



chacruna

Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines

Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative
of the Americas (IRI)

END OF YEAR REPORT

2022



Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative of the Americas (IRI) End of Year Report (April 2021-December 2021)

Chacruna created the [Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative of the Americas \(IRI\)](#) in April 2021 as a comprehensive online resource that allows people to connect with grassroots Indigenous community organizations at the local level. IRI acts as a channel for reciprocity toward the Indigenous groups to whom the psychedelic movement owes so much. The IRI Program is decolonizing philanthropy by creating a pool of funds that supports Indigenous initiatives with no strings attached—addressing everything from food security and environmental health to economic and educational support, cultural conservation, and more.

Who IRI supports

[The IRI Program](#) is the product of working directly with Indigenous leaders and small, non-profit coordinators who prioritize the autonomy of local people. IRI consists of 20 organizations supporting 38 different Indigenous groups in multiple communities across Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States.

- **Brazil:** [RAIN \(Reforestation Agroforestry Impact Network\)](#) - Kaingang, Terena, Noke Koi/Katuquina; [Yawanawa Sociocultural Association](#) - Yawanawa; [Federation of the Huni Kuĩ People of the State of Acre \(FEPHAC\)](#) - Huni Kuin;
- **Colombia:** [The Land of Origins Project](#) - Kamëntšá
- **Ecuador:** [Sacha Warmi Foundation](#) - Kichwa; [Yakum](#) - Shuar, Kichwa, Cofan, Siekopai; [Amazon Frontlines](#) - Siona, Secoya, Kofan, Waorani; [De La Tierra](#) - Kofan
- **Peru:** [Alianza Arkana](#) - Shipibo-Konibo; [Xapiri Ground](#) - Matsigenka, Iskonawa, Matsés, Awajún, Yine; [Mosqoy](#) - Quechua, [The Seven Elements](#) - Yanasha, Ashaninka
- **Costa Rica:** [Stibrawpa Association](#) - Bribri
- **Mexico:** [Hablemos de Hikuri](#) - Wixáritaari/Huichol; [Wixárika Research Center \(WRC\)](#) - Wixarika; [PSYDEH](#) - Náhuatl, Otomí, Tepehua; Mazatec A.C.
- **United States:** [Sia](#) - Comanche/Numunuh; [Buffalo Field Campaign](#) - Lakota, Sioux, Nez Perce/Nimiiipuu; [Indigenous Seed Keepers Network \(ISKN\)](#) - Mohawk, Ojibwe, Odawa; [The Navajo Water Project](#) - Diné

2021 Outcomes

We launched IRI at the Sacred Plants in the Americas II conference in April of 2021, 8 months ago to date, with the objective to garner sustainable investment into Indigenous communities and foster a relationship of reciprocity between the rapidly growing psychedelics industry in the Global North and the struggles of Indigenous peoples.

- Since launching IRI, we raised just under **\$100,000**. With 7.5% going towards the costs of running the IRI Program, that means we were able to send **over \$4,000** directly to each of our Indigenous partners.
- We are almost halfway towards getting **\$10,000** to each of our Indigenous partners in the first year of the IRI Program.

These contributions have already had an invaluable impact on the progress of the projects that IRI supports and made a real difference in the lives our Indigenous partners; here are a few examples:

- [Amazon Frontlines](#) supported the A'i Kofán of Sinangoe's community mapping project (integral to fighting for land titles)
- [Yakum](#), who built new nurseries with two Kofán women's associations, and remain on track to plant 30,000 trees of native species selected and voted on by community assembly
- [RAIN](#) was able to directly fund the construction of Kaingang nurseries, capable of producing 70,000 trees per year to reforest territories with their traditional Parana pine
- [Xapiri Ground](#) has continued their Matsigenka community-directed audiovisual documentation of traditional songs and stories
- [Alianza Arkana](#) has implemented pilot medicinal plant gardens and seed-sharing initiatives in their Shipibo-Konibo communities
- [Hablemos de Hikuri](#) has been able to make progress with their hikuri (peyote) conservation initiatives
- [Sacha Warmi](#) has strengthened Indigenous concepts of health through active participatory engagement on contemporary issues such as COVID-19, flooding, climate change, and contamination of local resources.

Chacruna presented on IRI in over **10** high-profile conferences and public interviews including: World Psychedelics Day, Microdose HQ – Psychedelic Capital, How to Launch an Industry, Truffle Report, Psychedelic Spotlight, MIND CURIOUS, Drug Science Medical Ethics Consortium, Lucid

News, University of Exeter and TUM Munich: Decolonizing the Philosophy and Anthropology of Psychedelics, Wonderland: Miami, Bioneers 2021

IRI finished off 2021 gathering strong media attention including coverage in the [MAPS bulletin](#), [The Microdose](#), [Lucid News](#), [Truffle Report](#), [Forbes](#), and more.

- Chacruna produced and shared videos from our Indigenous partners that give a closer look into the projects that IRI has funded, with more planned for 2022: [Chief Ninawa Huni Kui](#), [Arley Payaguaie Siekopai](#), [Rosa Canelos Kichwa](#)
- IRI has published over 38 entries in the [#IndigenousReciprocityThursdays](#) series with videos, photos, and quotes from Indigenous partners, taking a closer look at each of the initiatives IRI supports.
- We launched the Chacruna Dieta podcast in September, now heading into its 13th episode exploring books and articles related to Indigenous perspectives, anthropology and ecology, and tying them back to the work of the IRI Program and the projects of our Indigenous partners.

2022 Goals + Outcomes

IRI plans to **double** the amount raised in 2021, with a goal of distributing more than **\$200,000** directly to Indigenous Partners.

IRI will continue developing its role as a resource for public education on the issues of reciprocity, biocultural conservation, plant medicine and Indigenous rights by publishing articles and holding workshops and community forums, as well as reinforcing and deepening the relationships between IRI and Indigenous stakeholders—producing ethnographic photo, audio, and video publications, interviews, and articles to support Indigenous partners according to their needs and requests.

- We will engage with no less than 10 of Chacruna’s donors of the course of the year to encourage integration of reciprocity into their operations. This could manifest in several ways (and not necessarily through IRI): tithing a % of personal salary, committing to a regular, periodical contribution to IRI or similar initiatives, donating a % of profits to IRI or similar initiatives, setting up a recurring donation, commitment to matching employee donations if it’s a business, etc.
- Chacruna plans to speak at a minimum of 3 conferences, host 2 community forums, and publish 4 articles about issues surrounding reciprocity in 2022.

IRI's success is measured by levels of increased autonomy, agency, security and sustainable support for Indigenous communities involved. These are evaluated in terms of our Indigenous partners' communications with us and their own self-assessments—if our Indigenous partners feel that their situations have improved, that their efforts have progressed and they have been able to succeed in reaching some of their own goals that they have set for themselves and their initiatives—then we will respect that, assess it based on our exchanges with them and as further evidenced in their annual report on the use of their funds.

IRI supports multiple initiatives for each Indigenous organization involved, and will set a target of having a measurable impact on the advancement of at least one project per organization (minimum of 20 total). This process can be demonstrated in three examples from 2021:

- IRI has been able to directly fund the construction of two nurseries by the Kaingang in Brazil, capable of producing 70,000 trees per year, with the goal of replenishing the population of their traditional Parana pine. They have communicated that they are satisfied with the completion of their goals. In this case, we can measure IRI's success by the Kaingang self-assessment of the completion of these nurseries, their actual achievements and the beginning of the reforestation process (# of Parana pine seedlings cultivated/planted).
- IRI funding contributed to a community mapping project by the A'i Kofan of Sinangoe in Ecuador. With the support of Amazon Frontlines and Ceibo Alliance, they were able to create maps using GIS data which showed the level of deforestation in their territories vs. surrounding land, to support the case for land tenure that they brought before government officials in Quito. Alongside the A'i Kofan of Sinangoe communications regarding the achievement of their outcomes, another way to measure IRI's success is to look at the progress of their legal battles in 2022 and see how much closer they become to a legal victory in their fight for a land title.
- IRI funding supports Hablemos de Hikuri in their effort to create non-commercial nurseries in Wirikuta guardhouses to help conserve hikuri (peyote) for traditional use. In Hablemos de Hikuri's exchanges with us they have communicated their journey toward the completion of these nurseries. The conclusion of these nurseries would represent real progress towards re-establishing healthy cactus populations and, in turn, success for IRI.

These 3 examples are a fraction of the number of diverse initiatives IRI supports and the success of IRI in increasing autonomy, agency, etc. for Indigenous communities is best measured by looking at the progress of each initiative, based on a combination of metrics as both established by them and as we assess through our exchanges with them.

We are grateful for all your support as we continue our mission of strengthening the self-determination of Indigenous peoples, promoting their biocultural heritage and their ability to control their own resources.