



Photo: Sergi Camara/Entreculturas

Pan-Amazon Region: Care for our common home

2022 Report

Type of project: Education

Canadian Jesuits International (CJI) supports the Jesuit Service for the Pan-Amazon Region (SJPAM) and Fe y Alegría (FyA) International Educational Network to promote intercultural and bilingual education in the Amazon region and to promote awareness about ecological and social justice. Our partners collaborate with local communities in Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, to strengthen Indigenous identity through bilingual education and to address environmental damage caused by the exploitation of natural resources.



Results Achieved (2018-2022)

Direct Beneficiaries
(Students, teachers and
community members)

12,863



6,710 Primary school students enrolled in bilingual education



4,144 High school students enrolled in bilingual education



12 Educational institutions now offer bilingual education



17 Educational institutions offer programs in support of the care for our common home



58 teacher training workshops conducted to help build curricula that reflect the Pan-Amazon reality



64 Educational materials (i.e. booklets, videos, guides, etc.) produced

Querida Amazonia

Resisting environmental harm, supporting Indigenous sovereignty

Laura Vicuña Pereira Manso CF

The Amazon is important to the world because of its rich biodiversity and complex socio-cultural fabric. It is the world's largest tropical forest and spans over nine countries in South America. It contains one-third of the planet's animal and plant species, 20% of all fresh water on Earth and is rich in mineral resources. All this makes the Amazon a highly-coveted region and a source of many conflicts. Numerous undertakings in the guise of development are underway in the region: mining, land grabbing, hydroelectric development and other similar ventures. These threaten biodiversity and the survival of future generations of the people who live there. To date, 25% of the Amazon region has already been deforested.

About 400 Indigenous populations live in the Amazon, three million people who speak more than 250 different languages. Indigenous peoples have been guardians of the forest for millennia despite their worldviews and cultures not being recognized and valued. They maintain the Amazon as a true "vital organ" of the planet. It is a source of ancient wisdom and care for humanity and Earth. It is a cradle for social and ecological justice.

Working with Indigenous peoples for over 20 years has been a rich learning experience for me in spite of the devastation around us. The work we do with the Karipuna people consists of monitoring the territory, gathering evidence, denouncing atrocities and pressing the state to fulfill its duty to protect the land. It is their responsibility to maintain the environmental, cultural and territorial integrity and rights of both the uncontacted peoples that inhabit Karipuna territory and the Karipuna people themselves.

We live in a moment where any action in defence of the Amazon and Amazonian peoples is criminalized and considered an act against the sovereignty of Brazil. We have made our grievances known to national and international organizations. We seek allies in the defence of the territory of the Karipuna people and other Indigenous peoples.

The Amazon is beautiful, rich and abundant, but it is also a complex and fragile system. For the Amazon to survive, its forests, fauna, waters, as well as the Amazonian peoples who have lived in harmony with the environment for millennia, must be respected and protected.



Laura Vicuña Pereira Manso CF works in the Rondônia State in the Brazilian Amazon region and was invited by Pope Francis to attend the Synod for the Pan-Amazon Region in 2019. Laura is a descendant of the Indigenous Kariri people and accompanies Indigenous communities in resisting extractive industries efforts to confiscate Indigenous lands in the Amazon.

Financial Overview

**Total Budget
(2021-2022)**

\$ 997,945

Funds Secured

CJI **\$ 35,313**

International Contributions **\$ 933,723**

Local Contribution **\$ 28,909**

