times as likely to live in extreme poverty and likely to suffer negative outcomes from infectious diseases.

Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, Cultural Survival has made great strides this year, including the launch of our new 2022-2026 Strategic Framework that we shared publicly in November 2021. Working together, our staff and board collectively envisioned and built a new strategic framework that will guide our work in the future. Some areas of our existing work are now more explicit, including how we work with and support Indigenous communities through our holistic, rights-based approach, and we articulated a new four-pronged strategy of our work: advocacy, capacity building, grantmaking, and communications. Together, we formed a consensus to work at the nexus of themes that we identified as the most burning issues for Indigenous Peoples today: land and



Our Four-Pronged Approach

livelihoods; climate change solutions; cultures and languages; Indigenous community media; and the leadership of Indigenous women and youth as a cross-cutting theme. As part of our strategic planning process, we created a new *Gender Balance Policy* that aims to implement equitable practices and policies while also curating an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion for people of all genders both within Cultural Survival and amongst our partnerships. We also updated our personnel policies and are in the process of updating our sexual harassment policy and staff risk management policy.











Our Programmatic Priorities

Additionally, this year we were pleased to add several new staff members to our diverse team: Monica Coc Magnusson (O'eqchi Maya), Director of Advocacy and Policy; Bryan Bixcul (Maya Tz'utujil), Executive Assistant; Verónica Aguilar (Mixtec), Keepers of the Earth Fund Program Assistant; Amparo Monzón (Maya K'iche), Program Assistant; Guadalupe Pastrana (Nahua), Indigenous Rights Radio Producer; and Candy Williams, Human Resources Manager. There were also a number of internal promotions, including Avexnim Cojti (Maya K'iche') becoming our first Director of Programs.

Moreover, Cultural Survival sent a delegation of six team members to Glasgow, Scotland, for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP26) in November 2021. We were thrilled to participate in a successful climate change conference alongside many other Indigenous leaders from around the world. If the global community is serious about tackling the problem of climate change, it must include the input of the very people that have been caring for Mother Earth for centuries—Indigenous Peoples—and take a rights-based approach that honors, respects, and implements the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We ended the year with some good news from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights after a decade-long fight. On December 17, 2021, the Court announced its decision in the case *Indigenous Maya Kaqchikel Peoples of Sumpango vs. Guatemala*, declaring the Republic of Guatemala "internationally responsible for the violation of the rights to freedom of expression, equality before the law and participation in cultural life" of Indigenous Peoples. The historic decision came after decades of activism by members of the Indigenous community radio movement in Guatemala fighting for their freedom to operate radio stations and broadcast information in Indigenous languages to and from their communities. The case, brought by Cultural Survival, Guatemala-based Asociación Sobrevivencia Cultural, and submitted with support from the Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples Clinic at Suffolk University Law School, was originally filed in 2012, arguing that Guatemala's telecommunications law excludes Indigenous Peoples from accessing their own forms of media via community radio.

The Court's decision is a hard-fought win and a major milestone for Indigenous rights. This important victory affirms that even though progress can be slow, Cultural Survival is doing crucial work in advocating for Indigenous rights. We are optimistic for more uplifting news in 2022.



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In Solidarity and Gratitude,

Galina Angarova (Buryat) Executive Director





Funded **57** community media projects in **23** countries totaling **\$340,500**



Supported **25**Youth Fellows
in community
media



Trained **52**Indigenous women in radio production and journalism



Supported **62** community projects in **21** countries totaling **\$303,363**



Released **218+** radio programs on COVID-19 prevention in **76+** Indigenous languages



Submitted **8** reports to UN Treaty Bodies on human rights issues

As Indigenous communities work to implement their rights and self-determination, they often encounter external challenges. Our advocacy program works with our partners through local, regional, and international mechanisms to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and bring visibility to situations in which these rights are violated. Our advocacy strategy has included six main areas of work:

Providing
technical
support
to grant
partners at
their request

Participating in international human rights mechanisms, including the **UN Permanent** Forum on Indigenous Peoples Issues, the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, UN Treaty bodies, UNFCCC COP26

Engaging
in strategic
litigation
against
governments
when
Indigenous
rights are
violated

Participating in shareholder advocacy and directly engage with companies whose operations affect Indigenous Peoples and their lands

Tracking, investigating, and denouncing violence and criminalization against Indigenous defenders

Conducting
local
advocacy at
the request
of Indigenous
partners on
the Native
lands of our
headquarters
in the greater
Boston area



ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021:

8

reports submitted to human rights monitoring mechanisms

89

cases against Indigenous rights defenders documented

- We submitted eight reports to international human rights monitoring mechanisms denouncing Indigenous Rights violations in Brazil, Russia, Venezuela, Uganda, Suriname, Papua New Guinea, and Tanzania.
- We documented 56 murders, 11 disappearances, and 23 violent attacks against Indigenous rights and environmental defenders in Latin American countries where we work.
- We advocated for and elevated local struggles and the leadership of Indigenous women to international spaces. For example, in November 2021 we participated in COP26 in Glasgow, where our executive leadership team of four Indigenous women engaged in multiple speaking opportunities, hosted panels, participated in Indigenous Peoples' caucus meetings and development of negotiations strategies, and led conversations among climate funders about the important role Indigenous women play in maintaining traditional knowledge and stewarding biodiversity.
- On December 17, 2021, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights announced its decision in the case *Indigenous Maya Kaqchikel Peoples of Sumpango vs. Guatemala*, declaring the Republic of Guatemala "internationally responsible for the violation of the rights to freedom of expression, equality before the law, and participation in cultural life" of Indigenous Peoples.

CULTURAL SURVIVAL AT COP26

From October 31 to November 12, 2021, six Cultural Survival staff members attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland. Our team joined the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus and other Indigenous and allied leaders in pushing policy makers for urgent and holistic responses to climate chaos. Indigenous rights and stewardship must be prioritized in all layers of decision making as we collectively engage to combat climate change. We emphasized that policy makers must make proactive efforts to center, resource, and respect Indigenous leadership and rights.

Our delegation participated in various dialogues and presentations pertaining to the proposed solutions to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, loss, and damages of our ecosystems as well as climate finance. Alongside many Indigenous leaders present inside COP26 and others who took to the street to protest the climate conference, Cultural Survival's Indigenous womenled delegation denounced "nature-based" and "scalable" solutions as false solutions that continue to displace and criminalize Indigenous Peoples on their own lands and territories and also commodify, extract, and exploit our environments.

Our staff hosted events focused on Indigenous women and climate change where Indigenous women leaders spoke about their work addressing climate change, including how we are advocating for this work at community, regional, national, and international levels, and shared success stories. At the end of the conference, notable outcomes were the adoption of the second three-year work plan of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform and the securing of a seat to represent Indigenous Peoples in the Climate Technology Centre and Network Advisory Body. However, much urgent work remains to be done.



TRANSITION MINERALS COALITION

As the world scrambles to address the climate crisis, a new "green" economy is rapidly emerging. However, in this transition, Indigenous Peoples are facing a new wave of extractivism for transition minerals such as copper, nickel, cobalt, and lithium, which are key in battery development for electric vehicles and other technologies. On the surface, transition minerals bring the promise of a perfect solution to combat climate change and reduce ${\rm CO}_2$ emissions and relief from a future dependent on fossil fuels. However, there is a large upfront cost related to their extraction: where these minerals are found also overlaps with Indigenous lands and territories. Indigenous Peoples, lands, territories, and resources are under direct threat as the demand for these minerals increases. Indigenous communities are taking a leadership role in emerging green energy economies by holding companies accountable to human rights commitments through the supply chain.

On October 28, 2021, ahead of the climate negotiations at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Cultural Survival and 140 other organizations issued a *joint statement* calling on climate negotiators to make a binding commitment to source transition minerals responsibly, and for the centering of human rights of Indigenous and frontline communities and workers at mining, recycling, reclamation, manufacturing, and renewable energy projects. Members of the coalition working to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the transition to the green economy through education and advocacy with investor circles, corporations, and policymakers include *Cultural Survival, First Peoples Worldwide, Batani Fund, Aborigen Forum, Earthworks*, and the *Society for Threatened Peoples*.



Cultural Survival /2021 Annual Report



COURT VICTORY FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' MEDIA RIGHTS IN GUATEMALA

On December 17, 2021, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights announced its decision in the case *Indigenous Maya Kaqchikel Peoples of Sumpango vs. Guatemala*, declaring the Republic of Guatemala "internationally responsible for the violation of the rights to freedom of expression, equality before the law, and participation in cultural life" of Indigenous Peoples. The historic decision comes after decades of activism by members of the Indigenous community radio movement in Guatemala fighting for their freedom to operate radio stations and broadcast information in Indigenous languages to and from their communities. Currently in Guatemala, Indigenous community radio stations are still not legalized more than 26 years after this right was guaranteed in the Guatemalan Peace Accords. They are forced to operate in a legal gray zone that has led to frequent persecution, disparagement, and criminalization by mainstream media conglomerates, the national police, and politicians. This legal decision sets an important mandate to change that.

The case was brought by U.S.-based Cultural Survival and Guatemala-based Asociación Sobrevivencia Cultural, and submitted with support from the Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples Clinic at Suffolk University Law School. Originally filed in 2012, the case argued that Guatemala's telecommunications law excludes Indigenous Peoples from accessing their own forms of media via community radio. This came after Sobrevivencia Cultural submitted an action of unconstitutionality to Guatemala's Constitutional Court in 2011 declaring economic and ethnic discrimination in the State's mechanism for distribution of radio frequencies. The action argued that by auctioning off frequency licensees to the highest bidder, Indigenous communities, who historically and currently are among the most economically marginalized in the country, lack fair access to State-owned media.

"The Inter-American Court correctly holds that freedom of expression is a cornerstone of any democratic society. Therefore, the decision is a major victory for Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala and a great opportunity for the Guatemalan State to be a leader in making amends to Indigenous communities, who constitute half of the population. It is also an important precedent for Indigenous Peoples in Latin America as it affirms the rights of Indigenous Peoples to collective and individual freedom of expression and the right to practice their culture without discrimination," says Monica Coc Magnusson (Q'eqchi Maya), Cultural Survival's Director of Advocacy and Policy.



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Capacity Building

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Cultural Survival provides capacity building opportunities through workshops, youth fellowships, community exchanges, networking, international travel, and one-on-one mentoring. Cultural Survival Youth Fellowships support individuals and groups of youths in their efforts to build their radio journalism and radio broadcasting skills through training, community radio visits and exchanges, radio production, and conference attendance. In recent years, Cultural Survival workshops have provided training for our Indigenous partners—especially Indigenous women—on topics such as women's empowerment, the defense of human rights, Indigenous philosophies of communication, the strengthening of technical capacities in radio production, and more. Our plan is to increase funding sources to support Indigenous youth fellowships and capacity building for Indigenous women and expand the topics to climate change, land rights and livelihoods, and cultural and language revitalization.





women capacity built through human rights training

25

Indigenous Community Media Youth Fellows supported

52

communicators from Indigenous radio stations trained

CAPACITY BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021:

- Cultural Survival staff organized a 15-session human rights training program, "Training Indigenous Women for the Defense of their Human Rights" in Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. The training built the capacity of 27 Indigenous women human rights defenders who are making changes in their communities.
- We supported 25 Indigenous Community Media Youth Fellows from Colombia, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Chile, and Ecuador in building their capacity in media, journalism, radio production, advocacy, technical abilities, and regional networking.
- We trained 52 communicators from Indigenous radio stations and organizations in Mexico to establish new stations and strengthen their existing systems.







Our Indigenous-led grantmaking is implemented through a long-term vision focused on resourcing the global Indigenous rights movement, ensuring the right to selfdetermination and the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples. This vision is carried out through our Keepers of the Earth Fund and our Indigenous Community Media Fund. Our Keepers of the Earth Fund is a small grants fund designed to support Indigenous Peoples' community advocacy and development projects. Since 2017, the Keepers of the Earth Fund has supported over 175 projects in 35 countries through small grants and technical assistance, totalling \$763,172. Our Indigenous Community Media Fund provides grants to strengthen the impact of Indigenous community radio and media through improvements in equipment and infrastructure, internal organization, programming, political and community advocacy, and improved production capacities, as well as systematization of successful management experiences. The Fund supports stations in revitalizing Indigenous cultures, languages, and worldviews and promoting Indigenous rights and lands, as well as elevating the leadership of women and youth communicators. Since 2017, the Indigenous Community Media Fund has awarded 169 grants to 130 community radio stations in 19 countries, totalling \$1,225,907. We build long-term relationships with our partners through site visits, mentoring, and technical support.

Keepers of the Earth Fund has supported since 2017:

175

projects in

35

countries for a total of

\$ 763,172





Community Media Fund has supported since 2017:

169

projects in

countries for a total of

\$ 1,225,907

GRANTMAKING HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021:

- The Keepers of the Earth Fund supported 62 projects in 21 countries in COVID-19 response, climate change mitigation, and hurricane relief, totaling \$303,363.
- The Indigenous Community Media Fund supported 57 media projects in 23 countries, totaling \$340,500.

Keepers of the Earth Fund:

2021

Community Media Fund:

62

projects for a total of

\$ 303,363



57

projects for a total of

\$ 340,500







Through our communications strategy, we uplift and amplify Indigenous Peoples' voices. Cultural Survival's communications connect peoples, movements, organizations, and others through storytelling across landscapes, waterways, and issues both locally and globally. Our communications is the public, external, visual, and audio vehicle that represents the organization, and the core vessel that articulates our work with Indigenous communities, our donors, and our other supporters and allies. Our media platforms include our award-winning *Cultural Survival Quarterly* magazine; social media presence; public webinars; Indigenous Rights Radio and podcasts; and our website, *www.cs.org*, which serves as a digital resource hub and advocacy platform for the global Indigenous Peoples movement and Indigenous Peoples globally.

Through our communications we work towards building awareness, reclaiming the narrative, and shifting paradigms, consciousness, and agency. With 50 years of experience working with Indigenous Peoples and a robust global network, we recognize firsthand the importance of Indigenous media and communications. Indigenous-produced content strengthens Indigenous Peoples' capacity to claim their rights and enables access to essential information—especially in Indigenous languages—which ensures widespread understanding and cultural continuity.





COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021:

4.3 mln

website visits

82K+

social media followers

10

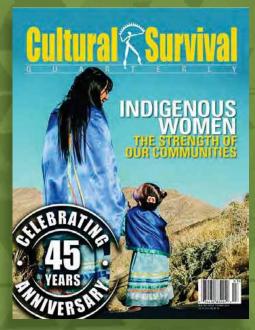
webinars

- Our website had 4.3 million visits by 2.8 million users during the past year. Our combined social media following across all social media platforms totals 82,000+ followers.
- We published 4 issues of Cultural Survival Quarterly and organized related public webinars focused on decolonization, Indigenous youth, Indigenous women, and Indigenous languages.
- We hosted 10 webinars on the topics of Indigenomics, Indigenous women,
 Indigenous governance, Indigenous languages, Indigenous youth, decolonization,
 Indigenous media, and freedom of expression.
- Our Indigenous Rights Radio Program produced 218+ urgent public service announcements in 76 Indigenous languages related to COVID-19.
- We started a new podcast, "Hecho a Mano / Handmade," which tells the story of Indigenous artists, their craftsmanship, traditional knowledge, and cultural roots.
 We produced the series in Spanish and highlighted 11 artists.

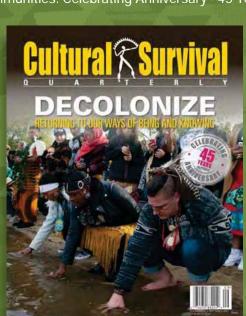




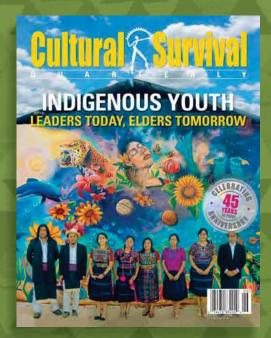
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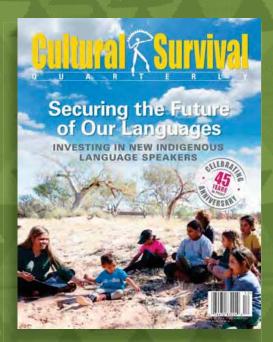
45-1 Indigenous Women: The Strength of Our Communities. Celebrating Anniversary - 45 Years



45-3 Decolonize: Returning to Our Ways of Being and Knowing



45-2 Indigenous Youth: Leaders Today, Elders Tomorrow



45-4 Securing the Future of Our Languages



We want to thank Cultural Survival for the help. This help has been of great value for the gesture of solidarity. When we needed it most, Cultural Survival has accompanied us in the needs of the communities."

> Kalwahai Center, Nicaragua, KOEF grant partner



There Is No Freedom Without
Land: The Naga Indigenous people
believe that land and people are
inseparable. Land is older than
man; we belong to land and land
does not belong to us. Everything
that we have and we are today is
because of our land. Thank you,
Cultural Survival, for the platform
reminding us of this old wisdom."

Mountain Indigenous Knowledge Centre, India, KOEF grant partner



Thanks for the info. Excellent material. We share your programs with pleasure."

Tseltal Bachajón Comunicación, México, Indigenous Rights Radio partner



We continue in the constant struggle for physical and cultural survival in the face of the different disproportionate effects of armed conflict, State neglect, and the presence of the Gran Tierra company with the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons [within] our ancestral territory. Thanks to Cultural Survival for strengthening our food systems. This, in addition to helping to improve our health conditions, helps us achieve less dependence on population centers and implement our own isolation measures in this COVID-19 pandemic.

San Miguel de la Castellana, Colombia, KOEF grant partner



[Thanks] to Cultural Survival for the material sent to us. Thanks for everything. We will use and share it on our community digital radio."

Radio Voces Originarias, Panamá, Indigenous Rights Radio partner



Every time I left my house, the neighbors laughed at me. Nobody wanted to know anything about our language. Now people listen to us on the radio and send us greetings"

Felicita Murayari-Nauta (Kukama), listener of Radio Ucamara in Peru, Indigenous Community Media Fund grant partner.



In the community of San Ildefonso Tultepec and in the region, important environmental conservation and cultural resistance activities are taking place that are important to publicize and inform our communities about. Doing so through radio broadcasts is a great option considering that internet access is limited for a significant part of the population in the region."

Instituto Intercultural Ñoñho, México, Indigenous Community Media Fund grant partner



We need Indigenous and Native peoples to build power: the power to decide how we want to live, what quality of life we give our children, and what society we want to leave to the qhepahamuq (future generations)."

Phutu Comunicación para el Desarrollo, Perú, Indigenous Community Media Fund grant partner



Restoring and Protecting Our Native Languages and Landscapes

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From October 5-7, 2021, Cultural Survival hosted the three-day virtual conference *Restoring and Protecting our Native Languages and Landscapes*. The conference facilitated knowledge sharing among participants for best practices regarding the revitalization of Indigenous languages, with a special focus on using Indigenous languages in stewarding Traditional Ecological Knowledge and biodiversity protection. Cultural Survival gathered activists, practitioners, educators, and Indigenous linguists working in the field from the United States, Canada, Central and South America, Russia, and Africa.

This conference helped us form many new connections and relationships that we will build on in the future in the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032). We believe that this conference has become an inflection point to start a conversation on celebrating the Decade with a focus on action. Our advocacy focused on ensuring that this decade not be spent analyzing the issue around language loss, but rather will be used to uplift and fund those communities doing the work and create more immediate results.

To this end, Cultural Survival advocates for a rights-based approach in which the communities doing the work have a say in the design and implementation of their language revitalization solutions. We, as Indigenous Peoples, have the responsibility to learn our languages and to transmit the knowledge that comes with them to our future generations. We have the right to speak our languages at school and in any public space. The revitalization of languages will be actionable when the solutions to protect, maintain, and strengthen Indigenous languages come from the Indigenous communities themselves and according to their values and cosmovisions.

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Visit
www.cs.org/
lang2021
to access
materials from the
conference.



Photo from the Yuchi Language Project in Oklahoma.



Photo from the Kovran House of Culture in Kamchatka, Russia, which is home to a puppet theater successful in bringing back Itelmen stories and language.

The Bazaar Program is a longstanding tradition and program for Cultural Survival, and an essential part of our community. Unfortunately, we had to cancel all inperson events in 2021, due to continued safety concerns and travel restrictions that have fluctuated and make it difficult or impossible for many of our vendors to travel to the U.S. for the Bazaars. The pandemic has deeply impacted the livelihoods of our Bazaar artist partners and other Indigenous artisans throughout the world. Art-making as a livelihood relies on art-buying, and at this unprecedented time, we are sincerely concerned for the thousands of Indigenous artists who benefit from, and rely on, selling art at the Cultural Survival Bazaars each year. In an attempt to continue to support them in a way that also puts their physical health and safety first, we created a vendor directory on Cultural Survival's Bazaar website (bazaar.cs.org) to help the artists continue to sell from their own online platforms.

In place of marketing Indigenous-made items for sale, in 2021 we focused on amplifying Indigenous artists' voices through communications efforts. In collaboration with our Indigenous Rights Radio Program, we released a new podcast featuring Bazaar artists from Latin America, in which we interview the artists to learn about their creative process, materials, inspiration, how their work is rooted in their culture and meaningful to their community. We also spotlighted artists on our website, in the Cultural Survival Quarterly magazine, and on social media.

We also pivoted to fundraise for and offer small grants to our Bazaar artists. Thanks to the generous support of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Equitable Recovery initiative, centered on advancing racial and ethnic justice, Cultural Survival was able to alleviate some of the burdens posed by the pandemic through grants to our longtime Bazaar artists. In 2021-2022 we supported 40+ artists with 23 grants through our newly established COVID-19 Relief Artist Support Fund, totaling \$59,500.

40+

artists supported

35

grants through our newly established COVID-19 Relief Artist Support Fund

\$59,500

total grants





Whoosh by Deborah Spears Moorehead (Wampanoag).



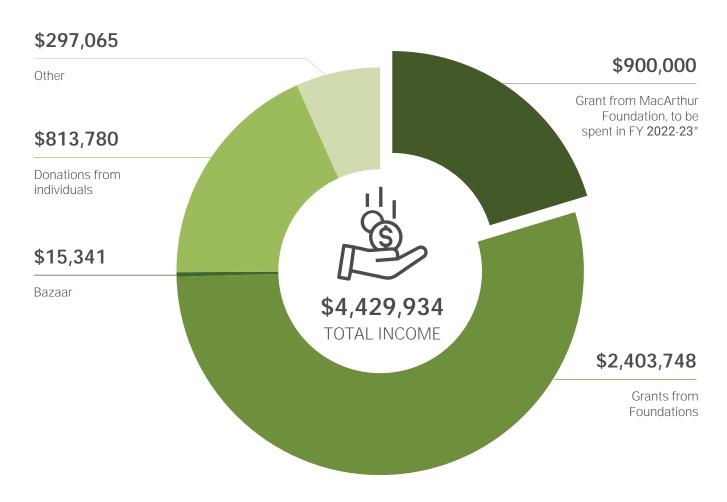
Eliseo Ramirez (Zapotec) of Khadi Oaxaca from Mexico.





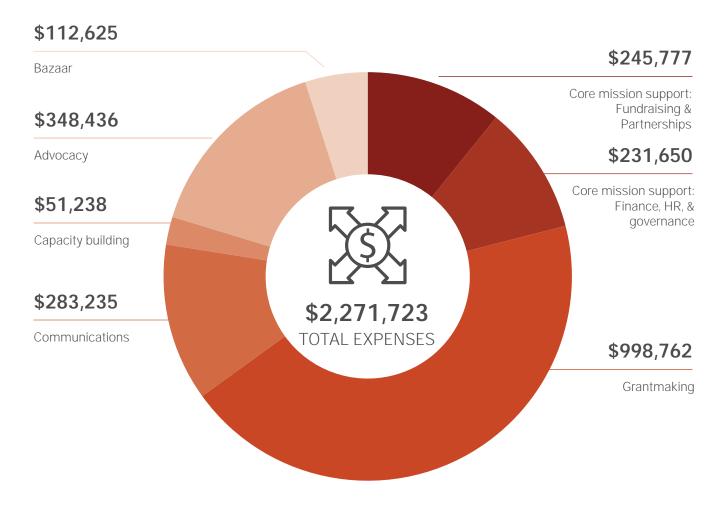
Eva Vasquez Clemente from the Zapotec-Mixtec coast of Oaxaca, Mexico.

INCOME



^{*}Grant from The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is a two-year grant to be spent over two fiscal years.

EXPENSES





STAFF

Galina Angarova (Buryat), Executive Director

Mark Camp, Deputy Executive Director

Avexnim Cojti (Maya K'iche'), Director of Programs

Daisee Francour (Oneida), Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communications

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Danae Laura, Bazaar Program Manager

Bia'ni Madsa' Juárez López (Mixe/Ayuuk ja'ay and Zapotec/Binnizá), Keepers of the Earth Fund Manager

Jamie Malcolm-Brown, Communications and Information Technology Manager

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Guadalupe Pastrana (Nahua), Indigenous Rights Radio Producer

Agnes Portalewska, Communications Manager

María del Rosario "Rosy" Sul González (Kagchiguel 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

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Cover photo: Indigenous Peoples represented the second-largest civil society delegation at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. L-R: Roxana Borda Mamani (Quechua); Thaline Karajá (Iny Karajá); Luciene Saw Munduruku (Murunduku), Tarcila Rivera Zea (Quechua), CHIRAPAQ; Galina Angarova (Buryat), Cultural Survival; and Chanchana Chakma (Chakma),Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network. Banners by International Indigenous Peoples Movement. Photo by Avexnim Cojti.