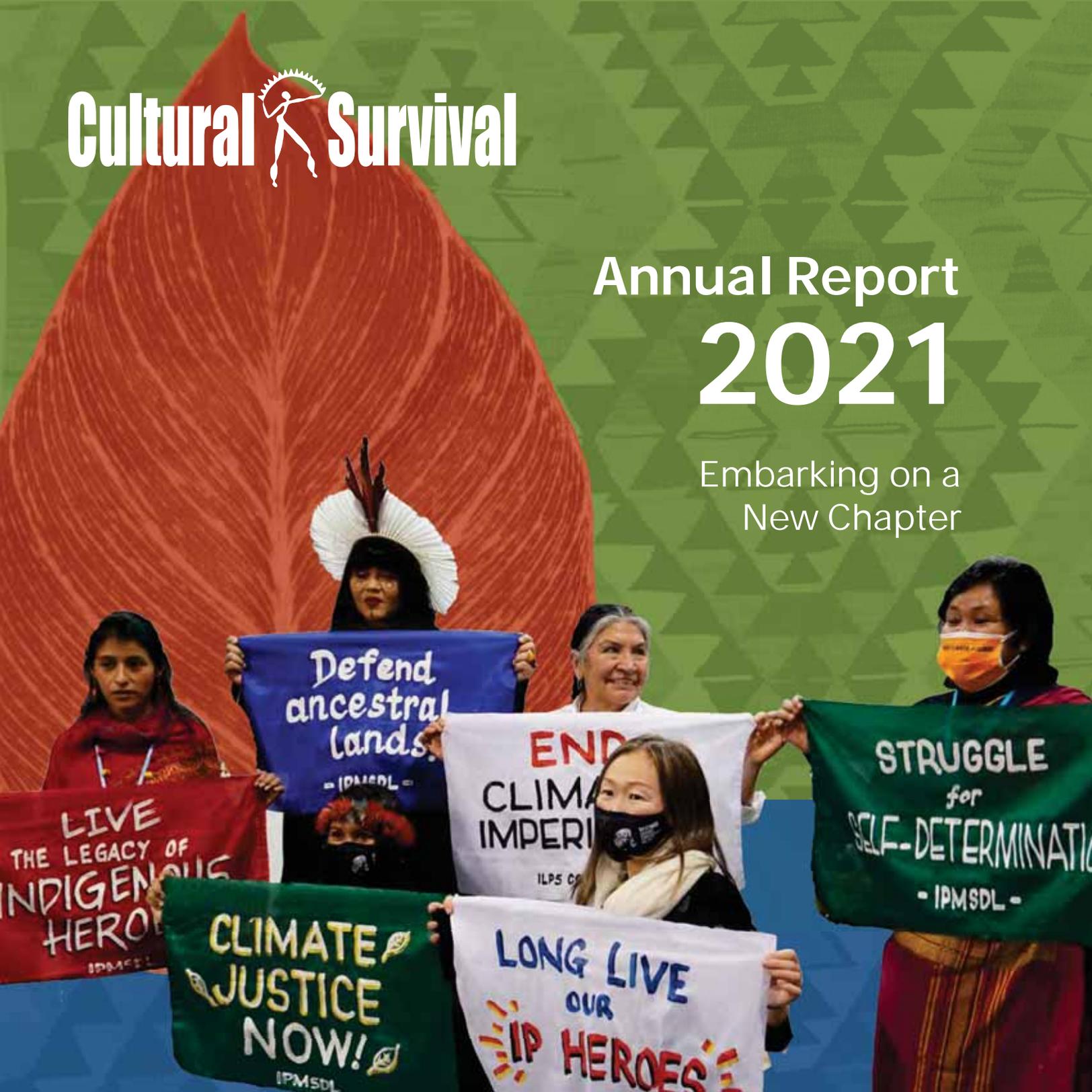


Annual Report 2021

Embarking on a
New Chapter





Our Keepers of the Earth Fund supported Mísak Peoples' food sovereignty efforts of Asociación Jardín Botánico Las Delicias in Colombia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Message from Our Executive Director

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 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 Four-Pronged Approach



Our Programmatic Priorities

Additionally, this year we were pleased to add several new staff members to our diverse team: Monica Coc Magnusson (Q'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.



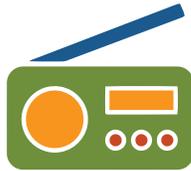
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Galina Angarova".

In Solidarity and Gratitude,

Galina Angarova (Buryat)
Executive Director



Our Impact in 2021



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



Advocacy

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:

1

Providing technical support to grant partners at their request

3

Engaging in strategic litigation against governments when Indigenous rights are violated

5

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

2

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

4

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

6

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



Press conference on the historic Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruling in the case Indigenous Maya Kaqchikel Peoples of Sumpango vs. Guatemala.

8

reports submitted to human rights monitoring mechanisms

89

cases against Indigenous rights defenders documented

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021:

- 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 women-led 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 CO₂ 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



EARTHWORKS



SOCIETY FOR
THREATENED
PEOPLES



BATANI



First Peoples Worldwide
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Press conference on the historic Inter-American Court of Human Rights ruling in the case the case Indigenous Maya Kaqchikel Peoples of Sumpango vs. Guatemala.



Capacity Building



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.



Grantmaking



Our Indigenous-led grantmaking is implemented through a long-term vision focused on resourcing the global Indigenous rights movement, ensuring the right to self-determination 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

19

countries for a total of

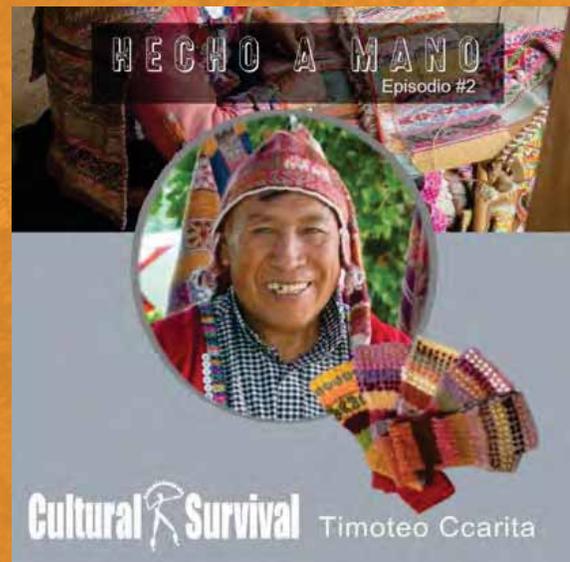
\$ 1,225,907



Communications

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.



“

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 Ñoño, 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 qhepamuq (future generations).”

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



Pertame family members during an Adult Language Class in Alice Springs, Australia. Photo by Vanessa Farrelly (Pertame), a panelists at the Restoring and Protecting Our Native Languages and Landscapes conference.

Cultural Survival Bazaars

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 in-person 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*

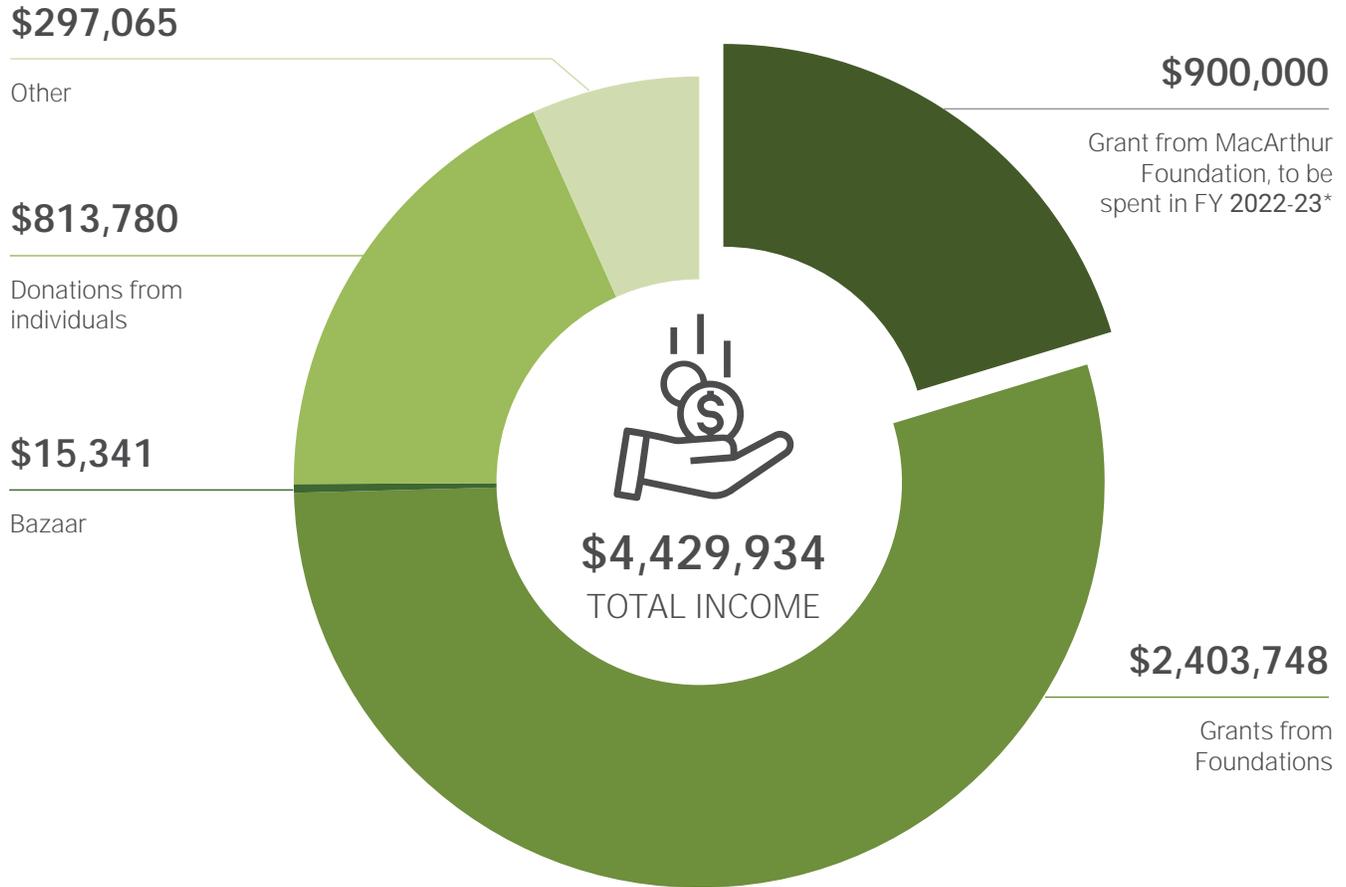
\$59,500

total grants





INCOME



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



Our Team



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*

Monica Coc Magnusson (Q'eqchi Maya), *Director of Advocacy and Policy*

Verónica Aguilar (Mixtec), *Keepers of the Earth Fund Program Assistant*

Bryan Bixcul (Maya Tz'utujil), *Executive Assistant*

Jess Cherofsky, *Advocacy Program Researcher*

Danielle DeLuca, *Advocacy and Development Manager*

Shaldon Ferris (KhoiSan), *Indigenous Rights Radio Coordinator*

Sofia Flynn, *Accounting and Office Manager*

Nati Garcia (Maya Mam), *Acting Community Media Grants Manager*

Cesar Gomez (Maya Pocomam), *Community Media Program Coordinator*

Adriana Hernández (Maya K'iche'), *Emerging Strategies Coordinator*

Edson Krenak Naknanuk (Krenak), *Lead on Brazil*

Dev Kumar Sunuwar (Koïts-Sunuwar), *Community Media Grants Program Coordinator*

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*

Teresita Orozco Mendoza, *Community Media Training Coordinator*

Amparo Monzón (Maya K'iche'), *Program Assistant*

Cat Monzón (Maya K'iche'), *Executive Assistant*

Diana Pastor (Maya K'iche'), *Central América Media Coordinator*

Guadalupe Pastrana (Nahua), *Indigenous Rights Radio Producer*

Agnes Portalewska, *Communications 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*



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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.